ATTACHMENT L

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 Sections 108 and 110 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 108 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue a report no later than February 1, 2021 detailing the rules, regulations, guidance, and best practices in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from patients being discharged from hospitals to long-term care facilities and other congregate care facilities. Separately, Section 110 requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to submit a report by January 15, 2021 concerning statewide coordinated efforts undertaken by DCF and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since March 16, 2020 to monitor both the virtual and in-person school attendance of children involved with DCF. While I do not object to the submission of these reports, the current due dates do not provide sufficient time for DPH and DCF to prepare responsive reports, respectively.

For this reason, I recommend that Section 108 be amended by striking out the words, “February 1, 2021” and inserting in place thereof the following:- July 1, 2021.

And further, I recommend that Section 110 be amended by striking out the words, “January 15, 2021” and inserting in place thereof the following:- April 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

 Governor