

# SENATE . . . . No. 185

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To accompany the petition of Charles F. Shirley for an investigation by a legislative committee of agricultural education at the Massachusetts State College and the development of the agricultural resources of the Commonwealth. Agriculture.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION BY A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE (AGRICULTURAL) COLLEGE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 *Resolved*, That a legislative commission is hereby  
2 established, to be composed of two members of the  
3 senate and five members of the house, for the pur-  
4 pose of investigating the subject of agricultural edu-  
5 cation as conducted at the Massachusetts state col-  
6 lege and the development of the agricultural re-  
7 sources of the commonwealth.

8 The committee shall investigate and report as to  
9 the advisability of further expenditures for new  
10 buildings, additional equipment, the purchase of  
11 land and other improvements at the Massachusetts  
12 state college; as to the present policy of the col-  
13 lege, with a view of ascertaining whether the college  
14 is meeting in the fullest degree the needs of the com-  
15 monwealth in respect to agricultural training; as to

16 the use of state and federal appropriations and  
17 grants; as to the operation of the farm department;  
18 as to the educational and academic instruction; and  
19 as to the extension work.

20 The committee shall ascertain to what extent  
21 teachers are engaged in activities other than college  
22 instruction; to what extent students are taught prac-  
23 tical farming; to what extent the college, independ-  
24 ent of other agencies, contributes towards farming  
25 and agricultural development; to what extent the  
26 lands, buildings and equipment may economically be  
27 utilized; and the relative cost per capita for the  
28 education of state and out-of-state students in the  
29 various courses of instruction, including comparisons  
30 with other agricultural institutions.

31 The committee shall distinguish the educational  
32 from other activities of the college, both for initial  
33 appropriations and for maintenance; shall consider  
34 the elimination of certain activities and a revision of  
35 the courses of studies in respect to the character of  
36 the studies, the amount of time devoted to them  
37 and otherwise.

38 The committee shall ascertain what return, if any,  
39 in respect to the agricultural activities of the people  
40 of the commonwealth, is made by graduate, state-  
41 educated students, and what benefits, if any, might  
42 accrue to the welfare or development of agriculture  
43 in the commonwealth by a co-ordination of the  
44 Massachusetts state college, the state board of agri-  
45 culture, the forestry department, and the depart-  
46 ment of animal industry, or any of them, in order  
47 that certain obvious existing duplications and over-  
48 lappings of activity may be eliminated and that the  
49 work of said departments may be done more effec-  
50 tively and economically.

51 The committee shall report what operations con-  
52 nected with agriculture, the expenses of which are  
53 paid by the state, can best be carried on at the col-  
54 lege rather than under the direction of the board of  
55 agriculture and what operations now carried on at  
56 the college can be better performed under the direc-  
57 tion of the board of agriculture.

58 The committee shall give public hearings and shall  
59 be allowed for necessary expenses such sums, not  
60 exceeding seventy-five hundred dollars, as may be  
61 approved by the governor and council.

62 The committee shall report, in print, on or before  
63 June first, nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, and shall  
64 include in its report drafts of any bills necessary to  
65 carry out its recommendations.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general  
 description of the country and its resources. It  
 is followed by a detailed account of the  
 various industries and occupations of the  
 people. The report then proceeds to a  
 description of the climate and the  
 diseases which are prevalent in the  
 country. The last part of the report  
 contains a list of the names of the  
 various places and a description of the  
 roads and the means of communication.

The second part of the report is devoted to a  
 description of the various occupations of the  
 people. It is followed by a detailed account  
 of the various industries and occupations of  
 the people. The report then proceeds to a  
 description of the climate and the diseases  
 which are prevalent in the country. The  
 last part of the report contains a list of  
 the names of the various places and a  
 description of the roads and the means of  
 communication.