

## Veto No. 1990-9

HB 618

December 17, 1990

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I hereby publicly proclaim and file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth my disapproval of House Bill 618, Printer's No.4322, entitled "An act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled 'An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the Executive Department thereof and the administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof, including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative officers, and of the several administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards, and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and commissions shall be determined,' providing for resident State troopers."

House Bill 618 creates a Resident State Trooper Program in the Commonwealth. Under this program, regular Pennsylvania State Police officers would be assigned on a regular basis to a municipality or group of municipalities that do not have an organized police force in order to provide police protection and enforce all municipal ordinances and all other civil and criminal laws of this Commonwealth. These municipalities must contract with the Commissioner of the State Police and agree to pay the entire cost of providing the resident State trooper service. The Pennsylvania State Police force is authorized to hire 50 additional personnel to meet the needs of this program.

There are approximately 1,500 municipalities throughout Pennsylvania that are without an organized police force. The 50 additional State troopers that are authorized under this bill could not possibly meet the needs of all of these municipalities. The State Police force and each municipality would have to hire additional staff, including an increased legal staff, to prepare the necessary municipal contracts, develop a tracking system for statistics and costs, make billing arrangements for services rendered, coordinate the entire program and interact with each other.

These increased personnel requirements and administrative expenses could prove very costly to both the State Police and the contracting municipality. The bill would place additional burdens on the State Police complement level at a time of potential manpower shortages resulting from increased retirements.

The average salary and benefit package of a State trooper is approximately \$50,000 annually. Since several troopers would be necessary to provide full-time coverage to each municipality or group of municipalities, this program at the outset will be more costly to the municipality than hiring their own police force and this is before all of the incidental administrative expenses are added.

The State Police are also faced with unreasonable time constraints since the program is due to expire December 31, 1991, and the State Police are required to put in place regulations to implement this program. This bill is effective in 60 days and would take a minimum of seven months to put final regulations in place. This leaves three months for municipalities to pass an ordinance that authorizes the municipality to enter into a contract with the State Police and subsequently hammer out all of the details of the contract. Conceivably, the State Police could exhaust almost a full year on a program that would expire before any contracts are signed or services rendered. It is important to note that this change within the force may require significant modifications to the collective bargaining agreements that are in place since the program would have an impact on selection, assignment, promotion and scheduling of troopers.

The State Police force is currently required under law to cooperate with counties and municipalities "in the detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals and the preservation of law and order throughout the State" but only to the extent that these crimes violate State law. Expansion of those duties to include enforcement of local ordinances would be inconsistent with the mission, education and training of the Pennsylvania State Police.

This bill would begin to move the State Police away from their traditional role as the elite law enforcement body in the Commonwealth. For that reason, as well as the significant costs of implementation both to the State and local municipalities, I am withholding my approval from House Bill 618.

ROBERT P. CASEY