ATTACHMENT B

July 31, 2019

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 14 of House Bill No. 4000, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 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 14 requires that grants allocated to Regional Tourism Councils through the Massachusetts Tourism Trust Fund be distributed not later than September 1 in the fiscal year in which the grants are allocated.

Last year a similar section that applied to Fiscal Year 2019 became law after I proposed changes based on the original section’s ambiguous language, and I continue to believe it is most prudent to apply a provision of this nature on a single fiscal year basis so that this section may be judged in the context of the overall budget as opposed to being done on an annual basis as this section proposes. Further, this section retains ambiguous language relating to the timing of the distribution required by this section and does not accurately reflect the revenues collected by the Massachusetts Tourism Trust Fund. As a result, I am recommending changes that clearly indicate that the section is designed to apply only to Fiscal Year 2020, and only to the portion of grants generated from the room occupancy excise.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 14 be amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

SECTION 14. Grants from the amounts collected pursuant to subsection (a) of section 13T of chapter 23A of the General Laws allocated to regional tourism councils pursuant to clause (ii) of subsection (d) of said section 13T of said chapter 23A for fiscal year 2020 shall be distributed not later than September 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

 Governor