

oath or affirmation, on a blank prepared by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Section 5. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is hereby specifically appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction, to be paid into the "School Building Aid Fund," and no moneys shall be drawn out of this fund except for the purposes specified in this act. Appropriation.

APPROVED—The 4th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER

No. 393

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for the appointment of a commission by the Governor of this Commonwealth for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon both the geologic formation and strength of bituminous coal, for the purpose of recommending necessary legislation to safeguard the health and lives of persons employed in the bituminous coal mines of Pennsylvania, and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith, in the matter of providing safe and practicable thickness of barrier pillars between adjoining mining properties, and making an appropriation to meet the expenses of said commission.

BITUMINOUS MINES

Section 1. Be it resolved, &c., That the Governor of this Commonwealth be and is hereby authorized to appoint seven competent citizens, of whom four shall be recognized mining engineers, one shall be a hydraulic engineer, one a geologist of recognized standing in his profession, and one a State mine inspector from the bituminous coal mining district, to investigate and report upon barrier pillars in the bituminous coal region. Commission to be appointed.

Section 2. The duties of the said commission shall be to ascertain from investigation the geologic formation and strength of bituminous coals in this Commonwealth and determine the practicable and safe thicknesses of barrier pillars to be established jointly between adjoining mining properties, and prepare a bill for presentation to the Legislature as it shall deem necessary to protect the welfare and interests of employes, operators, and property owners. Duties of commission.

Section 3. That said commission shall report the result of their labor to the Legislature, and shall convene in one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, on or before the first day of February of said year, or at an earlier period, if, in their judgment, the situation should demand urgency. They shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses. Report.

Section 4. That said commissioners shall meet and organize within thirty days of their appointment, and elect a chairman and a secretary, and as promptly as Expenses.

Organization.

possible proceed to perform their duties. The commissioners shall have authority to employ such experts and such other employes as are necessary to the proper transaction of the business of the commission. The said commission shall also have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of maps, papers, and other evidence, at any meeting of the commission, and for that purpose may issue subpoenas signed by the chairman of the commission and cause the same to be served and executed in any part of this Commonwealth. If any witness shall refuse to testify as to any fact within his knowledge, or to produce any maps or papers within his possession or under his control, the secretary of the commission shall forthwith report the facts relating to such refusal to one of the courts of common pleas of the county wherein such witness resides, and all questions arising upon such refusal shall be at once heard by said court. If the court determine that the testimony or evidence required by such witness is legal and properly competent, and ought to be given or produced by him, then said court shall make an order commanding such witness to testify, or produce maps or papers, or both, as the case may be, and, if such witness shall thereafter refuse to testify or to produce maps or papers as aforesaid, in disobedience of such order of the court, then the said court shall have power to order the commitment of such witness to the county jail of the proper county for contempt.

Section 5. That for the purpose of the said commission the sum of one thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act and for the payment of the expenses incurred by the commission and the members of the commission.

APPROVED—The 4th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER

No. 394

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Creating a Penal Law Commission to collate, revise, and digest the various penal laws and laws of criminal procedure of the Commonwealth, and making an appropriation.

Penal Law Commission.

Section 1. Be it resolved, &c., That a commission is hereby created composed of seven citizens learned in the law to collate, revise, and digest all the acts and statutes relating to or touching the penal laws and the laws of criminal procedure of the Commonwealth. Said commission shall be known as the "Penal Law Commission." The members of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor.