

## Hearing on Statewide Housing Court Expansion Bills

House 978 and Senate 946:

An Act relative to the geographical jurisdiction of the Housing Court Department



**The Judiciary Committee will be holding a hearing on housing court expansion bills on Tuesday May 2 at 1:00 pm in Room A-1.**

### **Why support a Housing Court for all?**

One-third of the population in Massachusetts has no access to Housing Court. There is no Housing Court for all of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties, most of Norfolk County, and parts of Middlesex and Suffolk Counties.

It is not fair that some communities have access to a Housing Court and others do not. Housing Courts offer:

- **Expertise:** Housing Court judges have the expertise to analyze the labyrinth of federal, state, and local laws on housing.
- **Housing Specialists:** Only the Housing Courts have Housing Specialists who mediate cases that save the time and expense of litigation.
- **Code Enforcement:** Housing Court is set up to efficiently respond to emergencies and building, fire, and sanitary code violations.
- **Homelessness:** Based in Housing Courts, the Tenancy Preservation Program prevents homelessness among people with disabilities.
- **Cost Effective:** Housing Court has the lowest cost per case across all court departments. Through receiverships it revitalizes dilapidated properties, improving neighborhoods, property values, and local tax collection.

### **Support a Housing Court for All in Massachusetts!**

A broad-based group of supporters (see reverse) are calling for the Legislature to complete the expansion. Please join these groups and ask the Judiciary Committee to report H. 978 and S. 946 out favorably.

# Organizations Calling for Statewide Housing Court

Adams & Sammon  
Advocates, Inc - Framingham  
American Friends Service Cmt – Cambridge  
Avon Board of Health  
Barnstable Cnty Depart of Health & Environment  
Barnstable Town Council  
Bay Cove Human Services, Inc  
Belmont Board of Health  
Belmont Board of Selectman  
Belmont Fire Depart, Fire Prevention Bureau  
Berkshire Hsing Development Corp.  
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center  
Boston Bar Association  
Boston Ctr for Independent Living  
Bourne Housing Authority  
Brazilian Women's Group, Brighton  
Broadway Glenn Tenant Council, Chelsea  
Brokerick Bankcroft, Attorneys at Law, Newton  
Brookline Council on Aging  
Brookline Public Health Depart - Environmental Health Division  
Cambridge City Council  
Cape Cod & Islands Commission on the Status of Women  
Cape & Island Health Agents Coalition  
Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness  
Cape Cod Council of Churches  
Cape Cod Women for Change  
Casa Myrna Vazquez  
Centro Latino, Chelsea  
Chatham Health Division  
Chelsea City Council (Resolution)  
Chelsea City Manager, Thomas G. Ambrosino  
Chelsea Collaborative  
Chelsea Community Connection Coalition  
Chelsea Fire Department  
Chelsea Inspectional Services  
Chelsea Police Department  
Chelsea Public Schools  
Chelsea Senior Center  
Citizens Hsing and Planning Assoc  
Community Action Agency of Somerville  
Community Action Programs Inter-City in Revere, Winthrop & Chelsea  
Community Labor United  
Community Teamwork, Inc.  
Duffy Health Center, Hyannis  
Elder Services of Cape Cod & Islands  
Eliot Community Human Services  
Everett, Mayor Carl DeMaria  
Falmouth SWIFT: Supporting Women in Financial Transition  
Father Bill's and Mainspring, Brockton  
Fire Chiefs' Association of Massa  
Fire Prevention Association of Mass  
Framingham Board of Selectman  
Framingham Disability Commission  
Framingham Town Meeting  
Greater Boston Legal Services  
HarborCOV: Communities Overcoming Violence  
HAPHousing  
Harvard Legal Aid Bureau  
Harwich Fire Department  
Homelessness Prevention Council of Lower Cape Cod  
Homes for Families  
HomeStart, Inc.  
Housing Assistance Corp.  
Housing Families, Inc  
Housing for All Corporation  
Housing Solutions for Southeastern Mass  
Irene Bagdoian, Attorney at Law  
Jane Doe, Inc.  
Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action  
Just-A-Start Corporation  
Justice Center of Southeast Mass  
La Comunidad, Everett  
Law Office of Christopher T. Saccardi  
Law Office of Heather M. Ward  
Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Hsing & Homelessness  
Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School  
Lexington, Office of Selectman  
Mace Tenant Council, Chelsea  
Major City Police Chiefs Assoc  
Malden Mayor Christenson  
Margolis Tenant Council, Chelsea  
Mass. Appleseed Center for Law and Justice  
Mass. Assoc of Hispanic Attorneys  
Mass. Assoc of Public Health Nurses  
Mass. Chapter of NAHRO  
Mass. Environmental Health Assoc  
Mass. Municipal Lawyers Assoc  
Mass. Union of Public Housing Tenants  
Mass. Association of Health Boards  
Mass. Bar Association  
Mass. Coalition for the Homeless  
Mass. Communities Action Network  
Mass. Health Officers Association  
Mass. Jobs With Justice  
Mass. Law Reform Institute  
Medfield Board of Selectman  
Metro Credit Union, Chelsea  
Metropolitan Boston Hsing Partnership  
MetroWest Legal Services  
MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women  
Metrowest Workers Center  
Milton Board of Health  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys – Massachusetts Chapter  
Neighbor to Neighbor, Mass  
New Chelsea Realty  
Newton City Council (Resolution)  
People's A.M.E. Church, Chelsea  
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass Project Hope  
Quincy Health Department  
RCAP Solutions, Inc.  
Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts  
ROCA  
Rosie's Place, Boston  
SANDWICH Housing Authority  
SEUI 32BJ New England District 615  
Somerville Board of Aldermen  
Somerville Homeless Coalition  
Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services  
South Middlesex Opportunity Council  
Spencer Board of Health  
Springfield Housing Authority  
Springwell - Waltham  
St. Luke's-San Lucas, Episcopal Church  
Suffolk University Legal Services  
The Neighborhood Developers  
The Second Step – Newton  
Town of Bedford, Town Manager  
Town of Halifax, Health Agent  
Town of Lexington, Town Manager's Office  
Town of Norwood, Board of Health  
UNITE HERE Local 26  
Watertown Health Department  
Watertown Council (Resolution)  
Wellfleet Boad of Selectman (Resolution)  
Wellfleet Housing Authority  
Westford Health Department  
Winchester Board of Health  
Winchester Board of Selectman  
Winchester Hsing Partnership Board  
Yarmouth Fire Department  
Yarmouth Health Department