

By Mr. Coady of Cambridge, petition of the Cambridge Tenants' Council for legislation to enable the city of Cambridge to establish rent control. Mercantile Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO ESTABLISH RENT CONTROL.

1 *Whereas*, A severe shortage of rental housing exists
2 in the city of Cambridge which shortage has caused a
3 serious emergency detrimental to the public peace, health,
4 safety and convenience, and the deferred operation of
5 this act would tend to defeat its purpose which is to
6 enable said city to alleviate such severe shortage of
7 rental housing, therefore it is hereby declared to be an
8 emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation
9 of the public 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 SECTION 1. The general court finds and declares that
2 a serious public emergency still exists with respect to the
3 housing of a substantial number of citizens in the city
4 of Cambridge which has resulted in a substantial shortage
5 of rental housing accommodations; that unless resi-
6 dential rents and eviction of tenants are regulated and
7 controlled in said city, such emergency and the inflation-
8 ary pressures resulting therefrom will produce serious
9 threats to the public health, safety and general welfare
10 of its citizens; and that such emergency should be met
11 immediately to enable said city to establish rent control.

1 SECTION 2. The city of Cambridge may, by vote of
2 the city council subject to the provisions of its charter,

3 provide for the re-establishment of rent control until
4 such date, not later than December thirty-first, nineteen
5 hundred and fifty-seven, as shall be specified in such
6 vote. Maximum rents shall be no greater than the
7 maximum rents in effect on December thirty-first, nine-
8 teen hundred and fifty-five, subject, however, to adjust-
9 ment by a local rent board to remove hardships or to
10 correct other inequities. Said city may by like vote at
11 any time prior to said December thirty-first rescind such
12 acceptance. No vote accepting this act shall be valid
13 unless it includes a declaration that a substantial short-
14 age of rental housing accommodations exists in said
15 city and that the control of rents therein is necessary
16 in the public interest.