

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5225**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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*December 31, 2020*

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to Part the Second, Chapter I, Section I, Article II of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 5189, “An Act providing for a Department of Children and Families school attendance report.”

This bill was originally an outside section in the budget that I returned with an amendment, and would require the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to submit a report by January 15th, 2021 on statewide efforts undertaken by DCF and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to monitor the school attendance of DCF-involved children. As I said in my amendment letter, the January 15th deadline does not give DCF sufficient time to prepare the report. I again urge the Legislature, in any future bill addressing this matter, to extend the reporting deadline.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 5189 unsigned.

I approve the remainder of this Act.

Respectfully submitted

Charles D. Baker,  
*Governor*