

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

12021

N. J. TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION STUDY COMMISSION
Created by Joint Resolution 10, 1953

Report To The Governor and The Legislature

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1954
Submitted

January 25, 1954

Trenton, New Jersey

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Approved May 29, 1953

A Joint Resolution creating a commission to be known as the Traffic Safety Legislation Study Commission, to study the traffic legislation, providing for reports and recommendations by the said commission to the Governor and the Legislature and providing for an appropriation therefor.

Whereas, Eight hundred and thirty-four men, women and children lost their lives in traffic accidents in New Jersey in one thousand nine hundred and fifty-two; and

Whereas, the Governor, in his Sixth Annual Message to the Legislature, stressed the need for an improved traffic safety record; and

Whereas, the initial responsibility for complete and modern traffic safety legislation in New Jersey is the Legislature's; and

Whereas, the Legislature deems the need and creation of a traffic safety legislation study commission to be manifest; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. There is hereby created the Traffic Safety Legislation Study Commission. The Commission shall consist of nine members, three of whom shall be named by the Governor from the State at large, three of whom shall be Senators to be named by the President of the Senate, and three of whom shall be Assemblymen to be named by the Speaker of the General Assembly. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled by appointment by the authority who named the person whose membership in the commission ceased and thereby created the vacancy.

2. The commission shall select from among its members a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. The commission may adopt rules and regulations for the purpose of facilitating the performance of its functions.

3. The commission is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to study traffic safety legislation, including the enforcement and adequacy of the same in New Jersey and elsewhere, particularly in reference to the future policy thereof in New Jersey.

4. The commission shall make such recommendations as it shall deem proper for such legislation, as will further improve traffic safety.

5. Upon completion of its study, but no later than the third Monday in January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four, the commission shall make a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor.

6. The commission may hold hearings in any part of the State and call for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers and records. It may call upon any of the State departments for such assistance as may be required from such departments.

7. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Members of the Commission

The following were appointed members of the Commission by his Excellency, Governor Alfred E. Driscoll:

Honorable Elmer C. Easton, Chairman, Piscataway, N.J.
Honorable Herbert J. Stack, Teaneck, N.J.
Honorable Matthew F. Van Istendal, Jr., Collingswood, N.J.

The following were appointed members of the Commission by the Honorable David Young, 3rd, President of the Senate:

Honorable Malcolm S. Forbes, Senator from Somerset County
Honorable Kenneth C. Hand, Senator from Union County
Honorable Bernard W. Vogel, Senator from Middlesex County

The following were appointed members of the Commission by the Honorable Elvin R. Simmill, Speaker of the General Assembly:

Honorable William O. Barnes, Jr., Secretary, Assemblyman from Essex County
Honorable Alfred N. Beadleston, Assemblyman from Monmouth County
Honorable William V. Musto, Assemblyman from Hudson County

Letter of Transmittal

January 25, 1954

To his Excellency, Governor of the State of New Jersey:

To the Honorable Members of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

Sirs:

The **members** of the Traffic Safety Legislation Study Commission, created pursuant to Joint Resolution 10 of 1953, respectfully submit this report.

Elmer C. Easton, Chairman

Herbert J. Stack

Matthew F. Van Istendal, Jr.

Malcolm S. Forbes

Kenneth C. Hand

Bernard W. Vogel

William C. Barnes, Jr.

Alfred N. Beadleston

William V. Rusto

THE COMMISSION'S REPORT

This Commission had its origin through Joint Resolution 10, of 1953 which provided for the creation of a Traffic Safety Legislation Study Commission, to consist of nine members, three to be named by the Governor, three to be named by the President of the Senate, and three to be named by the Speaker of the General Assembly. The Resolution provided that the Commission make a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature and the Governor no later than the third Monday in January, 1954.

Appointments to the Traffic Safety Legislation Study Commission were not completed until late October, 1953, after which time the Commission met for organizational purposes. The Honorable Elmer C. Easton was elected Chairman and the Honorable William O. Barnes, was selected as Secretary to the Commission.

Following its organization, the Commission held one meeting at which it discussed the purpose for which it had been created and the practicability of accomplishing it within the allotted period. It was unanimously decided that there was not sufficient time for the Commission to make a thorough study of traffic safety legislation and submit findings and recommendations thereon by January 18th, 1954. In the judgment of the Commission the study which it was instructed to make is an indispensable preliminary step to the proposal of any effective traffic safety measures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission therefore recommends:

1. that the 1954 legislature consider the continuance of a traffic safety legislation study commission
2. that if such a Commission is created, it shall be set up promptly so that it can complete its assignment within the time limit set.
3. that the proposed Commission shall be provided with funds to carry out its work.