

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 17, 1955.

The committee on Mercantile Affairs, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 323) of George Greene for legislation to continue rent control in certain cities and towns; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 430) of Norman S. Weinberg and Edmund V. Lane for legislation relative to rent control to alleviate the shortage of rental housing in certain areas; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 622) of Sumner Z. Kaplan relative to the maximum rental rates of controlled housing accommodations; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 623) of Sumner Z. Kaplan for legislation to continue rent control in certain cities and towns; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 624) of Sumner Z. Kaplan relative to decontrol of certain housing accommodations under the provisions of the rent control law; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 627) of William H. J. Rowan and Harold W. Canavan for legislation relative to the continuation of rent control in certain cities and towns; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1150) of Leo Sontag that notices of landlords terminating tenancies shall contain specific reasons for said termination; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1152) of Leo Sontag for legislation to continue rent control in certain cities and towns; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1155) of the Cambridge Tenants Council for legislation relative to the continuation of rent control in certain cities and towns; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1404) of John T. Tynan for legislation relative to continuation of rent control in the city of Boston; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1634) of Harry Coltun, Hugh J. McLaughlin and Wilfred S. Mirsky for legislation relative to the con-

tinuation of rent control; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1874) of Richard R. Caples for legislation relative to the continuation of rent control in certain cities and towns; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1882) of the Cambridge Tenants Council for legislation to repeal the decontrol provision of the State Rent Control Act; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1883) of William J. Kingston for the extension of the rent control law in cities and towns which have accepted the provisions of said law; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1884) of Sumner Z. Kaplan for amendment of the law relative to the continuation of rent control; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1886) of Wilfred S. Mirsky for legislation relative to rent control, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2465).

For the committee,

FRED C. HARRINGTON.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF RENT CONTROL.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would
2 tend to defeat its purpose which is to provide forthwith
3 for the continuation of rent control in any city or town
4 in which a severe shortage of rental housing still exists,
5 therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law,
6 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
7 peace, health, safety 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 Notwithstanding the termination of chapter four hun-
2 dred and thirty-four of the acts of nineteen hundred and
3 fifty-three, as amended, any city or town in which rent
4 controls are in effect on the effective date of this act,
5 may, prior to March thirty-first, nineteen hundred and
6 fifty-five, by a vote as hereinafter provided, continue
7 the provisions of said chapter four hundred and thirty-
8 four for a period not exceeding one year from said March
9 thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty-five, and may, by
10 vote, as hereinafter provided, taken between January
11 first, nineteen hundred and fifty-six and March thirty-
12 first, nineteen hundred and fifty-six, continue the pro-
13 visions of said chapter four hundred and thirty-four for
14 an added period not exceeding March thirty-first, nine-
15 teen hundred and fifty-seven; provided, that the provi-
16 sions of said act as extended are in effect at the time of
17 said vote. Such vote, in a city, shall be by the city
18 council, and in a town, by a town meeting called for the
19 purpose, and shall include a declaration that a substan-
20 tial shortage of rental housing accommodations exists in

21 such city or town and that the control of rents therein
22 is necessary in the public interest. Such city or town,
23 after taking such action, may in like manner at any
24 time thereafter rescind it.