
By Messrs. Key of Winthrop and Canavan of Revere, petition of Thomas E. Key and Harold W. Canavan for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of compulsory motor vehicle liability insurance. Insurance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE EXISTENCE AND EXTENT OF PRACTICES AND ABUSES RESULTING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE COMPULSORY AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE LAW WHICH ARE AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

1 *Resolved*, That a special unpaid commission to con-
2 sist of two members 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 two of whom shall be designated by the
6 governor, all members of said commission to be chosen
7 as nearly as may be on a bi-partisan political basis,
8 is hereby established to investigate, as a basis for
9 legislative action, the existence and extent of prac-
10 tices and abuses resulting from the operation of the
11 compulsory automobile insurance law that are against
12 the public interest, and the desirability of establishing
13 any new state agency which would have the power at
14 all times to examine papers and records of all cases
15 settled in the commonwealth and based on the com-
16 pulsory automobile insurance law, for the purpose of
17 reducing the cost of compulsory automobile insurance.
18 Said commission may request the commissioner of
19 insurance to assist in its investigation, and he shall
20 furnish such information in his possession as requested,
21 and assign such assistants and investigators as may

22 be requested, and said commission may require co-
23 operation from all agencies of state and local govern-
24 ments. Said commission may employ such legal,
25 expert, clerical and other assistants as it deems neces-
26 sary.

27 Said commission may require by summons the
28 attendance and testimony of witnesses and the pro-
29 duction of books and papers before it relating to any
30 matter investigated by it in pursuance of this resolve.
31 Such a summons may be issued by the commission
32 upon a vote of said commission and shall be served in
33 the same manner as summonses for witnesses in
34 criminal cases issued in behalf of the commonwealth,
35 and all provisions of law relative to summonses issued
36 in such cases shall apply to summonses issued under
37 authority of this resolve, so far as they are applicable.
38 Such witnesses shall, before testifying, be sworn. Any
39 justice of the supreme judicial or of the superior
40 court may, upon application of the commission, com-
41 pel the attendance of witnesses summoned as afore-
42 said and the giving of testimony before said commis-
43 sion in furtherance of any investigation under this
44 resolve, in the same manner and to the same extent
45 as before said courts. No person shall be excused
46 from attending and testifying in the course of such
47 investigation, or from producing any books, papers
48 or documents, on the ground that his testimony or
49 evidence, documentary or otherwise, may tend to
50 criminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfei-
51 ture but he shall not be prosecuted or subjected to
52 penalty or forfeiture for; or on account of any action,
53 matter or thing concerning which he may be required
54 to testify or produce evidence, documentary or other-
55 wise, in the course of such investigation, except for
56 perjury committed in such testimony.

57 Said commission is hereby further directed to report
58 to the general court the results of its investigations
59 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts
60 of legislation necessary to carry such recommenda-

61 tions into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of
62 the Senate from time to time but not later than the
63 first Wednesday in March, nineteen hundred and
64 fifty-five.

65 For the purpose of such investigation there may be
66 expended the sum of ten thousand dollars, which is
67 hereby appropriated therefor.

