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, I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 4139, "An Act Authorizing a Superannuation Retirement Allowance for Leo Senecal."

This bill allows a member of the North Adams Retirement System to receive a pension in spite of the requirement under Chapter 32 of the General Laws that an employee forfeit his pension "after final conviction of a criminal offense involving violation of the laws applicable to his office or position" (G.L. ch. 32, §15(4)). This legislation authorizes an unwarranted departure from the general law for a named individual, rather than addressing any legal or policy concerns posed by the law that it circumvents. I do not believe the public is well served by making individual legislative exceptions to a rule that is meant to apply uniformly.

For these reasons, I return House Bill No. 4139 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

DEVAL L. PATRICK,
Governor.