

HOUSE No. 1272

By Mr. O'Shea of Lynn, by request, petition of Arthur R. Buckley for the appointment of a special commission (including the members of the General Court) to investigate standards and conditions of welfare recipients and the amounts paid to them by cities and towns. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO THE STANDARDS UNDER WHICH WELFARE RECIPIENTS LIVE, THE RATES PAID IN THE CITIES AND TOWNS, THE TIME AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE RATES WERE SET, THEIR PRESENT ADEQUACY, AND THEIR RELATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

1 *Whereas*, Improved living standards are the best
2 guarantee of genuine national defense, and

3 *Whereas*, The Consumer Division of the National
4 Defense Advisory Council has revealed that forty-
5 five million Americans are living below the safety
6 line, and

7 *Whereas*, America cannot be strong unless Ameri-
8 cans are strong, and

9 *Whereas*, Many thousands of persons in this Com-
10 monwealth are recipients of Welfare and existing
11 on budgets and rates set many years ago before current
12 rise in living costs,

1 *Resolved*, That a special unpaid commission of
2 three members of the Senate to be designated by the

3 president thereof, three members of the house to be
4 designated by the speaker thereof, and five persons
5 — one of whom shall represent expert knowledge in
6 the field of Public Health, one of whom shall represent
7 expert knowledge in the field of Social Service and
8 one of whom shall represent organized labor — to
9 be appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth,
10 is hereby established for the purpose of investigating
11 the standards under which welfare recipients live,
12 the rates paid in the cities and towns, the time and
13 conditions under which the rates were set, their
14 present adequacy, and their relation to Public Health.

15 Said commission shall in the course of their inves-
16 tigation hold the necessary public hearings, both in
17 Boston and in the cities and towns where a request
18 either by said city or town or by a citizens' petition
19 for such a hearing is made.

20 Said commission shall be empowered to elect or
21 appoint a subcommittee to conduct this business for
22 the commission.

23 Said commission shall have the power to summon
24 witnesses, Public Welfare officials and documents
25 pertinent to the investigation.

26 Said commission may expend for expenses, clerical
27 and other assistance such sums not exceeding five
28 thousand dollars in the aggregate, as may hereafter
29 be appropriated.

30 Said commission shall make recommendations to
31 the General Court and to the cities and towns on the
32 basis of their findings, by filing the same with the
33 clerk of the House on or before December first, nine-
34 teen hundred and forty-one.