

Legislative History Project  
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I decided to examine the legislative history of House Bill 98 which was passed during the 2009 session of the Massachusetts Legislature. To obtain the legislative history for this bill I started at the Massachusetts legislature website and obtained the bill number and the numbers of all subsequent revisions and versions of the bill. There was only previous version of the bill which was House Bill 96. The bill was presented to the Special House Committee on Rules and it was through this committee that it was signed into law. The Bill was signed into law on 1/22/2009 by Governor Deval Patrick. I also searched the House Journal which revealed that on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 Governor Patrick recommended that this legislation be passed by the house to extend his emergency powers to reduce allotments during the past fiscal year.

Through my research I learned that the bill was filed by State Representative Angelo Scaccia. To find out more about this bill I contacted his office several times by phone and was directed to Michelle McLaughlin who is Representative Scaccia's legislative staff member. After several phone calls Ms. McLaughlin got back to me and stated that she did not have any materials for this bill other than what is on the website. I also contacted the Governor's office several times and I spoke with Rachel Wiesblatt who is one of the Governor's legislative staffers and she also stated that she did not have any other materials for this bill other than what is on the official website. I also emailed a gentleman named John Murphy who is also one of the Governor's legislative staffers and this email was ignored. I also contacted the House Ways and Means Committee as well as the Senate Ways and Means Committee and both of these committees stated that they did not have any documentation on that bill beyond what was on the website. I also searched the statehousenews.com website and I found one news item on the bill

which indicates some resistance to its passage. I also conducted searches of the Boston Herald website and the Boston Globe website and the only thing I was able to turn up is an article on the budget deficiency that this bill addressed. Overall, I was not able to find much legislative history for this bill.