

HOUSE No. 2297

By Mr. Joyce of Boston, petition of William F. Joyce and Richard R. Caples relative to the imposition of rent control with local option in the city of Boston. Mercantile Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE IMPOSITION OF RENT CONTROL, WITH LOCAL OPTION, ON THE CITY OF BOSTON ONLY.

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

1 SECTION 2. The city of Boston may, by vote of the city
2 council provide for the re-establishment of rent control until
3 such date, not later than December thirty-first, nineteen hun-
4 dred and fifty-nine, as shall be specified in such vote. Maximum

5 rents shall be no greater than the maximum rents in effect on
 6 December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty-five, subject,
 7 however, to adjustment by a local rent board to remove hard-
 8 ships or to correct other inequities. Said city may by like vote
 9 at any time prior to said December thirty-first rescind such
 10 acceptance. No vote accepting this act shall be valid unless it
 11 includes a declaration that a substantial shortage of rental
 12 housing accommodations exists in said city and that the control
 13 of rents therein is necessary in the public interest.