

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1374

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 6, 1931.

The committee on Ways and Means (sitting jointly, under authority of Joint Rule 1, with the committee on Ways and Means of the Senate), to whom was referred the address of His Excellency the Governor submitting (under Section 6<sup>7</sup> of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) the annual budget of estimates, requests and recommendations for appropriations or other authorizations for expenditures by the Commonwealth during the current fiscal year and his recommendations relative to the amounts which should be appropriated therefor and to financing the expenditures recommended (House, No. 1300), report (in part) the accompanying bill (House, No. 1374).

For the committee,

ARTHUR W. JONES.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing for the Acceleration of State Highway and Building Construction, to be Financed by an Increase in the Gasoline Tax, in Order to alleviate the Present Unemployment Emergency and Temporarily relieving Cities and Towns from Certain Highway and Metropolitan Boulevard Assessments.

1    *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would  
2 tend to defeat its purpose, therefore it is hereby  
3 declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the  
4 immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

1    SECTION 1. The department of public works is  
2 hereby authorized to expend for the construction of  
3 state highways the sum of ten million dollars, the  
4 same to be in addition to and in anticipation of any  
5 sum to be appropriated for the same purpose in the  
6 general appropriation act of the current year.

1    SECTION 2. The department of public works,  
2 with the approval of the governor, is hereby author-  
3 ized, on behalf of the commonwealth, to acquire  
4 land in the city of Boston for a building for general  
5 office and headquarters purposes of the department,

6 and, after plans therefor have been approved by the  
7 governor, to construct a building for these purposes  
8 on said land or, after approval of plans as aforesaid,  
9 to construct such a building on land already owned  
10 by the commonwealth; provided, that in lieu of ac-  
11 quiring land and constructing a building thereon or  
12 constructing a building on land already owned by  
13 the commonwealth, the department, if it so desires  
14 and the governor approves, may purchase, on behalf  
15 of the commonwealth, land and an existing building  
16 in said city suitable for the purpose and alter the  
17 same for its use. For the purpose of acquiring land  
18 for the construction of a new building as aforesaid,  
19 the department, on behalf of the commonwealth,  
20 may take in fee by eminent domain under chapter  
21 seventy-nine or eighty A of the General Laws such  
22 land as may be necessary. For the purposes of this  
23 section, the department may expend a sum not  
24 exceeding one million five hundred thousand dollars.

1 SECTION 3. For the purposes of sections one and  
2 two of this act, the state treasurer, upon the request  
3 of the department of public works, shall borrow on  
4 the credit of the commonwealth such sums, not ex-  
5 ceeding, in the aggregate, eleven million five hundred  
6 thousand dollars, as may from time to time be re-  
7 quired, and may issue and renew notes of the com-  
8 monwealth, carrying such rates of interest as the  
9 state treasurer may fix, with the approval of the  
10 governor and council, such notes, whether original  
11 or renewal, to be payable not later than April thirty,  
12 nineteen hundred and thirty-five. All sums neces-  
13 sary to meet payments of principal and interest on  
14 account of said notes or renewals thereof shall be

15 paid from the Highway Fund; but said notes shall  
16 nevertheless be general obligations of the common-  
17 wealth.

1 SECTION 4. There is hereby imposed an additional  
2 excise tax of one cent on each gallon of fuel, as de-  
3 fined in section one of chapter sixty-four A of the  
4 General Laws, sold in the commonwealth during the  
5 period beginning with the first day of May of the  
6 current year and ending with the thirtieth day of  
7 April nineteen hundred and thirty-five, the same to  
8 be levied and collected, and the proceeds thereof  
9 disposed of, as provided in said chapter sixty-four A,  
10 and the provisions of said chapter shall apply to said  
11 additional excise to the same extent as to the normal  
12 excise levied thereunder.

1 SECTION 5. During the four fiscal years ending  
2 on November thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirty-  
3 four, no assessments shall be made or contributions  
4 required from the several cities and towns of the  
5 commonwealth under section sixteen or nineteen of  
6 chapter eighty-one of the General Laws or from any  
7 county under section nine of said chapter eighty-one,  
8 and during said four fiscal years no assessments shall  
9 be made under sections fifty-six to fifty-nine, inclusive,  
10 of chapter ninety-two of the General Laws upon any  
11 city or town of the metropolitan parks district to  
12 meet one half the cost of maintenance of boulevards  
13 but in each of said years the entire cost of mainte-  
14 nance thereof shall be appropriated from the Highway  
15 Fund.

1 SECTION 6. All the space suitable for office pur-  
2 poses and not used for the activities of the depart-

3 ment of public works in any building constructed or  
4 acquired hereunder, for its use shall be assigned for  
5 the use of other state departments. There shall  
6 annually be paid from the general revenue into the  
7 Highway Fund a sum equal to the amount which  
8 would have been received if the space so assigned  
9 to other state departments had been leased at fair  
10 market rates for equivalent spaces in privately owned  
11 buildings; provided, that the sum so to be paid shall  
12 be at least sufficient to cover the same ratio of the  
13 costs of maintenance and upkeep of the building  
14 and of a fair rate for interest and depreciation on the  
15 investment in said building as the space therein as-  
16 signed to such other state departments bears to all  
17 the space suitable for office purposes in the building.





