

By Mr. Harmon of Boston, petition of Samuel Harmon 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-Five.

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 re-  
7 sulting 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 coun-  
2 cil, provide for the re-establishment of rent control until such

3 date, not later than December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and  
4 sixty-five, as shall be specified in such vote. Maximum rents  
5 shall be no greater than the maximum rents in effect on January  
6 first, nineteen hundred and sixty-three, subject, however, to ad-  
7 justment by a local rent board to remove hardships or to cor-  
8 rect other inequities. Said city may by like vote at any time  
9 prior to said December thirty-first rescind such acceptance. No  
10 vote accepting this act shall be valid unless it includes a declara-  
11 tion that a substantial shortage of rental housing accommoda-  
12 tions exists in said city and that the control of rents therein is  
13 necessary in the public interest.