

HOUSE No. 3685

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to housing authority operations..

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. Chapter 121B of the General Laws, as most recently appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 32A the following new section:---

3 Section 32AA. A housing authority may assess its tenants a reasonable utility surcharge
4 fee for air conditioner use or other specialty appliances.

5 Section Two: There shall be a special commission to study potential measures to further
6 protect employees of local housing authorities in the furtherance of their duties from criminal
7 acts, including, but not limited to, assault and battery, harassment, stalking and intimidation. The
8 commission shall have eleven members including the secretary of public housing safety or his
9 designee, the president of the Massachusetts district attorney's association, the president of the
10 Massachusetts association of chiefs of police, three members of the house of representatives, one
11 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; three member of the senate, one of whom
12 shall be appointed by the minority leader, and five directors of local housing authorities to be
13 appointed by the governor. The commission shall study the effectiveness and appropriateness of
14 the existing criminal statutes in protecting public housing authority employees and officials

15 while engaged and or related in the performance of their duties. The commission shall submit its
16 final report, including legislative and administrative recommendation, if any, to the clerk of the
17 house of representatives who shall forward the same to the joint committees on public safety and
18 housing not later than the third Wednesday in November 2009.