

All claims against the Commonwealth represented by relief orders issued by the State Veterans' Commission, which are not presented for payment prior to the time of cancellation, shall be considered paid, and all sums of money held or appropriated for the payment of such relief orders not presented within said period are hereby escheated to the Commonwealth, and shall be credited to the current appropriation to the commission, as herein-before provided.

APPROVED—The 29th day of April, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 127

### A JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the appointment of a commission to make a thorough and impartial investigation into the operation of the oil industry in this Commonwealth with special reference to the adequate, efficient and economical supplying of lubricating oils and gasoline to the people of this Commonwealth; conferring upon the commission full power to issue subpoenas; requiring the commission to make a report of its findings to the Governor, together with its recommendations as to such regulatory legislation as may be needful to correct any abuses and evils connected with such industry which are prejudicial to the interests of the citizens of this Commonwealth; authorizing the commission to employ counsel and employes; and making an appropriation.

**Preamble.**

WHEREAS, Lubricating oils and gasoline by-products of petroleum, one of the great natural resources of this nation, are of necessity so generally used by our people as to constitute them essentials of our modern civilization; and

WHEREAS, The prices of oils and gasoline are at present subject to wide and unpredictable fluctuations dependent neither upon the normal relation of demand to supply nor the reasonable expenses of production and distribution, but upon intense and frequently uneconomical competition in the oil industry in the course of which prices are capriciously raised or lowered by the refiners of oils and gasoline in furtherance of their several ruthless ambitions to dominate their industry; and

WHEREAS, The public has a vital interest in the economical operation of the oil industry to the end that lubricating oils and gasoline may be supplied efficiently to the people at prices insuring no more than a fair profit above the reasonable cost of production and distribution; therefore,

Section 1. Be it resolved, &c., That there is hereby created a commission which shall be composed of five competent persons, three to be appointed by the Gov-

Creation of a commission to study the oil industry.

ernor, one to be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (one of whom shall be designated chairman by the Governor), who shall serve without compensation and whose duty it shall be to make a careful, thorough and impartial investigation into the operation of the oil industry in this Commonwealth with special reference to the adequate, efficient and economical supplying of lubricating oils and gasoline to the people of this Commonwealth at reasonable prices not inconsistent with the fair costs of production and distribution; to ascertain and to report to the Governor as soon as possible its findings as to whether or not the oil industry is so affected with the public interest as to require statutory regulation, and its recommendations, if any, as to legislation needful to correct any abuses and evils connected with the whole operation of the oil industry in this Commonwealth which are prejudicial to the interests of its citizens.

Section 2. The commission shall have power to issue subpoenas, under the hand and seal of its chairman, requesting and commanding any person or persons to appear before it and to answer such questions touching matters properly being inquired into by the commission, and to produce such books, papers, records and documents as the commission may deem necessary. Such subpoenas may be served upon any person, and shall have the force and effect of subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Each member of the commission shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before the commission. Any person, who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to testify before the commission or to produce any books, papers, records or documents, shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the Commonwealth in such cases.

The commission may issue subpoenas.

Each member shall have the power to administer oaths.

Section 3. The commission may employ and fix the compensation of such counsel, experts, clerks, and assistants as may be deemed necessary for the proper conduct of the work of the commission.

Commission may employ counsel, clerks, etc.

Section 4. The sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby specifically appropriated to the commission for the payment of the expenses of the members; and for the payment of the compensation and expenses of counsel, experts, clerks, and assistants of the commission; for postage, telegraph, and telephone charges; for the use of automobiles; for witness fees allowed by the commission; for supplies and printing; and for all other expenses deemed necessary and proper by the commission.

\$5,000.00 appropriated to the commission.

When effective.

Section 5. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its final enactment.

APPROVED—The 29th day of April, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 128

AN ACT

To amend the act, approved the second day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand two hundred seventy-eight), entitled "An act relating to counties of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; and revising, amending and consolidating the laws relating thereto," by authorizing counties of the second class to assist political subdivisions in the county in negotiations and contests with public service companies.

Act of May 2,  
1929 (P. L.  
1278), as  
amended.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That article five of the act, approved the second day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand two hundred seventy-eight), entitled "An act relating to counties of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; and revising, amending and consolidating the laws relating thereto," is hereby amended, by adding at the end thereof a new subdivision and section, to read as follows:

Counties of  
second class may  
assist sub-  
divisions in con-  
tests with public  
service com-  
panies.

(1) *Proceedings before Public Utility Commission.*  
*Section 495. Counties of the Second Class May Assist Municipalities.*—Upon the request of any political subdivision or subdivisions within the county, any county of the second class may assist such political subdivision in any negotiations or contest with any public service company, and, for such purpose, may employ, or place at the disposal of such political subdivision, the legal, engineering, accounting or clerical service of the county. The county commissioners of any such county may also enter their appearance as interveners, or otherwise, in any proceedings before the Public Utility Commission, or before any court in any proceeding involving any controversy between any political subdivision in the county and a public service company.

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately upon final enactment.

APPROVED—The 29th day of April, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE