

SENATE No. 192

To accompany the petition of The Public Franchise League, by Horace P. Moulton, secretary, that provision be made for the establishment of the office of people's counsel in the Department of Public Utilities. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven.

An Act providing for the Office of People's Counsel.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter twenty-five of the General Laws as ap-
2 pearing in the Tercentenary Edition thereof is
3 amended by adding thereto the following:—

4 *Section 17.* There shall be in the department a
5 people's counsel who shall be a member of the bar
6 of this commonwealth and shall be appointed, and
7 whose compensation shall be fixed, by the commis-
8 sion, with the approval of the governor and council.
9 Said people's counsel shall represent and appear for
0 the people of the commonwealth at all hearings of
1 the commission involving the interests of users or
2 consumers of the products of, or services furnished
3 by, public utilities under the supervision of the com-
4 mission, shall advise and assist the mayor of any
5 city, the selectmen of any town, and any other person

16 or persons entitled to petition the commission in re-
 17 spect to the rates or service of public utilities subject
 18 to its supervision, in the preparation and prosecution
 19 of any such petition, and shall otherwise represent
 20 the interest of the users and the consumers of the
 21 products or service of such public utilities and assist
 22 the commission. The provisions of section three of
 23 this chapter shall apply to said people's counsel.