

maintenance of hatcheries, printing and incidental expenses, a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars.

For expenses of stocking great ponds with food fish, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars.

Stocking great ponds.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 20, 1900.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF IPSWICH TO COMPENSATE GEORGE P. SMITH FOR INJURIES RECEIVED WHILE ASSISTING A POLICE OFFICER IN MAKING AN ARREST.

Chap. 252

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The town of Ipswich is hereby authorized to compensate George P. Smith for injuries received by him at Ipswich on the eighteenth day of April in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-five while assisting a police officer of the town in making an arrest.

Town of Ipswich may compensate George P. Smith for injuries received.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 23, 1900.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INJURIES RECEIVED ON STATE HIGHWAYS.

Chap. 253

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commonwealth shall be liable for injuries to persons travelling upon state highways, in the same manner and subject to the same limitations, conditions and restrictions as are provided by sections eighteen, nineteen, twenty-one and twenty-two of chapter fifty-two of the Public Statutes and acts in amendment thereof or in addition thereto, except that the notice of injury shall be given to the secretary of the Massachusetts highway commission or to any member thereof. The amount recovered for such injuries shall not exceed one fifth of one per cent of the state valuation last preceding the commencement of the action, of the town or city in which such injury is received, nor shall it exceed four thousand dollars.

The Commonwealth to be liable for injuries to persons travelling upon state highways, etc.

SECTION 2. Nothing herein contained shall render the Commonwealth liable for any injury or damage caused while a state road is being constructed, nor shall the Commonwealth be liable for any injuries except those received upon that part of the way lying between the inside lines of sidewalks, as defined in chapter three hundred and forty-five of the acts of the year eighteen hun-

Not to be liable in certain cases.

Temporary repairs of state highways.

dred and ninety-six. A city or town may make temporary necessary repairs of a state highway without the approval of said commission.

Repeal.

SECTION 3. Section six of chapter four hundred and ninety-seven of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-four is hereby repealed.

Approved April 25, 1900.

Chap. 254

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

Agent of state board of charity to investigate treatment and condition of certain children, etc.

SECTION 1. The state board of charity by a specially authorized agent may enter without actual force any building or room in which the agent has reason to believe that a child under the age of seven years is sheltered or maintained apart from his parents and is not receiving proper care. The agent shall investigate the case and make report to the superintendent of state minor wards or other designated officer of the board, and such officer may cause such child, if he is not under the personal care of a parent or guardian, to be removed to the custody of the board if he deems such removal necessary for the protection of the child from neglect or abuse. An agent who is refused such entry or is hindered in the removal of such child may make complaint on oath to a justice of a court of record, who may thereupon issue a warrant authorizing him to obtain sufficient aid and at any reasonable time to enter the building designated, and every part thereof, for the purpose of investigating the treatment and condition of the child or children who may be found there, and to remove all or any of such children as herein provided.

Powers and duties of state board of charity in case of removal of child.

SECTION 2. Upon such removal the officer shall forthwith notify the state board of charity of his doings, and the board shall thereupon decide whether to retain such child in its custody or to restore him to his parent or guardian, or to the place from which he was removed. The board shall have the same powers and duties as to a child so retained which it has as to neglected children committed to its custody by the courts. But the board shall upon request discharge such child to his legal guardian, and if he has no guardian then to his father, and if he has no father then to his mother, unless within a reasonable time it secures the commitment of such child, under the provisions of chapter one hundred and eighty-one of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two and of acts in amendment thereof.