

of selectmen of the cities and towns constituting said districts, for the purpose of representing the joint interests of said municipalities and of the public in consultation with the officials of the metropolitan district commission.

Said special commission shall be furnished by the metropolitan district commission with such technical and other assistance as it may require, and shall have the right to call upon other state departments, boards or commissions and upon city and town departments, boards or commissions for such information and assistance as it may deem necessary for its purposes. It shall be provided with quarters in the state house or elsewhere, may travel within and without the commonwealth, and may employ such engineering and other assistants and may incur such expense as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolve, and for said purposes may expend the unexpended balance available in item 0257-14 in section two of chapter seven hundred and forty-six of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-six and the balance of the sum of fifteen thousand dollars appropriated from the General Fund in advance of the general appropriation for the current year.

It is further provided that the expenditures made by the special commission under chapter one hundred and twenty-nine of the resolves of nineteen hundred and fifty-six and under chapter forty-five of the resolves of nineteen hundred and fifty-seven and under this resolve are to be assessed fifty per cent on the metropolitan water district; twenty-five per cent on the north sewerage district; and twenty-five on the south sewerage district.

Said special commission may report from time to time to the general court the results of its investigation and study hereunder, and its recommendations, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate, but in any event shall file its final report with said clerk on or before the fourth Wednesday of January, nineteen hundred and fifty-eight.

*Approved August 28, 1957.*

RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE INDICTMENT, TRIAL, CONVICTION AND EXECUTION OF ANN PUDEATOR AND CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS FOR "WITCHCRAFT" IN THE YEAR SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO. *Chap. 145*

*Whereas*, One Ann Pudeator and certain other persons were indicted, tried, found guilty, sentenced to death and executed in the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two for "Witchcraft"; and

*Whereas*, Said persons may have been illegally tried, convicted and sentenced by a possibly illegal court of oyer and terminer created by the then governor of the Province without authority under the Province Charter of Massachusetts Bay; and

*Whereas*, Although there was a public repentance by Judge Sewall, one of the judges of the so-called "Witchcraft Court", and by all the members of the "Witchcraft" jury, and a public Fast Day proclaimed and observed in repentance for the proceedings, but no other action taken in regard to them; and

*Whereas*, The General Court of Massachusetts is informed that certain descendants of said Ann Pudeator and said other persons are still distressed by the record of said proceedings; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That in order to alleviate such distress and although the facts of such proceedings cannot be obliterated, the General Court of Massachusetts declares its belief that such proceedings, even if lawful under the Province Charter and the law of Massachusetts as it then was, were and are shocking, and the result of a wave of popular hysterical fear of the Devil in the community, and further declares that, as all the laws under which said proceedings, even if then legally conducted, have been long since abandoned and superseded by our more civilized laws no disgrace or cause for distress attaches to the said descendants or any of them by reason of said proceedings; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the passage of this resolve shall not bestow on the commonwealth or any of its subdivisions, or on any person any right which did not exist prior to said passage, shall not authorize any suit or other proceeding nor deprive any party to a suit or other proceeding of any defense which he hitherto had, shall not affect in any way whatever the title to or rights in any real or personal property, nor shall it require or permit the remission of any penalty, fine or forfeiture hitherto imposed or incurred.

*Approved August 28, 1957.*

*Chap. 146* RESOLVE AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO DETERMINE THE AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN REMOVING THE FOREST HILLS—EVERETT ELEVATED STRUCTURE OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY, AND CONSTRUCTING A NEW HIGHWAY.

*Resolved*, That the metropolitan transit authority and the state department of public works, acting jointly, shall ascertain from federal public works officials whether federal funds will be available under the Federal Highway Act or under any other act for a project, to be made part of the highway program in Massachusetts, providing for the removal of the elevated structure of the metropolitan transit authority between Forest Hills station in the city of Boston and the Everett station in the city of Everett, the construction of subway and rapid transit facilities in substitution therefor and the construction of a new highway along the route of the former elevated structure. Said authority and depart-