ATTACHMENT B

July 28, 2022

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Section 4 of House Bill No. 5050, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and -Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

Section 4 proposes to require the clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives to make reports required to be submitted to the Legislature available on the General Court’s website and to maintain a searchable online archive of such reports. It would also require state agencies including special commissions established by the Legislature to maintain copies of the reports they submit to the Legislature available online in a searchable format. While it makes sense for the Legislature to be the central repository of reports that they have statutorily required, requiring state agencies and legislatively-created special commissions (which may not have their own websites outside of the General Court’s) to maintain a duplicate set of many of the same materials is an additional burden of minimal utility. As a result, I recommend this section be amended to maintain the requirement that the reports be available on the General Court’s website and strike the duplicative requirement that state agencies and special commissions post their own reports online.

For the reasons stated above, I recommend that section 4 be amended by striking out, in the first sentence of subsection (b) the words “make any such report available online in searchable format and shall”.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

Governor