

By Mr. Lynch of Barnstable, petition of Thomas K. Lynch, Sandra Graham, Doris Bunte and Theodore C. Speliotis for legislation to provide temporary housing for persons of low-income who require such housing. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT HOUSING.

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. The first paragraph of section twenty-six of chap-
2 ter one hundred twenty-one B of the General Laws is hereby
3 amended by adding the following clause: —

4 (n) To create and maintain a register of families of low income
5 who require temporary housing, to publicize the existence of the
6 register and the method for adding one's name to the register, and
7 to provide temporary housing for families of low income who
8 require temporary housing.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter one hundred twenty-one B is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section thirty-four B the following
3 section: —

4 *Section 34C.* Each housing authority shall maintain a register
5 of families of low income who are without permanent housing and
6 who require temporary housing in the housing authority's jurisdic-
7 tion for a period of time in excess of a week. The information
8 recorded in the register shall include the number of persons in each
9 family. Any family of low income who believes that it is in need of
10 such temporary housing in the housing authority's jurisdiction
11 shall have its name placed in the register. The housing authority
12 shall publicize the existence of the register and the methods for
13 adding one's name to the register. The department, as well as the

14 department of social services, may inspect the contents of the
15 register. The number of persons in the register shall be public
16 information.

17 Each housing authority shall provide temporary housing for all
18 families of low income listed in the register. Such temporary hous-
19 ing may be provided in separate projects designated as temporary
20 housing projects; as a portion of any other project identified and
21 reserved to provide temporary housing for families of low income;
22 or through contracts with other public agencies or private non-
23 profit corporations, one of whose purposes is to provide temporary
24 housing for families of low income. Two or more housing authori-
25 ties may jointly provide temporary housing in the geographical
26 jurisdiction of one of them, so long as the geographical jurisdiction
27 of each housing authority in this joint effort is contiguous with the
28 geographical jurisdiction of at least one other housing authority in
29 the joint effort.

30 Rents charged to occupy the housing authority's temporary
31 housing, including utilities, shall not exceed twenty-five percent of
32 the tenant's net income as defined by the department. Any deficien-
33 cy in the budget of a housing authority caused by the costs of
34 maintaining a temporary housing register or providing needed
35 temporary housing shall be paid by the Commonwealth from the
36 local aid fund. The Commonwealth, acting through the depart-
37 ment, may make payments in advance on account of such defi-
38 ciency at such times and in such manner as it deems proper.

1 SECTION 3. The second paragraph of section three of chapter
2 23B of the General Laws is amended by adding the following
3 clause:—

4 (u) review and coordinate those activities of the agencies of the
5 Commonwealth as those activities relate to emergency and tem-
6 porary housing.