
By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1233) of Joseph F. Timilty and members of the House of Representatives for legislation to protect the rights of persons who report housing code violations. Urban Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO REPORT
HOUSING CODE VIOLATIONS.

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

- 1 M.G.L., ch. 186 section 18 is hereby amended as follows: —
- 2 The first paragraph of said section is hereby deleted and the
- 3 following paragraph is substituted in its place: —
- 4 Any person or agent thereof who threatens to or takes re-
- 5 prisals against any tenant of residential premises for exer-
- 6 cising his rights pursuant to section one hundred and twenty-
- 7 four D of chapter one hundred and sixty-four, or for reporting
- 8 to the board of health or, in the City of Boston, to the com-
- 9 missioner of housing inspection or to any other board having
- 10 as its objective the regulation of residential premises a viola-
- 11 tion or a suspected violation of any health or building code or
- 12 of any other municipal by-law or ordinance, or state or federal
- 13 law or regulation which has as its objective the regulation of
- 14 residential premises, *or for reporting or complaining of such*
- 15 *violation or suspected violation to the landlord or his or her*
- 16 *agent*, or for organizing or joining a tenant's union or similar
- 17 organization shall be liable for damages which shall not be less
- 18 than one month's rent or more than three months rent, or the
- 19 actual damages sustained by the tenant, whichever is greater
- 20 and the costs of the suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

