

SENATE . . . . . No. 1199

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By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1199) of Jack H. Backman, John A. Businger and Norman S. Weinberg for legislation to provide for police protection for residents of housing authorities and for tenant protection advisory council. Urban Affairs.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR POLICE PROTECTION FOR RESIDENTS OF HOUSING AUTHORITIES AND FOR TENANT PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 121B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 26A the following new section: —

3 *Section 26B.* It is hereby declared to be the policy of the  
4 commonwealth to assure every citizen full and adequate police  
5 protection and to promote and encourage citizen participation  
6 in the planning, operation, and evaluation of law enforcement  
7 programs. Any city or town of the commonwealth which ac-  
8 cepts the provisions of this section shall receive reimburse-  
9 ment from the commonwealth for seventy percent (70%) of  
10 the cost of increasing the number of footpatrolmen assigned  
11 to the local housing authority projects of said city or town  
12 above the number of footpatrolmen assigned to its own hous-  
13 ing authority projects as of January first nineteen hundred  
14 and seventy-four, "Footpatrolman" for the purpose of this sec-  
15 tion shall mean a police officer on foot patrol as defined in sec-  
16 tion 98B; and reimbursement under this section shall apply  
17 only with respect to the salaries of said additional footpatrol-  
18 men.

19 The Department of Public Safety shall certify the amount  
20 of reimbursement to be paid to such city or town under the  
21 provisions of this section from information filed on or before  
22 September the first of each year with said department on a

23 form furnished by said department and completed by the chief  
24 of police, or one of similar rank, of said city or town police de-  
25 partment, and approved by the local Tenant Protection Advis-  
26 ory Council.

27 Any city or town wishing to receive reimbursement under  
28 the provisions of this section shall establish a Tenant Protec-  
29 tion Advisory Council. Said Council shall consist of fifteen (15)  
30 members appointed by the mayor or board of selectmen of the  
31 city or town in accordance with the following provisions:

32 There shall be appointed to each Council the following:

33 (a) six members or representatives of the local police force  
34 who reside in the city or town; and

35 (b) nine residents of local housing authority projects pro-  
36 vided, however, that each project is represented. If there are  
37 more than 3 projects of the local housing authority, then there  
38 shall be at least twelve members of the Council who reside in  
39 projects of the local housing authority;

40 (c) In appointed members to the Council, the mayor or board  
41 of selectmen shall give special consideration to the projects  
42 of the city or town that, according to the statistics compiled  
43 by the local police department, have the highest incidence of  
44 criminal activity and shall appoint to the Council members or  
45 representatives of the police force and members of the com-  
46 munity who reside in such high crime areas. The majority of  
47 the membership of the Council shall, at all times, be residents  
48 of such high crime areas.

49 Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of two  
50 years, commencing from the date of appointment. No mem-  
51 ber of the Council shall serve more than two consecutive terms,  
52 vacancies occurring in the Council, other than by expiration  
53 of term, shall be filled by the mayor or board of selectmen;  
54 provided that such vacancies shall be filled so that the Coun-  
55 cil shall always conform to the regulations put forward in this  
56 section. The chairman of the Council shall be designated from  
57 time to time by the membership, and the Council shall meet  
58 upon call of its chairman, or upon request of four or more of  
59 its members. Members of the Council may be removed by the  
60 mayor or board of selectmen, but only for misconduct in of-  
61 fice, disability, or neglect of duty, and only after a public hear-

62 ing. Members shall serve without reimbursement but may  
63 employ staff subject to authorization from the city council or  
64 board of selectmen.

65 The Tenant Protection Advisory Council shall have the  
66 following powers and duties: —

67 a) The Council shall make recommendations to the police  
68 department as to the deployment of such additional footpatrol-  
69 men as may be employed through the provisions of this section  
70 and shall make periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of  
71 such deployment;

72 b) The Council shall make evaluations of and recommenda-  
73 tions to the police department concerning the deployment of  
74 all police officers and other police matters, including matters  
75 relating to traffic, parking, and towing regulations;

76 c) The Council shall plan and evaluate programs for in-  
77 creased communication and cooperation between the citizens  
78 of the projects and the police force;

79 d) The Council shall seek, apply for, encourage, and evalu-  
80 ate the use of all federal funds for law enforcement purposes;

81 e) The Council shall establish procedures for receiving and  
82 processing complaints and grievances arising from the day to  
83 day operation of the police force;

84 f) The Council shall investigate, at its discretion, said com-  
85 plaints and grievances;

86 g) The Council shall make recommendations to the chief of  
87 police or one of similar rank, as to any corrective action that  
88 should be made in regards to any complaint or grievance; and

89 h) The Council shall submit an annual report to the mayor  
90 or board of selectmen detailing its recommendations, evalua-  
91 tions and activities under clauses (a) through (g) inclusive.

