

HOUSE No. 1132

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John W. Scibak

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 bill:

An Act protecting children residing in public housing in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John W. Scibak

Benjamin Swan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

2nd Hampshire

11th Hampden

HOUSE No. 1132

By Mr. Scibak of South Hadley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1132) of John W. Scibak and Benjamin Swan for legislation to establish window falls prevention program within the Department of Housing and Community Development. Housing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act protecting children residing in public housing in the commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1. Chapter 121B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding after section 59 the following section:-

3 Section 60. There shall be a Window Falls Prevention Program established within the
4 Department of Housing and Community Development. The purpose of said program shall be as
5 follows:

6 Educating the public about the danger to children, age six (6) years and under, of falling
7 from windows; and the importance of installing window guards in all DHCD-controlled
8 dwellings that are operated by local municipal Housing Authorities and occupied by children age
9 six (6) years and under. The Program shall conduct education and outreach efforts promoting
10 awareness about the dangers to children, age six (6) years and under of falling from open or
11 otherwise unprotected windows. Information and technical assistance shall be made available to
12 the public on the steps and devices that may mitigate this serious problem. The Program shall

13 work with any and all existing agencies and departments involved with children in its outreach
14 efforts.

15 Within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Housing and
16 Community Development shall conduct a census of all tenants under age six residing in DHCD-
17 controlled public housing in the Commonwealth, to determine how many children should be
18 served by this program.

19 Subject to availability of funds, The Window Falls Prevention Program will also require
20 public municipal Housing Authorities overseen by the Department of Housing and Community
21 Development, in concert with appropriate community-based partners, to purchase, disseminate
22 and install window safety guards on windows in the dwellings whose occupants include children
23 age six (6) years and under.

24 The Department shall reach out to community-based partners, including the Safe Kids
25 Massachusetts coalition and its members, to develop a strategy for acquiring, distributing and
26 installing window guards in all units whose occupants include children age six years and under.
27 The Department is authorized to take steps that will allow it to accept donations of window
28 guards, and/or funds to purchase window guards, from organizations in the private and non-
29 profit sectors.