

HOUSE No. 344

By Mr. Burke of Boston, petition of James A. Burke for the appointment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate and study relative to the rates charged by gas companies doing business in the Commonwealth. Power and Light.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE RATES CHARGED BY GAS COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 *Resolved*, That an unpaid special commission, to
2 consist of one member of the senate to be designated
3 by the president thereof, three members of the house
4 of representatives to be designated by the speaker
5 thereof, and three persons to be appointed by the
6 governor, is hereby established to make an investiga-
7 tion and study relative to the rates charged by gas
8 companies doing business in the commonwealth. No
9 member of the commission shall be in the employ of,
10 or own any stock in, or be in any way, directly or
11 indirectly, pecuniarily interested, in any gas company
12 or any other public utility company. Said commis-
13 sion shall consider particularly the increases of such
14 rates during the past ten years. It shall have access
15 to reports filed with the department of public utilities,
16 and may call upon said department for such informa-

17 tion as it may desire in the course of its investigation
18 and study. Said commission shall be provided with
19 quarters in the state house or elsewhere, shall hold
20 public hearings, shall have the power to summon
21 witnesses and to require the production of books,
22 records, contracts and papers and the giving of
23 testimony under oath, and may expend for the serv-
24 ice of rate experts and certified public accountants
25 and clerical and other services and expenses such
26 sums as may hereafter be appropriated therefor.
27 Said commission shall report to the general court the
28 results of its investigation and study, and its recom-
29 mendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation
30 necessary to carry its recommendations into effect,
31 by filing the same with the clerk of the house of
32 representatives not later than the first Wednesday
33 of December in the current year.