

HOUSE No. 1724

By Mr. Condon of Boston, petition of Thomas E. Linehan, John E. Powers, James F. Condon and Enrico Cappucci for legislation to extend the powers of cities and towns to assist housing authorities in providing housing for veterans of World War II.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO EXTEND THE POWERS OF CITIES AND TOWNS AND TO ASSIST HOUSING AUTHORITIES IN PROVIDING HOUSING FOR VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

1 *Whereas*, An acute shortage of housing exists in
2 many of the cities and towns of the commonwealth
3 and on account of such shortage many veterans of
4 World War II are unable to obtain shelter for them-
5 selves and their families, and this shortage is likely to
6 continue for a substantial period of time; and inability
7 to obtain adequate shelter will cause suffering and
8 disease among such veterans and their families unless
9 such shortage is relieved, and this condition has
10 created a public exigency making the provision of
11 housing for veterans by the commonwealth and its
12 municipalities, as provided by this act, an immediate
13 public necessity; therefore, this act is declared to be

14 an emergency law, necessary for the immediate pres-
15 ervation of the public health and convenience.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 372 of the acts of
2 1946 is hereby amended by striking out the last 8 lines
3 which read as follows: — “and each city or town in
4 which such shortage exists is hereby authorized to
5 provide shelter for such of its inhabitants as are veter-
6 ans of said war in the manner hereinafter designated
7 for a period of five years from the date when this act
8 becomes operative unless the general court shall pre-
9 viously determine that the time of public exigency,
10 emergency and distress has ended, which period is
11 hereinafter referred to as the present emergency,” and
12 inserting in place thereof the following: — and each
13 city or town in which such shortage exists is hereby
14 authorized to provide shelter for such of its inhabit-
15 ants as are veterans of said war in the manner herein-
16 after designated for a period of ten years from the date
17 when this act becomes operative unless the general
18 court shall previously determine that the time of public
19 exigency, emergency and distress has ended, which
20 period is hereinafter referred to as the present emer-
21 gency.

1 SECTION 2. Section 6 of chapter 372 of the acts of
2 1946, as amended by chapter 479 of the acts of 1947,
3 shall be further amended by inserting after the end of
4 the first sentence which ends on line 10 of paragraph
5 3 the following words: — In offering such residences
6 for sale preference to potential buyers should be given
7 whenever reasonably possible as follows: — (1) veteran

8 tenants of such residences; (2) all other World War II
9 veterans as covered by chapter three hundred and
10 seventy-two of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-
11 six; (3) surviving widows and mothers of said veterans
12 of World War II; (4) all other United States war
13 veterans and their surviving widow or mother as long
14 as the veteran was discharged from United States
15 military service under conditions other than dis-
16 honorable; (5) all other resident citizens of said city
17 or town; (6) all other citizens of the commonwealth
18 of Massachusetts; (7) an urban redevelopment cor-
19 poration, and (8) all others.

1 SECTION 3. Section 10 of chapter 372 of the acts
2 of 1946, as amended by chapter 479 of the acts of 1947,
3 is hereby further amended by striking out the words
4 "two per cent" in the fourth last line and inserting
5 in place thereof the words:— four per cent, — so
6 that the last 4 lines shall read as follows:— exceed
7 four per cent on the average of the assessors' valua-
8 tion of its taxable property for the three preceding
9 years, reduced and otherwise determined as provided
10 in section ten of said chapter forty-four.

1 SECTION 4. Said chapter 372, as amended by
2 chapter 479 of the acts of 1947, is hereby further
3 amended by striking out in section 12, after the words
4 "state treasurer," the following:— "provided, that
5 the total reimbursement hereunder to any city or town
6 shall not exceed one tenth of the total amounts ex-
7 pended by said city or town or with respect to which
8 said city or town has incurred obligations under sec-
9 tion six," and inserting in place thereof a period after
10 the word "treasurer."

