

By Mr. Kenneally of Boston, petition of the Boston Housing Authority for legislation to define further the application of the housing authority law and to relate such law to the federal law. Mercantile Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO DEFINE FURTHER THE APPLICATION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY LAW AND TO RELATE SUCH LAW TO FEDERAL LAW.

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 26J of chapter 121 of the General Laws, as amended,
2 is hereby further amended as follows:— by adding in the sixth
3 paragraph of the clause defining words and phrases, at the end
4 of the definition “Families of low income”, the following:—

5 “Families” shall mean (1) families consisting of two or more
6 persons, (2) a single person who has attained retirement age as
7 defined in Section 216A of the Social Security Act, or who has
8 attained the age of fifty and is under a disability as defined in
9 Section 223 of that act, (3) the remaining member of a tenant
10 family, (4) families, the head of which (or his spouse) has at-
11 tained retirement age as defined in Section 216A of the Social
12 Security Act or has attained the age of fifty and is under a dis-
13 ability, as defined in Section 223 of that act.

14 By striking out in the seventh paragraph of the clause defin-
15 ing words and phrases the definition of “Elderly persons of low
16 income”, — and inserting therefor the following:—

17 “Elderly persons of low income”, persons who have attained
18 retirement age as defined in Section 216A of the Social Security
19 Act, or who have attained the age of fifty and are under a dis-
20 ability as defined in Section 223 of that act and whose net an-
21 nual income is less than the amount necessary to enable them to
22 obtain and maintain decent, safe and sanitary housing.

23 Section 26FF of chapter 121 of the General Laws, as amended,
24 is hereby further amended as follows:— by inserting after the

25 third sentence of the first paragraph the following: — It is de-
26 clared hereby to be the further policy of the commonwealth to
27 make adequate provisions for larger families and for families
28 consisting of elderly persons. Each housing authority is hereby
29 vested with the maximum amount of responsibility in the ad-
30 ministration of its low-rent housing projects, including respon-
31 sibility for the establishment of rents and eligibility require-
32 ments, with due consideration to accomplishing the objectives of
33 the development of a low-rent housing program while effecting
34 economies

35 By deleting clause (c) in the fifth sentence of the first para-
36 graph and substituting therefor the following: — (c) It shall fix
37 income limits for occupancy and rents after taking into consider-
38 ation (1) the family size, composition, age, physical handicaps
39 and other factors which might affect the rent-paying ability of
40 the family, and (2) the economic factors which affect the finan-
41 cial stability and solvency of the project.