

HOUSE No. 3625

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.