To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:


The intent of this legislation is to alter the maximum 102-inch width (8’ 6”) restriction provided in G.L. c. 90. § 19, and allow for the transport of one-piece swimming pools up to 16’ wide. This legislation would override the administrative decision-making of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT), which has declared that this increased width-limit would pose both public safety and road-usage issues for the traveling public. It is the long-held position of both DOT and the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPPS) that an increase for loads wider than 15’ to travel over I-90 and I-84 West would be difficult if not impracticable for numerous reasons: (1) many toll gates have a maximum width of 15’, 10”; (2) areas of Routes 9, 20 and 16 are two-lane roads with a lane width of 12-feet (a 16-ft-wide thus would require road closings and significant cooperation by local and state police agencies to effectuate a trip); (3) smaller, local roads may have difficult turning radii, low overhanging wires and other impediments to travel for oversized loads; and (4) bridges, tunnels and underpasses also have differing and problematic size limitations for such loads.

For these reasons, I feel it important for DOT to retain its discretion to issue permits and maintain a control over the roadways.

For these reasons, I return House Bill No. 4025 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

DEVAL L. PATRICK,
Governor.