

SENATE. No. 1807

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, June 1, 1999.

The committee on Housing and Urban Development, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 559) of Bruce E. Tarr and Anthony J. Verga for legislation to allow local housing authorities access to criminal records of tenants and prospective tenants; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 785) of Bruce J. Ayers and Michael W. Morrissey for legislation to allow local housing authorities access to criminal records of tenants and prospective tenants; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2521) 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; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3076) of Paul E. Caron relative to the dissemination of certain criminal offender record information to housing authorities; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3077) of Paul E. Caron for legislation to permit housing authorities access to the criminal records of tenants, reports the accompanying resolve (Senate, No. 1807).

For the committee,

STEVEN C. PANAGIOTAKOS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RELATIVE TO THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO CRIMINAL RECORDS BY HOUSING AUTHORITIES FOR SCREENING PURPOSES.

1 *Resolved*, The Attorney General, in consultation with the
2 department of housing and community development, the secretary
3 of public safety, and the criminal history systems board, is hereby
4 authorized to make an investigation and study relative to the
5 necessity and benefit of expanding access by housing authorities
6 to criminal history information to provide more effective
7 screening of applicants for federal or state subsidized housing pro-
8 grams, provided further, that said study shall address the relative
9 necessity or benefit of expanding current access to criminal his-
10 tory information by housing agencies to include access to juvenile
11 records, the use of vendor agencies to maintain such records, and
12 the ability to gather information relative to current tenants.

13 The Attorney General shall report to the General Court, the
14 results of his investigation and study and his recommendations,
15 together with drafts of legislation necessary, if any, to carry his
16 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the Joint
17 Committee on Housing and Urban Development, and the Clerk of
18 the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, on or
19 before April 30, 2000.