

HOUSE No. 1301

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gloria L. Fox

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 to increase fair housing protections for survivors of domestic violence.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Gloria L. Fox</i> | <i>7th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Jay D. Livingstone</i> | <i>8th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Daniel J. Hunt</i> | <i>13th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Daniel J. Ryan</i> | <i>2nd Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Ellen Story</i> | <i>3rd Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i> | <i>First Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i> | <i>5th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Russell E. Holmes</i> | <i>6th Suffolk</i> |

HOUSE No. 1301

By Ms. Fox of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1301) of Gloria L. Fox and others relative to discrimination protections for survivors of domestic violence in fair housing opportunities. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act to increase fair housing protections for survivors of domestic violence.

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 151B, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition is
2 hereby amended by adding the following subsection: -

3 Section 24. The term “survivor of domestic violence” shall mean any person who has
4 been the victim of domestic violence as defined in section 23 of chapter 186.

5 SECTION 2. Section 4 of said chapter 151B is hereby amended by striking out, in line X,
6 the words “ age or handicap” inserting in place thereof the following words:--

7 age, handicap, or status as a survivor of domestic violence

8 SECTION 3. Said section 4 of Chapter 151B is hereby amended by inserting after the
9 words “or has any other handicap”, in line X the following words: --

10 or because of his status as a survivor of domestic violence

11 SECTION 4. Said section 4 is hereby further amended by inserting after the words “or
12 hearing impairment”, in line X the following words:--

13 or because of his status as a survivor of domestic violence

14 SECTION 5. Said Section 4 is hereby further amended by inserting after the words
15 “sexual orientation”, in line X the following words:--

16 or because such person is a survivor of domestic violence

17 SECTION 6. Said section 4 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word
18 “persons”, in line X and the word “impairment”, in line XX and XXX the following words:--

19 or because such person is a survivor of domestic violence

20 SECTION 7. Said section 4 is hereby further amended by inserting after the words
21 “public assistance recipiency”, in line X the following words:--

22 status as a survivor of domestic violence,

23 SECTION 8. Said section 4 is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines X, XX,
24 and XXX, the words “or marital status” and inserting in place thereof the following words:--

25 marital status, or status as a survivor of domestic violence

26 SECTION 9. Said section 4 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word
27 “child”, in line X the following words:--

28 or a person who is a victim of domestic violence

29 SECTION 10. Said section 4 is hereby further amended by striking out, in line X, the
30 words “or a person having a child” and inserting in place thereof the following words:--

31 a person having a child, or a person who is a victim of domestic violence.

32 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect immediately upon passage.