

HOUSE No. 984

By Mr. Nazzaro of Boston, petition of Michael A. Nazzaro, Jr., 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 Sixty-Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE IMPOSITION OF RENT CONTROL, WITH LOCAL OPTION, IN 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 convenience,
4 and the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its
5 purpose which is to enable said city to alleviate such severe
6 shortage of rental housing, therefore it is hereby declared to be
7 an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of
8 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 serious
2 public emergency exists with respect to the housing of a sub-
3 stantial number of citizens in the city of Boston which has re-
4 sulted in a substantial shortage of rental housing accommoda-
5 tions; that unless residential rents are regulated and controlled
6 in said city, such emergency and the inflationary pressures
7 resulting therefrom will produce serious threats to the public
8 health, safety and general welfare of its citizens; and that such
9 emergency should be met immediately to enable said city to
10 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 sixty-three, as shall be specified in such vote. Maxi-
5 mum rents shall be no greater than the maximum rents in effect
6 on August thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty-nine, 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.