
By Mr. Moakley, a petition of Samuel Harmon for legislation to permit persons of low income to apply for rental assistance. Urban Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine.

AN ACT PERMITTING PERSONS OF LOW INCOME TO APPLY FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

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 26LLL of Chapter 121 of the General Laws as en-
2 acted by Chapter 705 of the Acts of 1966 is hereby further
3 amended by deleting the entire third sentence and substituting
4 therefore the following sentences:

5 A housing authority undertaking a program of rental as-
6 sistance shall a) adopt a scale of maximum rents (including
7 specific utility charges) payable by the authority for housing
8 units of various types under such leases that the board ap-
9 proves as being consistent with the purposes of the rental as-
10 sistance program, b) determine that an adequate supply of the
11 type of housing to be leased is not presently available in the
12 low-rent housing projects located within the city or town, and
13 c) before entering into any lease, determine that the rent pay-
14 able under the lease is not in excess of rents payable for simi-
15 lar types of housing units within the city or town. Any resi-
16 dent of a city or town may apply to the local housing authority
17 for rental assistance and the housing authority shall grant this
18 request regardless of whether or not the housing authority has
19 undertaken such a program providing that a) either the hous-
20 ing authority or the Department of Community Affairs has
21 funds or authorization for funds available at this time, b) the
22 applicant meets the authority's tenant selection standards, and
23 c) the dwelling unit in which the applicant resides or proposes
24 to reside meets the other standards set in this section or the

25 landlord agrees to make repairs or adjust his rental to meet
26 these standards. If the housing authority has no authorization
27 or funds from either the federal department of Housing and
28 Urban Development or the Department of Community Affairs
29 to fill a qualified application, the housing authority shall for-
30 ward the application upon receipt to the Department of Com-
31 munity Affairs which shall assist the housing authority in
32 discharging its obligation under this section.