

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1761

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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COMMISSION ON ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY,  
ROOM 109 AND 110, STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 16, 1914.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled.*

In pursuance of the provisions of Chapter 719, Section 7, of the Acts of the year 1912, the Commission on Economy and Efficiency respectfully submits the following report concerning various departments, institutions, boards or undertakings:

It is of great importance to carefully preserve and protect the public records of the various state departments and the state institutions, both in and outside of the State House.

We believe that the Commissioner of Public Records should be provided with adequate powers of law and inspection to make such protection.

We find that, while the Commissioner of Public Records has the power, under the law, to safeguard the documents of cities, towns and counties, and of the courts in the Commonwealth, with the exception of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth, he has no power whatever to see to it that the documents of the state departments and commissions are safeguarded against fire or other catastrophe.

We find that the law which requires protection for the priceless documents controlled by the state departments is not complied with, and it is our belief that a fire might originate in the State House alone which would cause damage and loss to the state which never could be estimated.

We believe, therefore, by law, that the Commissioner of Public Records should have the power to adequately safeguard the priceless documents which are in the state's possession.

*Textile Schools and Schools for the Education of the Deaf.*

By the Resolves of the Legislature of 1912, Chapter 31, the State Board of Education was instructed to make investigation of the textile schools of the Commonwealth and the schools for the deaf. The Resolve is as follows:

[CHAP. 31.]

RESOLVE TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE COMMONWEALTH.

*Resolved*, That the board of education is hereby authorized and directed to make to the general court a report relative to all textile schools and schools for the deaf which are supported in part by the commonwealth by annual or special appropriations, by payment of tuition fees or in any other way. The report shall contain such facts and recommendations as the board may deem advisable with a view of promoting the efficiency and economy of the various kinds of education aided by the commonwealth in the said institutions. The board and its agents are hereby authorized to visit and inspect the said institutions and investigate their educational and other activities and to require from them such reports as the board may deem necessary. The board may employ special agents to inspect and to report as to the said institutions, and to procure for the board such information as it may require. [*Approved March 25, 1912.*]

The State Board of Education has diligently conformed to these requirements and will make its report as early as possible. In the meantime, the Commission on Economy and Efficiency advises that until the State Board of Education and the Commission on Economy and Efficiency have rendered their opinions it would be manifestly unwise to make any extraordinary appropriations for these institutions. The Commission on Economy and Efficiency finds that the textile schools and the schools for the deaf present many problems which should receive early consideration.

The expenses of the Commonwealth for the textile schools are annually increasing and create considerations of large importance. The State has contributed generously to these institutions and therefore a wise and definite policy for the textile schools and the schools for the education of the deaf should be

outlined before any extraordinary appropriations for these institutions are made.

The Commission on Economy and Efficiency recommends that the New Bedford Textile School should receive a special appropriation of \$17,500 to cover deficiencies incurred by this institution in the last few years. For these deficiencies the institution has been obliged to borrow.

#### *Massachusetts Agricultural College.*

The Commission on Economy begs to state that it has been carrying on an exhaustive investigation of the requests for money from the State Treasury made by the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

This college is now and has been for a number of years increasing its expenses and extending its activities into new fields at an alarming rate.

This institution is now requesting a special appropriation of \$250,000, and an increase of \$50,000 in current appropriations, making a total demand this year of \$550,000.

An act passed by the Legislature in 1912 specially provides the Massachusetts Agricultural College with an annual current appropriation, which this year under the act will be \$79,500 more than last year.

Besides this, the present new demands aggregate \$300,000, and with the present forecast of the income of the State, and with no new methods in sight to increase the State's revenue, these and similar requests should be most carefully considered.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has already assumed such large financial obligations, in so many different directions, that the citizens of the Commonwealth are facing the largest State tax in the State's history. It appears from present sources of information that this tax may approximate the huge sum of \$8,000,000.

It is our opinion that the State ought not to involve the citizens of the Commonwealth by increasing expenses, unless it can be clearly proven that such expenses are absolutely and vitally necessary.

While this Commission has every sympathy with the necessity for education benefiting agriculture, we respectfully advise

that the Massachusetts Agricultural College, like all institutions dependent upon the money of the taxpayers of the State, should regulate its affairs commensurate with the public purse.

We beg to say that within a short time we will have in hand a complete review of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, which we shall be prepared to render to any committee or committees before which the institution's requests may be submitted.

Inasmuch as we believe that the information in our possession has important bearing on this institution, we respectfully submit that such information may be of use to any committee or committees to which may be referred the requests of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Respectfully submitted,

NORMAN H. WHITE,  
*Chairman.*