

HOUSE No. 1759

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 17, 1920.

The joint committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a portion of the report of the Special Commission on the Necessaries of Life (House, No. 1500), report (in part) the accompanying bill.

For the committee,

ESSEX S. ABBOTT.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty.

AN ACT

To authorize Cities and Towns to provide Shelter for their
Inhabitants in Case of Emergency.

1 *Whereas*, The emergency which this act is intended to
2 meet is immediate and pressing, therefore the act is
3 hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public health, safety and
5 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. A city or town in which the mayor or a
2 majority of the board of selectmen proclaim that a public
3 exigency, emergency or distress exists, because of an in-
4 sufficient supply of shelter or available dwellings for its
5 inhabitants, may acquire by purchase or take by right of
6 eminent domain unimproved or improved real property in
7 fee or for any less estate, and improve or dispose of the
8 same so as to provide said shelter for its inhabitants and
9 to afford adequate relief as against said exigency, emer-
10 gency or distress.

1 SECTION 2. In case a city or town takes property
2 hereunder by right of eminent domain and is unable to

3 agree with the owners as to the damages to be paid
4 therefor, the same shall be assessed in the same manner
5 as where land is taken for highway purposes, and shall be
6 paid by the city or town.

1 SECTION 3. For the purpose of encouraging and facil-
2 itating the construction of dwelling houses, apartments
3 and tenements, a city or town may make building loans
4 to individuals on such terms as may be approved by the
5 mayor and city council or by the board of selectmen.

1 SECTION 4. For the purposes of this act, a city or
2 town may borrow such sums, in excess of the statutory
3 limit of indebtedness, not exceeding one per cent of its
4 assessed valuation, and may issue therefor bonds or notes
5 for periods not exceeding ten years, and otherwise subject
6 to the provisions of chapter seven hundred and nineteen
7 of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirteen, and amend-
8 ments thereof, so far as applicable.

