

HOUSE No. 632

Resolve accompanying the petition of Francis R. Bangs for a commission to study the laws relative to the taking of property by eminent domain and the assessing of betterments for public improvements. Joint Judiciary. January 15.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

RESOLVE

To provide for a Commission to report upon the Laws of the Commonwealth relative to the Taking of Property by Eminent Domain and assessing Betterments for Public Improvements.

1 *Resolved*, That the governor, with the consent of the
2 council, shall appoint a commission consisting of the
3 chief of the bureau of labor and statistics, the chairman
4 of the Massachusetts highway commission and the attor-
5 ney-general or one of his assistants to consider and report
6 to the next general court upon the advisability of simpli-
7 fying and making more uniform the laws of the common-
8 wealth and the procedure of public officers and boards,
9 relating to the taking of property by eminent domain,
10 awarding damages therefor and assessing and collecting
11 betterments or special assessments on account of public

12 improvements, giving especial attention to the systems of
13 law and procedure in force in certain other states by
14 which the owners of property affected by a proposed pub-
15 lic improvement are heard and the amount of all damages
16 and betterments are definitely ascertained before any
17 property is taken or any work begun. The commission
18 may incur such expenses for clerical assistance and inci-
19 dental expenses as the governor and council shall de-
20 termine but not exceeding two thousand dollars. The
21 commission shall report its findings and recommendations
22 to the next general court, and may employ expert legal
23 assistance to prepare a bill embodying such changes in the
24 laws as the commission may suggest and for this purpose
25 may incur expenses not exceeding five thousand dollars.
26 All expenses incurred by the commission as provided in
27 this act shall be paid by the treasurer of the common-
28 wealth upon the order of the commission.