

HOUSE . . . . . No. 364.

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[Mr. PERKINS of Cambridge gives notice that he will move to substitute this bill for the report of the Committee on Roads and Bridges, no legislation necessary.]

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-nine.

AN ACT

To provide for a Commissioner of Highways and  
Bridges.

*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  
2 and consent of the council, shall, before the first  
3 day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine,  
4 appoint a competent person to serve as commis-  
5 sioner of highways and bridges, who shall hold  
6 his office for the term of three years from the  
7 date of his commission, and until his successor is

8 appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed  
9 by the governor. He shall receive in full com-  
10 pensation for his services an annual salary of three  
11 thousand dollars; and may expend for assistance  
12 and in defraying expenses, incidental and neces-  
13 sary to the performance of his duties, not exceed-  
14 ing one thousand dollars in each year. He shall  
15 be provided with an office in the state house, or  
16 in some other suitable place in the city of Boston,  
17 in which the records of his office shall be kept.

1 SECT. 2. He shall have a general advisory  
2 oversight of the public ways, roads and bridges  
3 of the cities, towns and counties of the Common-  
4 wealth, shall compile statistics of the same, and  
5 make such investigations relating thereto as he  
6 shall deem expedient. He may be consulted at  
7 all reasonable times, without charge, by the offi-  
8 cers of counties, cities or towns having authority  
9 over public ways, roads or bridges, and shall  
10 advise them relative to the construction, repair,  
11 alteration or maintenance of the same; but no  
12 advice given by him to any such officer shall  
13 have the effect to impair in any manner or de-  
14 gree the legal duties and obligations of any  
15 county, city or town.

1 SECT. 3. The county commissioners, boards  
2 of selectmen and aldermen, and other officers  
3 having authority over public ways, roads and  
4 bridges throughout the Commonwealth, shall at  
5 reasonable times, on request, furnish the commis-

6 sioner any information required by him concern-  
7 ing the public ways, roads or bridges within their  
8 jurisdiction. The commissioner may furnish  
9 blank forms for returns to be made to him by  
10 such officers, and may make changes and addi-  
11 tions in such forms.

1 SECT. 4. He shall make an annual report to  
2 the legislature of his doings and of the expendi-  
3 tures of his office, together with such statements,  
4 facts and explanations bearing upon the construc-  
5 tion and maintenance of public ways, roads and  
6 bridges, and with such suggestions as to the  
7 general policy of the Commonwealth in respect  
8 to the same, or any thereof, as may seem to him  
9 appropriate. He may incorporate in his annual  
10 report such tables and abstracts of the returns  
11 required to be made to him by section three  
12 hereof, as he shall deem expedient. His report  
13 shall be transmitted to the secretary of the Com-  
14 monwealth on or before the first Wednesday in  
15 January in each year, to be laid before the legis-  
16 lature. The originals of the returns, and all  
17 maps, plans and statistics collected or compiled  
18 at the request or under the direction of the com-  
19 missioner, shall be preserved in his office for  
20 public inspection.

