

HOUSE No. 4048

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE · BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 4007, “An Act Relative to Post-Retirement Employment of Public Retirees.”

This bill was originally included as an outside section in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and proposes to increase from 960 hours to 1,200 hours the amount of time a retiree collecting a pension may work for a government entity.

As I explained in returning the earlier legislation, I support providing municipalities and state agencies with increased flexibility to make appropriate staffing decisions. However, an increase of 240 more hours per year is a significant policy change and moves the Commonwealth and its municipalities closer to a place where employees continue to work near full-time while collecting a pension, without any corresponding changes to improve the current practice. I therefore proposed an amendment that would have increased the number of hours to 975, which more accurately reflects half-time, thereby allowing some flexibility to retired employees who are bumping against the current 960 hour limit. In addition, I proposed a waiver to the hour caps for personnel in positions where a critical shortage of qualified personnel has been determined.

Unfortunately, the original language has been enacted again as part of this bill. My concerns with that language remain and for this reason, I am returning House Bill No. 4007 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor