

SENATE No. 547

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, February 5, 1953.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the preliminary report of the special commission (including members of the General Court) established (under Chapter 96 of the Resolves of 1952) to investigate and study relative to the use of television for educational purposes (Senate, No. 513), report the accompanying Resolve (Senate, No. 547).

For the committee,

GEORGE J. EVANS.

[Senator PHILLIPS dissents.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY
BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE USE OF
TELEVISION FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

1 *Resolved*, That an unpaid special commission, to
2 consist of three members of the senate to be designated
3 by the president thereof, four members of the house of
4 representatives to be designated by the speaker thereof,
5 three persons to be designated by the governor, and
6 three members of the board of education to be selected
7 by said board from its membership, is hereby es-
8 tablished for the purpose of making a comprehensive
9 investigation and study of the use of television for
10 educational purposes, which study shall include the
11 proposals that have been made and may be made for
12 the use of television facilities for educational and
13 cultural purposes; the desirability of governmental
14 operation, management and control of such television
15 stations; the feasibility of the operation of non-
16 commercial television stations by private educational,
17 cultural or other organizations, and the extent, if any,
18 to which government should participate therein; the
19 cost of construction and operation of such facilities
20 and the methods of financing thereof; and the develop-
21 ment of such plans or arrangements as may be desir-
22 able or appropriate for the allocation, operation,
23 management, control and use of television facilities in

24 the commonwealth for educational and cultural pur-
25 poses.

26 Said commission may, in the course of its investiga-
27 tion and study, conduct such engineering and other
28 surveys as it deems necessary and shall petition the
29 Federal Communications Commission to extend the
30 final date for the acceptance of applications for tele-
31 vision channels to be used solely for educational pur-
32 poses in Massachusetts to at least June first, nineteen
33 hundred and fifty-five.

34 Said commission may, in the course of its investiga-
35 tion and study, conduct such engineering and other
36 surveys as it deems necessary to petition the Federal
37 Communications Commission to allocate and reserve
38 Channel 2 and such additional television channels as
39 would be necessary to insure adequate television
40 coverage to western Massachusetts for possible educa-
41 tional use, and to allocate and reserve additional
42 television channels for non-commercial educational
43 television purposes in central Massachusetts, the
44 Connecticut valley, and Berkshire county, and to
45 prepare the necessary application for the utilization of
46 the non-commercial television channel or channels
47 allocated to Massachusetts.

48 Said commission shall in the course of its investiga-
49 tion and study investigate the possibility and practica-
50 bility of securing from presently operated commercial
51 television stations facilities and time for use by the
52 commonwealth for educational purposes, and shall
53 determine in detail the costs thereof as contrasted
54 with the acquiring and operation of a state owned
55 television station.

56 Said commission shall be provided with quarters in
57 the state house or elsewhere, may hold hearings, may

58 require by summons the attendance and testimony of
59 witnesses and the production of books and papers, may
60 travel within and without the commonwealth, and
61 may expend for clerical, engineering, legal and other
62 services not more than
63 which is hereby appropriated.

64 Said commission shall report to the general court
65 the results of its investigation and study hereunder,
66 and its recommendations, together with drafts of
67 legislation necessary to carry such recommendations
68 into effect, by filing one or more reports with the clerk
69 of the senate at such time or times as the commission
70 may elect; provided, that said commission shall so
71 file its first report not later than May fifteenth, nine-
72 teen hundred and fifty-three and its final report on or
73 before February fifteenth, nineteen hundred and
74 fifty-four.