Implementing Statewide Housing Court Expansion

Co-Sponsor by Noon on Friday April 13th

- Rep Walsh’s FY19 Budget Amendment to Fully Fund Housing Court Expansion Implementation
- Rep Rushing’s FY19 Budget Amendment to Fully Fund the Tenancy Preservation Program

Last year, as a result of broad based support both inside and outside the State House, statewide Housing Court expansion was achieved through the FY18 budget and $1 million was appropriated to start the expansion. The implementation process immediately began.

- **Case filings have been steadily increasing.** Landlords are filing evictions and tenants are beginning to transfer their cases into Housing Court.
- **Two new sittings were established** – one for the Northeast and one for Eastern Division. The search for suitable space continues in other areas.
- **Expansion has put increased demand on the Tenancy Preservation Program.** TPP - based only in Housing Court - successfully works with landlords to preserve tenancies and prevent homeless among some of the most vulnerable tenants.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>House Ways and Means Committee included in FY19 budget</th>
<th>Advocates are seeking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.5 million for Housing Court expansion</td>
<td>Full funding of $2.6 million, which was proposed in the Governor’s FY19 budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500,000 (level funding) for the Tenancy Preservation Program</td>
<td>Full funding of $1.3 million, an increase of $800,000 to expand TPP to serve the 84 additional cities and towns covered by the Housing Court’s statewide expansion</td>
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**Sign-on to Rep Chris Walsh’s budget amendment for $2.6 million to fully fund housing court expansion (line item 0336-0003).**

**Sign-on to Rep Rushing’s FY19 Budget Amendment for $1.3 million to fully fund the Tenancy Preservation Program (line item 7004-3045)**

**Deadline: Friday. April 13 at Noon pm.**

For more information, contact Annette Duke, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, 617-357-0700, ext 334, ADuke@MLRI.org
Over 150 Organizations Called for Housing Court Statewide


April 12, 2018