

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

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 establishing a public housing bullying and harassment behavior registry.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joan B. Lovely

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Essex

SENATE No.

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to establish a public housing bullying and harassment behavior registry. Housing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act establishing a public housing bullying and harassment behavior registry.

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 1 of chapter 121B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting thereof the following:—

3 “Public Housing Bullying and Harassment Behavior Registry” a centralized statewide
4 computerized registry reporting the number and incidents of bullying and harassment of a
5 resident or residents by another resident or residents living in a facility administered and under
6 the control of a municipal public housing authority, a public housing development, or any other
7 housing facility administered and under the control of the department”.

8 “Bullying and Harassment Behavior” a written, verbal or electronic expression or a
9 physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a resident or residents by another
10 resident or residents living in a facility administered and under the control of a municipal public
11 housing authority, a public housing development, or any other housing facility administered and
12 under the control of the department that: causes physical or emotional harm to a person or
13 damage to the persons property; places a person in reasonable fear of harm or of damage to
14 property; creates a hostile environment at a place of domicile, and is not limited to acts
15 reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic,
16 such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic
17 status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical,
18 developmental, or sensory disability, or by association with a person who has or is perceived to
19 have one or more of these characteristics.

20 SECTION 2. chapter 121B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official
21 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in place after section 32F thereof the following:—

22 SECTION 32G. There shall be established within the department a centralized statewide
23 computerized system to be known as the Public Housing Bullying and Harassment Registry,
24 herein known as the Registry. The Registry shall document the number of incidents of bullying
25 and harassment reported by a resident or residents by another resident or residents living in a
26 facility administered and under the control of a municipal public housing authority, a public
27 housing development, or any other housing facility administered and under the control of the
28 department to the management unit of the facility.

29 The department shall issue an annual report on or before January 31 of each year on its
30 findings describing and analyzing the data collected from the registry on the prevalence and
31 incidents of harassment and bullying of a resident or residents by another resident or residents
32 living in a facility administered and under the control of a municipal public housing authority, a
33 public housing development, or any other housing facility administered and under the control of
34 the department.

35 The department shall establish rules and regulations for the collection, dissemination, and
36 reporting of the incidents of bullying and harassment in public housing facilities in the
37 commonwealth to identify problem facilities and to evaluate the safety of residents living in a
38 facility administered and under the control of a municipal public housing authority, a public
39 housing development, or any other housing facility administered and under the control of the
40 department.