ATTACHMENT O

July 8, 2016

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, I am returning to you for amendment Section 168 of House Bill No. 4450, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2017 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 168 requires the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), in collaboration with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, to provide a report on current fraud detection measures within the agency and to study the feasibility of implementing a biometric authentication system. I support the intent of this section to provide information on fraud detection measures currently used by DTA. Such measures include facial recognition technology, which has been acknowledged to be an effective system of biometric identification.

However, because this section requires a report on the feasibility of implementing other biometric authentication measures not currently in use, DTA will require more time to conduct research and produce the report requested.

For this reason, I recommend that Section 168 be amended by striking out, in line 1405, the figure “90”, and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 180.

Respectfully submitted,