

HOUSE No. 66

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS,
14 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, December 4, 1940.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the provisions of section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws (Tercentenary Edition), the Examiners of Electricians present herewith such portions of their annual report for the year ending November 30, 1940, as embody recommendations for legislative action, the same being accompanied by drafts to cover the legislation recommended. The drafts of bills have been submitted to Counsel for the House of Representatives, as required by law.

EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS,

HARRISON C. WITHERELL,

Executive Secretary.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The General Laws are not clear as to the appointing authority for the employees of the Examiners of Electricians in the Division of Registration in the Department of Civil Service and Registration.

The State Examiners of Electricians were created by St. 1915, c. 296, § 2, and appointed a clerk and other assistants to perform their duties. The Constitutional Convention of 1918 directed that the state government be reorganized into not more than twenty departments, which was carried out by St. 1919, c. 350. This chapter placed the Examiners of Electricians in the Division of Registration in the Department of Civil Service and Registration, but the appropriations for the personal services of the executive secretary and other employees continued to be made to the examiners until 1926. Since then the salaries of these employees have been paid from appropriations for personal services in the Division of Registration.

When the General Laws became effective the personnel of the Board of Examiners was defined by chapter 13, section 32, and the powers and duties of the examiners by chapter 141. Said c. 13, § 32, G. L. (Tercentenary Edition) authorizes the examiners to appoint an executive secretary, but does not define the appointing authority for the other employees who work under the direction of the executive secretary.

This bill is intended to place the appointing power in the hands of the Board whose duties the employees are carrying out. A bill is submitted herewith to accomplish this result.

2. The Examiners of Electricians are authorized, by chapter 141, section 4, of the General Laws, to suspend or revoke electricians' licenses for failure or refusal to

comply with their rules, after a hearing has been held. In many cases the only persons who know, of their own knowledge, who performed certain defective work are the persons who hired the work done or who were present when it was done. These persons often refuse to appear to give testimony when told they must come without a witness fee and at their own expense.

Evidence is often conflicting, and as no one is under oath, a witness may testify to anything he wishes without fear of punishment. In many cases written contracts, invoices and other records would quickly bring out the truth, particularly in hearings on transferring or assigning a license. The accompanying bill will aid the examiners in their duties.

