

HOUSE No. 185

By Mr. Rudsten of Boston, petition of Daniel Rudsten for legislation declaring a moratorium on evictions until such time as the Governor declares the housing emergency to be at an end. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight.

AN ACT DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON ACTIONS OF SUMMARY PROCESS.

1 *Whereas*, There is an acute shortage of housing in
2 many of the cities and towns of the commonwealth,
3 and this will continue for some time, and during this
4 acute shortage there has arisen the desperate and sense-
5 less practice of some persons of purchasing houses for
6 the sole purpose of evicting some hapless tenant, so
7 that the purchasers of the property can move into the
8 house or dwelling unit; and that the evictees in this
9 period of lack of homes for families desiring them have
10 no recourse but to repeat this act of purchasing some
11 other property and causing the inhabitants of that
12 dwelling unit they have purchased to become evicted;
13 resulting in a dangerous and vicious circle of evictions,
14 with the continued consequence of many families wait-
15 ing to be evicted and others waiting for that process
16 so they can move into the seized dwelling units;
17 *whereas*, there can be no sane solution for lack of
18 housing until new houses are built, and that this

19 process of evictions is causing fear and suffering among
20 citizens of the commonwealth, therefore this act is
21 declared to be an emergency law necessary for the
22 immediate preservation of the public health and con-
23 venience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the
same, as follows:*

1 A moratorium on evictions is hereby declared for
2 any cause but the ordinary ones of non-payment of
3 rent, or public nuisance, until such time as the gover-
4 nor of the commonwealth declares the housing emer-
5 gency to be at an end.