

HOUSE No. 861

Accompanying the petition of George A. Lancaster for the appointment of a special commission to ascertain the value of all public and private gas plants and to consider the advisability of their acquisition by the Commonwealth. Power and Light. January 19.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

To establish a Commission to consider the Advisability of
Owning and Operating All Gas Companies.

*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. That a special commission of five be ap-
2 pointed by the governor to ascertain the value of all
3 public and private gas plants devoted to the manufacture
4 of gas for gas consumers of the commonwealth, with a
5 view to the probable cost to the commonwealth should it
6 desire to purchase the same. The said commission shall
7 consider the acquiring by the commonwealth of all gas
8 companies, the consolidation of such companies, the re-
9 location or enlargement of the same, in the interest of
10 all the people of the commonwealth. The commission
11 to consider the probable cost, under such public owner-
12 ship, of gas for heating, power and lighting purposes.

13 The commission to consider the probable cost and ex-
14 pense of operating vessels, barges, tugs, etc., for bringing
15 coal to the Massachusetts coast. That the commission
16 consider the cost of purchasing, or leasing, and operating
17 bituminous coal fields, with the cost of carrying coal
18 from the mine to the nearest seaboard port. That the
19 commission consider the expense of pipe lines for con-
20 ducting gas from seacoast gas plants to interior towns
21 and cities of the commonwealth. That the commission
22 consider all questions as to the advisability of using
23 bituminous coal to be converted into gas, the cost of
24 the same as compared with anthracite coal, the income
25 probable from residuals recovered in the making of gas.
26 That the commission consider the feasibility of petitioning
27 congress to purchase and control bituminous coal mines
28 and own and operate vessels, barges, etc., to supply all
29 of New England seaboard cities and towns with gas coal
30 at cost.

1 SECTION 2. That the commission be paid such com-
2 pensation as the governor and council shall determine,
3 and that they be allowed to expend such sums of money
4 for expenses as shall be approved by the governor and
5 council.

1 SECTION 3. That said commission is hereby given full
2 power and authority to require books, papers, and any
3 information from each public and private company, or
4 corporation, making gas for sale to inhabitants of the
5 commonwealth. The said commission to report in print
6 to the legislature of the year nineteen hundred and twenty-
7 two.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

