

By Mr. Jordan of Springfield, petition of Raymond A. Jordan, Jr., and other members of the House for legislation to promote employment and education programs for tenants in public housing accommodations. Housing and Urban Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION AMONG 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 32 of chapter 121B of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by section thirty-eight of chapter 6 of
3 the Acts of 1991, is hereby further amended by inserting at the
4 end of the first paragraph the following paragraph: —

5 In calculating a household's income for purposes of computing
6 the rent due under the previous paragraph and for purposes of
7 determining continued eligibility, an authority shall provide for
8 the income exclusions and expense deductions listed in (a) through
9 (f), in accordance with regulations promulgated by the
10 department. The department, in its discretion, may allow for such
11 additional deductions and exclusions as it deems reasonable.

12 (a) An income exclusion for any taxes, commonly referred to
13 as "FICA", "social security", and "medicare" taxes, for which the
14 household is liable under 26 USC 3101 and any successor or
15 related laws, such exclusion being based upon either reasonable
16 documentation of such taxes actually paid or a reasonable
17 estimate of such taxes as may be due;

18 (b) An income exclusion of no less than 7% percent of any
19 countable earned income of the household, or such higher
20 percentage as the department deems appropriate in recognition
21 of the fact that earned income is subject to state and federal income
22 tax; provided, however, that households shall not be required to

23 document their actual or anticipated income tax liability and shall
24 instead be allowed the standard percentage deduction authorized
25 by this paragraph;

26 (c) An expense deduction for documented work-related
27 expenses, including but not limited to any mandatory union dues,
28 and unreimbursed costs of equipment or tools which the worker
29 must purchase;

30 (d) An income exclusion for the payments received for the care
31 of foster children;

32 (e) A standard deduction for each household member other
33 than the head of household in the amount of \$300, to be updated
34 periodically by the department to account for inflation;

35 (f) An expense deduction for the tuition and fees of full-time
36 students.

37 For purposes of determining continued eligibility only, an
38 authority shall exclude the earned income of all unemancipated
39 household members under 25, other than the head of household
40 and spouse.

1 SECTION 2. The department shall publish final regulations
2 implementing this act no later than ninety days after enactment.