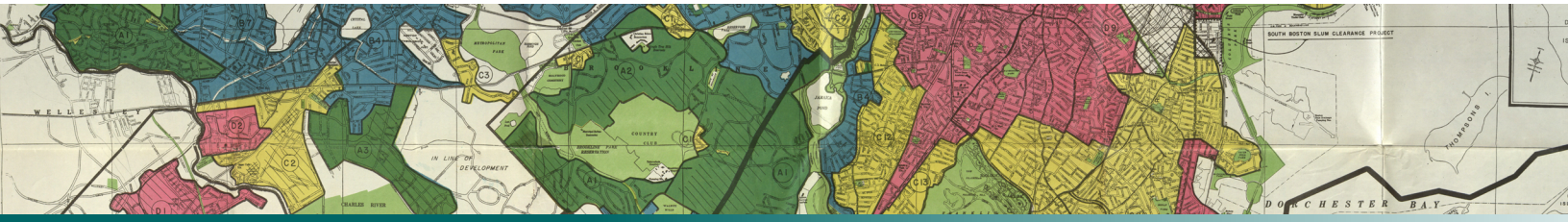
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FAIR HOUSING DISPARATE IMPACT STANDARD

HD.3669
Sponsors: Representative Dave Rogers

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATORY EFFECTS IN HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SD.1765
Sponsors: Senator Joseph Boncore



WHY IS ENSURING FAIR HOUSING CRITICAL?

Despite not being overtly discriminatory, housing policies can have unintended consequences that are very difficult to prove in court. When only white families are getting approved for mortgages based on seemingly objective lending standards, or insurance rates are higher for certain groups based on "risk factors," for example, inequities and segregation persist in our communities. By rooting out the intended impacts of policies of the past and preventing unintentionally discriminatory policies for the future, we can ensure housing for all really means housing for all.

WHAT WILL THIS BILL DO?

This legislation strengthens protections against discrimination for renters, creating a state fair housing disparate impact standard. This will allow people to challenge a housing policy or program that has a discriminatory impact on them because of their race, sex, gender identity, disability, family status, or other protected class – even if the policy or program appears on its face to apply to everyone equally. This will protect against policies and practices that, intentionally or unintentionally, keep people from homes they can afford simply because of who they are.

CHAPA
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association

Questions? Contact CHAPA's Director of Public Policy, Eric Shupin at eshupin@chapa.org or 617-682-9712

Image courtesy of Mapping Inequality

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS & ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THESE BILLS:
https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator