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By Mr. Foster of Somerville (by request), petition of Ernst Makech-  
nie for an investigation by the Department of Education relative to  
the toxic effects of nicotine and alcoholic beverages on children and  
youths attending public schools. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDU-  
CATION TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND A REPORT ON  
THE TOXIC EFFECTS OF NICOTINE AND BEVERAGE  
ALCOHOL ON CHILDREN AND YOUTHS ATTENDING SCHOOLS  
SUPPORTED BY TAXATION.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives  
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the  
same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The commissioner of education, or  
2 any deputy he may employ, shall make an investiga-  
3 tion and a report on the habits of school children  
4 and youths in the use of narcotics, including tobacco  
5 and beverage alcohol.

1 SECTION 2. The report shall contain information  
2 on the retardation caused by cigarette smoking on  
3 the mental development of school children and  
4 youths, and on the stunting of physical growth.

1 SECTION 3. The commissioner shall make an effort  
2 to obtain the opinion of clergy, social workers, and

3 criminologists as to the effect of narcotics on the  
4 child's spiritual nature, which is sometimes called  
5 the still, small voice of conscience.

1 SECTION 4. The report shall contain medical  
2 opinions on the cumulative effect of nicotine on adults  
3 so that they become more susceptible to cancer of  
4 the lips, tongue and throat, to reduction in lung ex-  
5 pansion, smokers' cough, headache, ulcers of the  
6 leg, gangrene of the toes, sterility and heart disease.

1 SECTION 5. The report shall give information as to  
2 the economic waste, not only to the individual, but  
3 also to the community caused by the increase of fire  
4 hazards.

1 SECTION 6. The report shall contain estimates, in  
2 percentages, of the number of pupils who are cigar-  
3 ette smokers in the various grades.

1 SECTION 7. The commissioner shall suggest changes  
2 in methods of instruction, and in the law, if he be-  
3 lieves they are needed.

1 SECTION 8. The sum of                    dollars is appro-  
2 priated for the use of the state department of educa-  
3 tion in making its investigation and report, which  
4 shall be ready for the legislature not later than  
5 September first, nineteen hundred and forty-five.