

By Mr. Fitzgerald of Boston, petition of Kevin W. Fitzgerald and other members of the General Court that housing authorities be authorized to provide certain services for tenants of public housing. Housing and Urban Development.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

AN ACT PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

*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. Section thirty-two of chapter one hundred twenty-  
2 one B of the General Laws is amended by adding thereto the  
3 following paragraphs: —

4 (a) A housing authority may provide to tenants, after they are  
5 accepted for housing, an orientation session or sessions which the  
6 tenants shall attend. Said orientation session or sessions may  
7 include, but not be limited to, the showing of model apartments,  
8 training sessions in housekeeping, budget management and com-  
9 munity matters.

10 (b) A housing authority may provide to tenants at risk of being  
11 evicted from public housing, including all members of said tenants'  
12 household, prior to the institution of any summary process action,  
13 the opportunity for counseling by qualified individuals regarding  
14 the cause which has put the tenant at risk of being evicted and any  
15 related matters. If, after a satisfactory period of counseling, the  
16 tenant and/or the members of the tenant's household have demon-  
17 strated satisfactory progress to the housing authority in alleviating  
18 the cause which has put the tenant at risk of being evicted, the  
19 housing authority shall stay its eviction proceedings.

1 SECTION 2. The department of community affairs shall pro-  
2 vide grants to housing authorities for administration of a New  
3 Tenant Orientation Program at a cost not to exceed two million

4 dollars for the purposes set forth in paragraph (a) of section one  
5 herein.

1 SECTION 3. A program for the counseling of public housing  
2 tenants in risk of eviction shall be administered by the department  
3 of social services at a cost not to exceed two million dollars for the  
4 purpose of providing the services set forth in paragraph (b) of  
5 section one herein.

1 SECTION 4. All amounts appropriated under the provisions of  
2 this act shall be in addition to any amounts previously authorized  
3 prior to passage of this act.