ATTACHMENT J

December 11, 2020

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 107 of House Bill No. 5164, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2021 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 107 requires that grants allocated to Regional Tourism Councils through the Massachusetts Tourism Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2021 be distributed not later than January 1, 2021. The section additionally requires that the Fiscal Year 2020 amounts collected from gaming revenue also be distributed by January 1, 2021.

However, the Fiscal Year 2020 amounts referenced in the section were already distributed in October of this year. My proposed section would remove this requirement for this reason. Additionally, similar sections that have become law in the past have provided more than a month from the time that the section became law until the required date for distribution. As a result, I am proposing to extend the date until February 1, 2021 to reflect the time frame that has been previously utilized.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 107 be amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

SECTION 107. 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 2021 shall be distributed not later than February 1, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

 Governor