

HOUSE No. 522.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 8, 1893.

[Bill accompanying the petition of the committee on Temperance of the General Association of Congregational Churches of Massachusetts for the appointment of a commission to consider the relation of the liquor traffic to crime, pauperism and insanity].

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-three

AN ACT

To establish a Commission to investigate and report upon the Relation of the Liquor Traffic to Crime, Pauperism and Insanity.

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. The governor, with the advice and con-
2 sent of the council, shall within thirty days from the
3 passage of this act appoint three persons, one from the
4 Republican party, one from the Democratic party, and
5 one from the Prohibition party, neither of whom shall be
6 interested directly or indirectly in the manufacture or
7 sale of intoxicating liquors, to investigate and report all

8 facts and statistics bearing upon the relation of the liquor
9 traffic to crime, pauperism and insanity in this Com-
10 monwealth.

1 SECT. 2. The persons thus appointed shall constitute
2 a commission whose duty it shall be to ascertain, from all
3 sources available, facts, figures and statistics showing
4 the number of commitments to all institutions, penal
5 and charitable, resulting from the use or abuse of intoxi-
6 cating liquors, the number of crimes committed by per-
7 sons while under the influence of intoxicating liquors,
8 the number of crimes of each class thus committed, the
9 number of paupers whose present condition can be
10 traced to the use or abuse of intoxicating liquors by
11 themselves or by their parents, guardians or others; the
12 number of persons who have been pronounced insane,
13 and whose condition can be traced to the use or abuse of
14 intoxicating liquors by themselves, their ancestors or
15 by others, and in general such other figures and statistics
16 as will, in the opinion of the commission, give the infor-
17 mation which it is the purpose of this act to obtain.

1 SECT. 3. The commission shall have authority to
2 send for and require the presence of public officials and
3 other persons, and to compel the production of public or
4 private books or papers which are, in the opinion of
5 the commission, pertinent to the inquiry and investiga-
6 tion herein provided for, and the period of time to be
7 covered by the investigations of the commission shall
8 include not less than twelve successive months. The
9 commission shall make their report to the legislature of
10 eighteen hundred and ninety-three, on or before the
11 fifteenth day of May, or if the commission is unable
12 to obtain all the information which it desires to obtain
13 in carrying out the purposes of this act in time to allow

14 a report to be made on or before said date, then the
15 commission may report to the next legislature, on or
16 before the first day of February, eighteen hundred and
17 ninety-four.

1 SECT. 4. Said commission may employ experts and
2 all necessary clerical and other assistants, and may incur
3 such reasonable expenses, including travelling expenses,
4 as may be authorized by the governor and council. Be-
5 fore incurring any expenses they shall, from time to
6 time, estimate the amount required, and shall submit the
7 same to the governor and council for their approval, and
8 no expenses shall be incurred by the commission beyond
9 the amount so estimated and approved. Said commis-
10 sion shall receive such compensation as the governor and
11 council may decide: *provided*, the whole amount ex-
12 pended under the provisions of this act shall not exceed
13 five thousand dollars.

1 SECT. 5. Any vacancy in the commission may be
2 filled by the governor, with the advice and consent of
3 the council.

1 SECT. 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

