

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4014

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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### — ATTACHMENT G —

July 31, 2019.

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 Section 97 of House Bill No. 4000, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

Section 97 requires the University of Massachusetts to select an independent scientific organization to conduct a study and survey of the environmental health of the Blue Hills Reservation, including a study of the effectiveness of controlled public hunting and deer management programs in culling the deer population since 2015. Together with requiring a study, Section 97 imposes a moratorium on the Blue Hills Reservation deer management program and any controlled deer hunting in the reservation until July 31, 2021.

While I support the goals of this study, I do not concur that a ban on all deer hunting must be imposed while the study is ongoing. This is an annual activity that has been managed well, and has contributed to efforts to control the deer population. A moratorium should be considered only if the study demonstrates that controlled deer hunting and deer management efforts are not effective in achieving their goals.

For the reasons stated above, I recommend that Section 97 be amended by striking out the words, "There shall be a moratorium on the Blue Hills Reservation deer management program and any controlled deer hunting in the reservation until July 31, 2021."

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES D. BAKER,  
*Governor.*