

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Eight.

AN ACT ALLOWING HAIRDRESSERS' SHOPS TO ENGAGE IN THE RETAIL
SALE OF PERSONAL ATTIRE AND ACCESSORIES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as
follows:*

1 The first paragraph of section 87CC of chapter 112 is hereby
2 amended by adding the following sentence:— The board at its
3 discretion may authorize and regulate the sale at retail in such
4 shops of personal attire and accessories associated with female
5 clientele.

HOUSE No. 3797

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, February 6, 1968.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The shocking events of the last few days give further evidence of the extreme seriousness of what has become a nation-wide problem of law and order. It is clear beyond any doubt that the vicious activities of the criminal element are not confined to their own kind but impose terror and havoc on the innocent as well.

It is imperative that the persons responsible know here and now that decent society cannot—and will not—tolerate such activities.

Ours has been and will continue to be a persistent and determined battle against the lawless in our society.

In October of 1966, I established the Governor's Public Safety Committee to assist those of us in state government in our responsibility to combat crime in the Commonwealth.

On the basis of that Committee's continuing efforts I submitted a special message on public safety to Your Honorable Bodies in February of last year containing a comprehensive program to assist law enforcement officials in their daily war against crime.

You took favorable action on a number of those proposals—making permanent the Public Safety Committee, adopting the New England State Police Compact, allowing appeals by the State in criminal cases, broadening the law for bookie arrests, strengthening police investigatory powers, allowing fresh pursuit by police officers, and increasing the number of State Police personnel.

An equally important piece of legislation—that providing immunity for witnesses in criminal cases—unfortunately was not enacted.

Notwithstanding last year's legislative progress, more must now be done to give our police and law enforcement officials the necessary weapons to wage successfully their daily battle against organized crime.

If this battle is to be successful we must give our police and law

enforcement officials battering-rams of sufficient strength to break through the wall of silence that now protects the activity of organized crime.

I am submitting herewith three legislative proposals that will serve as effective vehicles to crack the underworld's conspiracy of silence. They are the first of a series of proposals I will be making in this area during this session.

Our law enforcement officials have long been handicapped by the lack of a general witness immunity statute to enable law enforcement to penetrate the protective silence which permeates and surrounds the operations of criminal organization. The legislation I am again submitting, attached as Appendix A, has the necessary teeth to do the job of obtaining testimony which will lead to the convictions of those who conspire to flout the law.

It is equally important that we enact an electronic surveillance law that allows law enforcement officials to obtain evidence, otherwise totally unavailable, by striking at the communications links essential to the operation of criminal organizations. Law enforcement officials elsewhere have found this technique to be a major aid in tracking down and convicting members of the underworld. Appendix B will be a valuable weapon in our law enforcement arsenal.

We must further direct our attention to strengthening our present ineffective laws against criminal conspiracy and increasing the penalties for such acts. Our present laws make conspiracy—even conspiracy to commit murder—only a misdemeanor carrying a maximum sentence of two and one-half years in a House of Correction. Appendix C will make conspiracy to commit a crime a felony with penalties proportional to the seriousness of the crime involved.

In addition to these changes in our laws, it is essential that we increase the ability of our State Police and District Attorneys to carry out the investigative work essential to the prosecution of criminal offenders.

I have already requested the addition of fifty new troopers to the Massachusetts State Police, and the addition of twenty-five new detectives.

I have directed the Commissioner of Public Safety to take two immediate steps in this regard: first, to assign twelve additional troopers immediately to the Special Services Unit and second, to assign, as soon as possible, sixteen additional detectives to the

District Attorneys in order to strengthen their ability to investigate and prosecute those involved in organized crime.

In the deficiency budget which I will shortly submit to Your Honorable Bodies, I will increase commensurately the request for troopers and detectives so that the manpower of the State Police can be maintained at full strength. I will also urge the appropriation of \$42,000 to the State Police for equipment and necessary expenses involved in obtaining evidence and supporting investigation in the field.

Finally, we must provide the Organized Crime Section of the Attorney General's Office with the resources it must have if it is to do the kind of job the people of Massachusetts have a right to expect. Bear in mind that this division is staffed by only sixteen men and funded by an operating budget of \$150,000. Compare this with the vast resources in manpower and money available to the underworld and it becomes obvious that the Organized Crime Section must have additional funds to purchase essential equipment and to assist its efforts to obtain evidence and support investigations. In the deficiency budget I will therefore also request an appropriation of \$67,910 for that Section.

All of these measures have been recommended by and have the complete support of Attorney General Richardson and the Governor's Public Safety Committee.

It is important that we keep in mind that the responsibility for fighting crime does not rest merely with the police, or the District Attorneys, or the Attorney General's office, or the Governor and Legislature. It is the joint responsibility of all of us, working in cooperation against a common enemy which preys on the innocent at all levels of society. The responsibility falls in large measure as well on the people of this Commonwealth, who must recognize that if the war on crime is to be successful, they must assist in the battle by cooperating fully with the efforts of their police and law enforcement officials and by avoiding the support, either direct or indirect, of activities which serve to finance the sinister operations of racketeers.

I respectfully and urgently request that you grant the attached legislation your prompt approval.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VOLPE,
Governor of the Commonwealth.