

UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES of Metropolitan Boston

June 15, 1970

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION ON H-5700

(Report of the Committee on Urban Affairs)

The legislative housing package for 1970, House-5700 -- a combination of H-5000 (Special Report of the Sub-Committee on Urban Affairs) and H-5263 (Governor's Message on Public Housing) -- is now before the House Ways and Means Committee.

A particularly significant provision is Appendix Y, which for the first time in this state opens Massachusetts public housing units to handicapped people of low income. Appendix Y defines a handicapped condition as (1) is expected to be of long continued and indefinite duration, (2) substantially impedes the ability to live independently in conventional housing, and (3) is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. Eligibility includes single handicapped persons, or families of one or more persons, one of whom is handicapped, regardless of age.

Another important provision of this Appendix is that handicapped persons become eligible for state elderly housing but shall receive priority in placement in no less than five percent of the elderly housing units built after January 1, 1971. In addition, housing for the elderly of low income and the handicapped of low income shall be designed "so as to alleviate the infirmities characteristic of the elderly or the handicapped."

This measure is considered by the health community to be an essential first step in meaningful rehabilitation of the handicapped. Institutionalization could then be avoided, since institutionalization is not only costly but defeats the prime purpose of rehabilitation which is independent living.

Appendix X will increase the supply of elderly housing and thereby facilitate the implementation of Appendix Y. The complete housing package, H-5700, will strengthen the whole state housing program.

If you wish to make your views known, please contact (wire, phone, or write) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Speaker of the House. (List enclosed)

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Rep. Anthony M. Scibelli (Chairman)
200 Maple Street
Springfield, Mass. 01105
or - State House, Rm 247
Boston 02133

Rep. George L. Sacco, Jr. (Vice-Chairman)
185 Salem Street
Medford, Mass. 02155
or - State House,
Boston 02133

Rep. Belden G. Bly, Jr.
46 Auburn Street
Saugus, Mass. 01906

Rep. Robert J. Bohigian
17 Converse Street
Worcester, Mass. 01605

Rep. James J. Craven, Jr.
9 St. John Street
Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130

Rep. Arthur L. Desrocher
20 Milk Street
Nantucket, Mass. 02554

Rep. Joseph D. Early
4 Longfellow Road
Worcester, Mass. 01602

Rep. Thomas F. Fallon
330 Main Street
Clinton, Mass. 01510

Rep. Gerard A. Guilmette
15 Foxcroft Street
Lawrence, Mass. 01843

Rep. Timothy W. Hickey
74 Reservoir Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Rep. John J. Long
109 Barre Street
Fall River, Mass. 02723

Rep. Allan McGuane
8 Lillian Street
Greenfield, Mass. 01301

Rep. John J. Navin
15 Preston Street
Marlboro, Mass. 01752

Rep. Paul J. Sheehy
182 Sanders Avenue
Lowell, Mass. 01851

Rep. George I. Spatcher
959 Pleasant Street
Attleboro, Mass. 02703

Rep. John J. Toomey
309 Broadway
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Rep. Thomas C. Wojtkowski
85 Ridge Avenue
Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

* * * * *

The Hon. David M. Bartley
Speaker of the House of Representatives
25 Hillcrest Road
Holyoke, Mass. 01040
or -- State House, Room 355
Boston, Mass. 02133
Tel: 727-2500

Telephone Number: House Ways & Means -- 727-2380

Telephone Number: Speakers Office -- 727-2500

163
Copy of Legislative Information on
H-5700 - Report of the Committee on
Urban Affairs

June 22, 1970

*Placed on File
Copies to all Councilors*