

HOUSE No. 2589

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 27, 1952.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the ninth report of the special commission established (under Chapter 75 of the Resolves of 1949) to examine the structure of state government with a view to elimination of duplications of functions, improvement of operation and the establishment or consolidation of agencies thereby reducing the costs of government and the burden of taxation (House, No. 2400), as relates to establishing a central accident records bureau in the Registry of Motor Vehicles and requiring the reporting of certain property damage accidents (App. C), report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2589).

For the committee,

ROY C. SMITH.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL ACCIDENT RECORDS BUREAU IN THE REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENTS.

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. Chapter 16 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 8 the fol-
3 lowing new section: —

4 *Section 9.* There shall be in the registry of motor
5 vehicles a central accident records bureau under the
6 charge of a director who shall be appointed by the
7 registrar.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 90 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 26 the two
3 following new sections: —

4 *Section 26A.* The driver of a vehicle involved in
5 an accident resulting in total property damage to an
6 apparent extent of seventy-five dollars or more shall,
7 within five days after such accident, forward a written
8 report of such accident to the registrar. Every law
9 enforcement officer who, in the regular course of duty,
10 investigates any such accident either at the time of
11 the accident and on the scene thereof or thereafter by

12 interviewing participants therein or witnesses thereof
13 shall, upon completing such investigation, forward a
14 written report of such accident to the registrar.

15 *Section 26B.* The central accident records bureau
16 shall process every accident report received by the
17 registrar. It shall be the duty of the director to main-
18 tain files so that all accident reports may be readily
19 identified for specific locations and for specific drivers.
20 The director shall make a detailed analysis of all such
21 reports and shall publish annually or at more frequent
22 intervals statistical information as to the number,
23 causes and circumstances of traffic accidents. He
24 shall maintain spot maps of adequate scale showing
25 the location of all reported accidents.

26 Reports of all accidents shall be made available to
27 the commissioner of public safety, the commissioner
28 of public works, and to any other department, board
29 or commission of the commonwealth interested in the
30 enforcement of laws relating to highway accidents and
31 in highway safety. Statistical information, analyses
32 and other data calculated to promote safety on the
33 highways shall be distributed to the said agencies and
34 the various cities and towns in the commonwealth.

