

By Mr. Golden of Boston, petition of Thomas M. Menino, Brian Paul Golden and other members of the General Court for legislation to further regulate the screening of public housing applicants by housing authorities. Housing and Urban Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT IMPROVING THE ABILITY OF HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE SCREENING OF PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICANTS.

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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other
2 general or special law to the contrary, it is hereby found and
3 declared that the security of public housing residents in the com-
4 monwealth is threatened by the incidence of criminal behavior in
5 and around some public housing communities, including criminal
6 behavior of juvenile members of families residing in public
7 housing.

8 It is further found that the ability of public housing authorities
9 to provide more secure public housing will be improved by
10 greater access to certain information which would allow more
11 effective screening of resident and applicant households.

1 SECTION 2. A public housing authority of a city or town is
2 hereby authorized to obtain, without permission, and for purposes
3 of conducting effective screening and for use in eviction proceed-
4 ings, information from any department, agency, subdivision or
5 body of the commonwealth, the juvenile court department, the
6 criminal history systems board, and any interstate system for the
7 exchange of criminal offender record information, concerning any
8 member of a household residing in or applying for public housing,
9 which, but for the fact that it concerns criminal offenses or acts of

10 delinquency committed by a minor, would qualify as a criminal
11 offender record information within the meaning of section one
12 hundred sixty-seven of chapter six of the General Laws.