

HOUSE No. 76.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan 10, 1896.

[Taken from the files of last year and referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-six.

RESOLVE

Providing for a Consolidation and Arrangement of the Public Statutes of the Commonwealth.

1 *Resolved*, That the governor, by and with the advice
2 and consent of the council, shall appoint three able and
3 discreet persons learned in the law, to be commissioners
4 for consolidating and arranging the Public Statutes of
5 the Commonwealth which may be in force and operation
6 at the time such commissioners may make their final
7 report of their doings in the premises. Such commis-
8 sioners shall carefully collect under different titles and
9 chapters, upon the basis, plan and general form and
10 method of the Public Statutes, all acts and parts of acts
11 relating to the same subject; and shall execute and com-
12 plete such consolidation and arrangement in such manner
13 as in their judgment will render the said Public Statutes
14 most concise, plain and intelligible. The commissioners

15 may, in consolidating and arranging the statutes, omit
16 redundant enactments, and those which may have ceased
17 to have any effect or influence on existing rights; reject
18 superfluous words, and condense into as concise and com-
19 prehensive a form as is consistent with a full and clear
20 expression of the will of the legislature, all circuitous,
21 tautological and ambiguous phraseology; suggest any
22 mistakes, omissions, inconsistencies and imperfections,
23 which may appear in the laws to be consolidated and
24 arranged, and the manner in which they may be cor-
25 rected, supplied and amended. The commissioners shall
26 indicate by brief marginal notes and references, the stat-
27 utes, chapters and sections consolidated and arranged by
28 them, the substance of the contents of each section, and
29 the leading and prominent judicial decisions upon the
30 same. They shall complete the said consolidation and
31 arrangement, and make and present their final report, in
32 print, to the legislature, as soon as may be, the same
33 to be accepted or rejected by the legislature without
34 amendment. Said commissioners shall receive such com-
35 pensation from the treasury of the Commonwealth as the
36 governor and council shall determine.

