

HOUSE No. 2364

By Mr. Weinberg of Boston, petition of Norman S. Weinberg 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-Seven.

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
6 such severe shortage of rental housing, therefore it is hereby
7 declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, safety and con-
9 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 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 of
4 Boston which has resulted in a substantial shortage of rental
5 housing accommodations; that unless residential rents and
6 eviction of tenants are regulated and controlled in said city,
7 such emergency and the inflationary pressures resulting
8 therefrom will produce serious threats to the public health,

9 safety and general welfare of its citizens; and that such emer-
10 gency should be met immediately to enable said city to estab-
11 lish 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
4 hundred and fifty-eight, as shall be specified in such vote.
5 Maximum rents shall be no greater than the maximum rents
6 in effect on December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and
7 fifty-five, subject, however, to adjustment by a local rent
8 board to remove hardships or to correct other inequities.
9 Said city may by like vote at any time prior to said December
10 thirty-first rescind such acceptance. No vote accepting this
11 act shall be valid unless it includes a declaration that a sub-
12 stantial shortage of rental housing accommodations exists
13 in said city and that the control of rents therein is necessary
14 in the public interest.