

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3625**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Byron Rushing***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the powers of the Boston Housing Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlo Basile</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3625**

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3625) of Byron Rushing and William N. Brownsberger (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to discriminatory housing practices in the city of Boston. Housing. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act relative to the powers of the Boston Housing Commission.

*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 2 of chapter 37 of the Acts of 1994 is hereby amended by inserting  
2 after the words "sexual orientation" the following:-

3 , source of income, gender identity, and any additional protected classes as they may be  
4 added from time to time by the General Court or the United States Congress with respect to fair  
5 housing laws.

6 SECTION 2. Section 4 of chapter 37 of the Acts of 1994 is hereby amended by inserting  
7 after the words "sexual orientation" the following:-

8 , source of income, gender identity, and any additional protected classes as they may be  
9 added from time to time by the General Court or the United States Congress with respect to fair  
10 housing laws.

11 SECTION 3. Section 5 of chapter 37 of the Acts of 1994 is hereby amended by deleting  
12 the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:-

13 In the city of Boston, discriminatory housing practices are prohibited. Regulations  
14 promulgated pursuant to this statute and chapter ten of the city of Boston Ordinances of 1982, as  
15 amended, enumerate the discriminatory practices; provided, however, that no practice shall be  
16 prohibited hereunder unless such practice is also prohibited by the federal Fair Housing Act or  
17 chapter one hundred and fifty-one B of the General Laws.

18 SECTION 4. Section 7 of chapter 37 of the Acts of 1994 is hereby amended by inserting  
19 in the second sentence, after the words "permanent residence," the following:-

20 , unless with respect to the sale or rental of such unit, any person makes, prints, publishes,  
21 or causes to be made, printed or published, any notice, statement or advertisement that indicates  
22 a preference, limitation, exclusion or discrimination based upon any category of people protected  
23 by City, state, and federal fair housing law, as those categories may from time to time be

24 amended; or coerces, intimidates, threatens, or interferes with another person in the  
25 exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by this statute, or coerces, intimidates,  
26 threatens or interferes with such other person for having aided or encouraged any other person in  
27 the exercise or enjoyment of any such right granted or protected by chapter ten of the city of  
28 Boston Ordinances of 1982, as amended, or this statute.

29 SECTION 5. Section 7 of chapter 37 of the Acts of 1994 is hereby further amended by  
30 inserting before the first sentence of the third paragraph thereof, the following sentence:-

31 If the commission shall determine after investigation that probable cause exists for  
32 crediting the allegations of a complaint, the commission shall immediately endeavor to eliminate  
33 the discriminatory housing practice complained of through conciliation and mediation.

34 SECTION 6. Section 8 of chapter 37 of the Acts of 1994 is hereby amended by inserting  
35 after the second sentence thereof the following sentence:-

36 The order or decision of the commission shall be reviewed in accordance with the  
37 standards for review provided in paragraph (7) of section fourteen of chapter thirty A of the  
38 General Laws.

39 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.