

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 11, 1981.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 680) of John F. Aylmer, Jack H. Backman and Sharon M. Pollard for legislation to provide for emergency residential services; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 735) of Robert A. Hall and John P. Burke for legislation to protect landlords in order to provide more housing for welfare recipients; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 740) of John G. King for legislation to provide emergency housing for certain handicapped persons; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 741) of John G. King, John F. Aylmer, Bill Owens, Sharon M. Pollard and Jack H. Backman for legislation to further define eligibility for emergency assistance; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 757) of Bill Owens, John G. King, Sharon M. Pollard and Jack H. Backman for legislation to provide assistance to families with children facing evictions; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 758) of Bill Owens, John G. King, Sharon M. Pollard and Jack H. Backman for legislation to prevent the loss of heat and utilities for those receiving emergency assistance; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 759) of Bill Owens, John G. King, Sharon M. Pollard and Jack H. Backman for legislation to provide beds for needy children under the emergency assistance program; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 760) of Bill Owens and other members of the Senate for legislation to provide financial assistance to prevent homelessness under the emergency assistance program; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 503) of Marie E. Howe relative to providing emergency home heating assistance; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 962) of Mary Jeanette Murray for legislation to include gas and electric arrearages as fuel arrearages in the standards for eligibility for emergency assistance; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1282) of Salvatore F. DiMasi and another that the Department of Public Welfare be required to authorize emergency assistance payments for mortgage costs and property taxes; the petition (accompa-

nied by bill, House, No. 1697) of Philip W. Johnston, Theodore C. Speliotis, John A. Businger, Thomas J. Valley and Melvin H. King that certain housing services be transferred from the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Social Services; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3063) of Melvin H. King and Doris Bunte that the Department of Social Services be required to provide emergency or temporary housing for homeless families; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3923) of Gerald M. Cohen, Doris Bunte, A. Joseph DeNucci and Thomas K. Lynch that provision be made for financial assistance for utility services and emergency home heating under the emergency assistance program; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3924) of Gerald M. Cohen, A. Joseph DeNucci, Thomas K. Lynch and Doris Bunte relative to providing financial assistance to prevent homelessness under the emergency assistance program; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3925) of Gerald M. Cohen, Doris Bunte, A. Joseph DeNucci and Thomas K. Lynch relative to providing financial assistance to prevent the threatened loss of housing under the emergency assistance program; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3926) of Gerald M. Cohen, A. Joseph DeNucci, Thomas K. Lynch and Doris Bunte relative to providing beds for certain needy children under the emergency assistance program; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3928) of A. Joseph DeNucci, Joan M. Menard, Thomas K. Lynch, Gerald M. Cohen and Doris Bunte for legislation to define eligibility for emergency assistance, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6739) ought to pass.

For the committee,

A. JOSEPH DENUCCI.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SHELTER AND HEAT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

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 2 of Chapter 18 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 62 of Chapter 393 of the Acts of
3 1979, is hereby further amended by inserting, after the first para-
4 graph of sub-section (D), the following: —

5 As part of the emergency assistance program, the department
6 shall provide, on a year-round basis, financial assistance to prevent
7 shut-offs or to provide for the resumption of utility services, to
8 provide emergency home heating assistance for current and anticipat-
9 ed needs, and to prevent the threatened loss of housing, as
10 evidenced by receipt of a notice to quit or a notice of intent to
11 foreclose. The level of assistance for these benefits shall, at a min-
12 imum, include four months' of utility and/or of fuel needs, and/or
13 four months of rental or mortgage payments.

14 To insure simplicity of administration, such benefits shall be
15 calculated solely on the basis of currently available resources, and
16 current utility, fuel and/or rent or mortgage arrearage or anticipat-
17 ed need for up to four months of fuel. When immediately available,
18 federal or state fuel of energy assistance funds must be used to meet
19 or reduce current needs. In no case shall monies received under any
20 such federal or state fuel assistance program be used to reduce the
21 benefits payable to meet still outstanding utility, fuel or rental or
22 mortgage assistance needs, nor shall a standard deductible amount
23 be used to reduce such benefits.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 1837, as most recently
2 amended by striking the second paragraph of sub-section (D) as
3 added by section 8 of Chapter 342 of the Acts of 1979, and by

4 inserting, after the first paragraph of sub-section (D) added by
5 section 62 of Chapter 393 of Acts of 1979, the following:—

6 The emergency assistance program shall also include provision
7 of financial assistance to prevent homelessness which has resulted
8 or will result from foreclosure, issuance of a judgment of posses-
9 sion, determination by a local or state authority of uninhabitability,
10 or from any other cause which has rendered an eligible family
11 actually homeless. Such benefits shall include, but not be limited
12 to:

13 (a) Temporary shelter as necessary to alleviate homelessness
14 when such family has no feasible alternative housing available, up
15 to the maximum period subject to federal reimbursement. The
16 department shall not deem available housing to be a feasible
17 alternative unless it accommodates the entire family together and is
18 within the county or within twenty-five miles of the family's most
19 recent residence, whichever is closer.

20 (b) Storage of furniture for up to 30 days.

21 (c) Moving expenses of up to \$150.00.

22 (d) Advance rent payment of one month's rent.

23 (e) Security deposit not to exceed one month's rent.