

SENATE No. 1310

By Mr. Locke, petition (accompanied by order, Senate, No. 1310) of David H. Locke for the adoption of an order relative to establishing a special committee of the Senate to make an investigation and study relative to improving public housing. Rules (Senate).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

1 *Ordered*, That

2 *Whereas*, The present policy in our commonwealth governing
3 the funding and operation of our public housing projects has failed
4 to ensure public housing tenants a certain standard of living as
5 is evidenced by the higher rates of crime and the deterioration of
6 the units themselves, and

7 *Whereas*, Other states and cities which have failed to muster
8 the courage to fundamentally redesign the policies which govern
9 public housing now find themselves with hundreds of units of
10 public housing abandoned out of fear and desperation by their
11 tenants, and

12 *Whereas*, In those public housing projects in which tenants
13 have taken over the management of the projects the incidence of
14 crime has declined significantly, and the overall appearance and
15 upkeep of the projects has improved dramatically, and

16 *Whereas*, There are presently being discussed a number of
17 other policies to improve the quality of life in our public housing
18 projects including utilizing a voucher system and promoting
19 tenant ownership, therefore be it

20 *Ordered*, That a special committee of the Senate to be
21 composed of three members of the Senate, not more than two of
22 whom shall be members of the same party, to be appointed by
23 the President of the Senate, is hereby authorized and directed to
24 undertake a study concerning the improvement of public housing.
25 Said committee's investigation shall include, but not be limited
26 to the following: an examination of tenant management of public

27 housing projects, an examination of the use of vouchers for public
28 housing, and an examination of the development of a tenant
29 ownership program. Said committee may hold hearings, may
30 travel within the Commonwealth, shall have the power to summon
31 witnesses and to require the production of books, records and
32 papers as it deems necessary. Said committee shall report to the
33 general court the results of its study by filing an interim report
34 with the Clerk of the Senate no later than the second Wednesday
35 in June, nineteen hundred and ninety-one and by filing a final
36 report and its recommendations, together with drafts of legislation
37 necessary to carry said recommendations into effect, by filing the
38 same with the Clerk of the Senate no later than the first
39 Wednesday of September nineteen hundred and ninety-one.