

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 3, 2015

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 House Bill No. 3563, “An Act Relative to the Charter of the City of Newton.”

This bill is intended to amend the city of Newton’s home rule charter in accord with a vote taken by the city’s Board of Aldermen on March 16, 2015. The vote authorized the General Court to amend Newton’s charter to delete gender specific language and substitute in its place gender neutral language. The city attached to its vote a “red-lined version” of the city charter indicating the changes it sought. As enacted, however, a few of those changes were inadvertently omitted.

To ensure that this enacted home rule bill accurately reflects the town’s authorization and intentions, I recommend that House Bill No. 3563 be amended:

- (i) by striking out section 23 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

“SECTION 23. Article 12 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out section 12-3 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Sec. 12-3. Continuation of Administrative Personnel.

Any person holding an office or position in the administrative service of the city or any person serving in the employment of the city shall retain such office or position and shall continue to perform the duties of such office or position until provisions shall have been made in accordance with the charter for the performance of the duties by another person or agency; provided, however, that no person in the permanent full-time service or employment of the city shall forfeit such person's pay grade or time in service. All such persons shall be retained in a capacity as similar to their former capacity as it is practical so to do.”; and

(ii) by adding the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 24. Subsection (b) of section 12-7 of said article 12 is amended by striking out the word “committeeman” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- committee member”; and

“SECTION 25. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2016.”

Thank you for your prompt consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor