

SENATE No. 261

To accompany the petition of Donald J. Hurley and another that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the minimization of future damage caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters. Harbors and Public Lands.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO MINIMIZATION OF FUTURE DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANES AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS.

1 *Resolved*, That an unpaid special commission, to con-
2 sist of one member of the senate to be designated by the
3 president thereof, three members of the house of repre-
4 sentatives to be designated by the speaker thereof, the
5 director of the division of waterways, three persons to
6 be appointed by the governor, and one person to be
7 designated by the commissioner of public works, is
8 hereby established for the purpose of making an investi-
9 gation and study of ways and means, including the prob-
10 able costs thereof, of preventing or minimizing future
11 damage to persons and property and to the public
12 health and safety in coastal and other areas within the
13 town of Chilmark or within other political subdivisions
14 of the commonwealth, which may be occasioned by hur-
15 ricanes or other natural disasters. Said special commis-
16 sion shall be provided with quarters in the state house
17 or elsewhere, may hold hearings, may travel within and
18 without the commonwealth and may expend for engi-
19 neering, legal, clerical and other assistance and for ex-
20 penses such sums as may be appropriated therefor. Said
21 special commission shall report to the general court the

22 results of its investigation and study hereunder and its
 23 recommendations, together with maps, plans and esti-
 24 mates of the cost of any projects that it may deem
 25 necessary or desirable, and drafts of legislation neces-
 26 sary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing
 27 the same with the clerk of the house of representatives
 28 on or before the first Wednesday of December in the cur-
 29 rent year.

The Commission of Environmental

is the first of its kind in the history of the State

and its purpose is to study and report on the environmental conditions of the State and to recommend such measures as may be necessary to improve them.

The Commission is composed of seven members, one of whom shall be the Governor, and shall have the honor of the rank of cabinet officers. The Governor shall appoint the other six members, and may remove any of them at any time. The Commission shall hold its first meeting on or before the first day of January, 1955, and shall continue in office until the first day of January, 1956, unless sooner terminated by the Governor. The Commission shall have the right to call upon any State agency for information and assistance, and to hold public hearings and to receive suggestions from the public. The Commission shall report to the Governor and the Senate on or before the first day of December, 1955, and shall submit to the Senate a copy of its report and of any maps, plans, estimates, or drafts of legislation which it may deem necessary or desirable to carry its recommendations into effect.