

MEMORANDUM

Legislative History Project – Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2009 (S. 2190)

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The Massachusetts General Court considered various versions of The Act Preserving Publicly Assisted Affordable Housing for six years before finally passing it in 2009. Governor Duval Patrick signed the bill into law on Nov. 30, 2009 and gave a short speech (<http://www.statehousenews.com/video/09-11-30gov/video.htm>). While I did include in my package some material from the 2007-2008 bill, I did not go any further back in my research because I thought the issues would be similar and the most recent bill history was the most relevant.

I began my research by going through the bill history of all the related bills and compiling them in an Excel Spreadsheet, containing one sheet for House versions of the bill and a second sheet for the Senate versions of the bill. I then saved the text of each version of the bill from the 2009-2010 session, as well as the senate and house journals that mention or discuss the bill, including the House Roll Call vote on Oct. 28, 2009. Some of the journal pages merely mention an action on the bill, while others go into more detail on amendments. The State house news website also had a couple of blurbs on the bill which I saved, as well as transcripts from the house and senate floor, and the Governor's speech.

Next, I contacted the House and Senate offices for Joint Committee on Housing. The House staff invited me to make copies of the hearing testimony, bill summaries, and any other material they had – which I did and those are the paper files include the legislative history package. The House staff referred me to the 2007 "Expiring Use Working Group's" report to the Housing Committee on the internet, which I have saved. The House staff had more files, such as hearing testimony from past years. I only made copies from the 2007-2008 file, including

some of the Expiring Use Working Group notes. A Housing Committee staff member told me he has more internal material and that he would get back to me if he discovered that he was able to release any of it for our database.

Most of the other offices I contacted told me they did not have any materials, or none beyond what the Housing Committee had. These included: the senate office for Joint Committee on Housing, the House and Senate Chairs of the Housing Committee (Rep. Honan & S. Tucker), the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees, the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means (Rep. Charles Murphy), and the House and Senate Clerk's Offices. I left a message with David Sullivan in Rep. Flynn's office because Rep. Flynn sponsored an earlier version of the bill (H.1201) – I will add material from Rep. Flynn's office to the package, if and when I obtain it. I also am awaiting a response to my email to Sen. Panagiotakos' office – Sen. Panagiotakos is the Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and sponsored an amendment to the bill, which passed. The staff of Representative Alice Wolf, who sponsored a version of the bill (H.3463), is compiling electronic files to send to me.

I also called the governor's office but did not get any information, at first. When I called the Senate Committee on the Third Reading, however, the staff directed me to ask the Governor's office for the "guts" of the bill. I did that and anticipate receiving via email the PDF of the "guts" of S. 2190, which I will add to the package. The Senate Committee on Bills in the Third Reading did not have material on the bill to share with me.