

HOUSE No. 104

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COMMISSION ON INTERSTATE CO-OPERATION,
15 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON 8, December 6, 1944.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In accordance with the provisions of section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws (Tercentenary Edition), the Commission on Interstate Co-operation submits herewith the recommendations for legislative action contained in its Eighth Annual Report, which describes its activities during the calendar year 1944. A draft of the one bill specifically recommended is attached. This draft has been submitted for examination to the Counsel to the Senate, as the provision of law above cited requires.

By vote of the Commission at a meeting held at the State House December 4, 1944, the chairman was duly authorized to sign this letter of transmittal for the Commission.

Respectfully yours,

ARTHUR W. COOLIDGE,
Chairman.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. LENGTHS OF MOTOR TRUCKS.

In the section of this report dealing with highway and motor vehicle problems we have referred to the efforts of the Regional Conference on that subject to establish uniform standards for length, width, height and weight of commercial motor vehicles. The conference has urged the adoption of a standard 35-foot maximum length for single motor trucks and a 45-foot maximum for tractor-trailer combinations. These are the standard maximum lengths now permitted by Executive Order issued by the Governor in pursuance of his war emergency powers, but they exceed the present statutory maxima of 33 and 40 feet. We recommend amendment of the present law to conform to the proposed standards, and submit herewith a bill to accomplish that purpose.

2. SOIL CONSERVATION.

From our study of soil conservation laws and projects, we have come to the conclusion that misuse of soils and natural damage to them are more serious problems than is commonly supposed, and that reasonable provision for soil conservation should be made. This should involve a minimum of Federal participation and control. Representatives of several interested groups are engaged in drafting a bill that we hope will be generally satisfactory. This bill will probably be introduced on petition. We expect to support it and to advocate its enactment subject to possible amendments in detail.

3. RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF CONSERVATION LAWS.

We understand that the Department of Conservation will introduce a bill to authorize reciprocal enforcement

of conservation laws by authorities of this and neighboring States on interstate waters. In the first instance this will apply particularly to marine fisheries. Its adoption is urged by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission which we helped to establish. Several of our neighboring States have laws similar to the proposed bill. As a matter of interstate comity and uniformity of legislation, we recommend that the proposed bill be enacted.

4. SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF-SETTLEMENT.

For several years interstate conferences on welfare and relief problems have consistently recommended abolition of settlement requirements for the categories to which they apply. We understand that one of the recess commissions required to report to the General Court convening in 1945 will propose legislation to make this recommendation effective. We favor such legislation, and if it is introduced we will support it in principle, reserving the right to object to details that may appear undesirable.

