
To accompany the petition of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., by Carleton I. Pickett, legislative agent, that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the rights pertaining to surface and subsurface water. Water Supply.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY AN UNPAID SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE RIGHTS PERTAINING TO SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE WATER.

1 *Resolved*, That it is hereby declared that water is one
2 of the basic assets of the commonwealth and that im-
3 proper water uses are wasteful and that the competition
4 between industry, agriculture and others for the use of
5 water could bring about consequences which would be
6 serious and detrimental to the health, general welfare
7 and safety of the people of the commonwealth; therefore
8 it is hereby declared to be the policy of the general court
9 to provide for the conservation of water and to adopt
10 measures clearly defining the rights of all concerned in
11 the water of the commonwealth.

12 A special commission is hereby authorized consisting
13 of two persons to be appointed by the president of the
14 senate, three persons to be appointed by the speaker of
15 the house of representatives, and three persons to be
16 appointed by the governor, which shall investigate and
17 study the entire subject of water rights and usages as
18 they apply within the commonwealth. The studies of the
19 commission shall be directed toward recommending new
20 legislation and such changes in present legislation as
21 may bring about the best usage of water and may clearly
22 define water rights both surface and subsurface. The

23 commission may hold hearings and may call upon any
24 of the several departments of state and may co-operate
25 with the proper departments of the federal government.
26 The commission shall be provided with quarters in the
27 state house or elsewhere, shall hold public hearings, and
28 shall have the power to summon witnesses and require
29 the production of books, records, contracts and papers
30 and the giving of testimony under oath. The commission
31 may expend for expert, clerical and other services and
32 expenses such sums as may be appropriated. Said com-
33 mission shall report to the general court the results of
34 its investigation and its recommendations, if any,
35 together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
36 recommendations into effect by filing the same with the
37 clerk of the house of representatives not later than
38 January fifteenth, nineteen hundred and fifty-six.