

HOUSE No. 78

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)

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 proposal for constitutional amendment:

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for a Constitutional Right to Housing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Vincent Lawrence Dixon</i>	<i>60 Lake Street-Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890</i>	<i>2/3/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 78

By Mr. Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment, House, No. 78) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for a Constitutional right to housing. Housing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for a Constitutional Right to Housing.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

1 1.) The Constitution of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is hereby, and thus
2 amended, to provide that:

3 Each, and every inhabitant of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has a Right to
4 Housing.

5 2.) The provision of this Right, with reasonable, and appropriate equality for all
6 individuals, shall be subject to appropriate legislation by the Great and General Court.

7 3.) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall through its appropriate legal authorities,
8 provide sufficient, and comprehensive planning, for affordable, well-constructed, and reasonably

9 varied housing for all residents. These housing policies, focused on restoration, rehabilitation,
10 and new construction of housing units, shall be across all identifiable population groups, without
11 discrimination. The creation of such housing, shall be consistently balanced, in such a manner, as
12 to appropriately encourage, and if needed, supplement market created housing; balanced across
13 the geographical range, and variety of the Commonwealth.

14 The goal of these housing policies, should be to encourage the reasonable safety, and
15 good health, of all residents of Massachusetts, to provide respectful living circumstances, assist
16 sound economic conditions, and provide fundamental dignity for all residents.

17 4.) Appropriate regulations, partnerships with various levels of government, and
18 transparent partnerships with non-public, non-profit, and profit making organizations, shall be
19 authorized.

20 5.) These goals shall be accomplished, while respecting appropriate, and reasonable local
21 self-government ordinances, and regulations.