Bills & Regs

Below is a listing of 62 bills followed by the *BHU* during 1977. The final disposition of each bill appears as the last entry in the left column. ENG. = Engrossed and CONF. = Conference Committee.

HOUSING

S1306	Rent withholding	ADVERSE REPORT ACCEPTED
S1347	Good cause for eviction	SEN 3rd READING
S1354	Tenant reps. on housing auths.	SEN 3rd READING
S1493	Revolving loan fund	SEN 3rd READING
S1982	Rental assistance lease change	SEN 3rd READING
S1712	MA Home Mortgage Finance Agency	LAW
H14	Public housing elig. income mix	BURIED, URBAN AFFAIRS
H29	Standardizing public housing rents	ADVERSE REPORT ACCEPTED
H1059	Essex Cnty housing court	BURIED, COUNTIES
H3853	State urban renewal	STUDY, HSE WAYS & MEANS
H4048	Regulating lodging houses	ADVERSE REPORT ACCEPTED
H5512	Public housing financial disclosure	HSE 3rd READING
H6066	Estab. local Depts. of Comm. Affairs	STUDY, HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6107	Anti-redlining	HSE & SEN ENG., NO CONF.
H6845	Public housing package	LAW
H6905	Regulating security deposits	LAW

DISABILITIES

S579	Prohibiting life ins. discrim.	STUDY, SEN WAYS & MEANS
S1706	Employment Commission to MRC	SEN ENG., HSE WAYS & MEANS
S1876	Anti-discrim. constit. amend	HSE & SEN APPROVED
S1908	Anti-discrim. in employment	SEN ENG., HSE WAYS & MEANS
S2008	Office for Handicapped	SEN ENG., HSE WAYS & MEANS
H18	Elim. public housing unit limit	HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6245	Estab. community residences	HSE WAYS & MEANS

HEALTH

S1721	Weakening lead paint law	SEN WAYS & MEANS
H2206	Prohibit state funded abortions	STUDY, HSE WAYS & MEANS
H2960	N.E. Baptist Hosp. spec. exempt.	VETO SUSTAINED
H5692	Midwifery	LAW
H5975	Sterilization	LAW
H6257	Psychotropic drugs	HSE 3rd READING
H6674	Certificate of need	LAW
H6704	Patients rights	HSE ENACTED, SEN ENG.

WELFARE

S369	Personal needs allowance	SEN WAYS & MEANS
S371	General relief restitution	SEN WAYS & MEANS
S466	Need as criteria for assistance	SEN WAYS & MEANS
S534	Residency requirement	SEN WAYS & MEANS
S676	Regulating care & protection	HSE & SEN ENG.
S1428	Mandating emergency assistance	SEN ENG., HSE WAYS & MEANS
H182	Relative responsibility	STUDY, SEN WAYS & MEANS
H193	General relief age min.	ADVERSE REPORT ACCEPTED
H2212	Re-estab. local admin.	HSE WAYS & MEANS

YOUTH

S686	Juvenile minimum custody	ADVERSE REPORT ACCEPTED
H5986	Dept. of Family & Children Servs.	HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6190	Secure instit. sentencing	HSE WAYS & MEANS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/JOBS

S71	Displaced homemakers	STUDY, SEN WAYS & MEANS
H3258	Youth employment	STUDY, HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6007	Community Enterprise Ec. Devel.	STUDY, HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6614	Technology Devel. Corp.	HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6615	MA Ind. Finance Agency	HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6616	Comm. Fin. Dev. Corp. changes	HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6617	MA Comm. & Ind. Dev. Agency	HSE WAYS & MEANS
H6629	Life ins. tax cut/Cap. Resourse Corp.	LAW

OTHER

S1125	Legislative Review of Agencies	SEN 3rd READING
S1930	Workers compensation	SEN 3rd READING
S1963	Rules & regs	SEN ENG., HSE WAYS & MEANS
H22	Commomwlth Serv. Corp raise	STUDY, HSE WAYS & MEANS
H3403	Recision of mandated costs	HSE ENG., SEN 3rd READING
H3773	Mandated costs, constit. amend	NO ACTION
H5950	Leg. approp. of fed'l funds	HSE ENG., SEN WAYS & MEANS
H6368	Battered women program	LAW
H6574	Impoundment	SEN WAYS & MEANS
H6600	Elderly tax abatement	LAW
H6886	Prohibit utility cutoffs	HSE ENG., SEN 3rd READING

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Speaking of ...

movings around the State House, LOU Di NATLE, who for a time served as Senate President KEVIN HARRINGTON's gubernatorial campaign manager, has joined LARRY BROWN, formerly of the Mass. Advocacy Center, at ACTION in Washington. SANDY MICHAELS will leave Human Services' budget office for a similiar job with DMH. CHARLEY STOVER of EOHS has been named one of three Rate Setting Commissioners. And HOWARD VEIT, DPH's Assistant Commissioner for Health Regulation, will join HEW as a Health Maintenance Organization specialist ... Said SORE THROAT, the reason JOE DiCARLO and RON MacKENZIE dropped their bombshell unsuccessfully on the court a few weeks ago that ruined KEVIN HARRINGTON's chance to run for governor, was to build public pressure for a new hearing or trial so they could make a case that they did not extort M-B-M, which many State House people believe. Throat continued: they were involved with bribery, but since the statute of limitations has expired on this charge, they were hoping to get off without going to jail. In a related issue, CBS-TV's *Sixty Minutes* has reportedly been in town filming a segment on the political dealings of M-B-M ... Longtime organizer LOU FINFER has left Fair Share to become director of Somerville United Neighborhoods ... The Mass. Committee for Children & Youth has a new resource book out on services for drug/alcohol, dependent pregnant women and their infants. The $5.00 book can be ordered from Project Care, MCCY #706, 14 Beacon St., Boston 02108 ... The new Policy Training Center, to be located at Cambridge's Center for the Study of Public Policy, will formally announce its existence shortly. Designed as a forum and meeting place for progressive social service and public policy practitioners, the Center will bring together people wanting to break through the isolation so often a problem. For information and and suggestions for workshops call (617) 547-4473 ... DMH has been taken to court by former acting affirmative action director JAIME ALVAREZ-VANEGAS whose contract was not renewed ... Special thanks to NICK THORKELSON, *artiste extraordinaire*, for his work on this issue ....

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spend more than they would otherwise. And third, the Governor's State of the State speech stressed " special concern for those who need our help." Some of this optimism appears to be strategic.

The less optimistic felt that things are not what they seem. Citing the tremendous pressure for property tax relief, Gwen Morgan of the Childrens Lobby expressed the fear that social service advocates could very easily lose out to municipal officials during the budget-making process. Another children's advocate said that the lack of a serious moderate or progressive gubernatorial challenge could mean that Governor Dukakis will not follow through on his state of the state rhetoric. David Collins of AFSC was pessimistic because he felt that the Governor had "promised everybody everything," implying that not everybody will get what they want.

Opinions also differed, but less dramatically, as to the possibility for passage of non-budgetary progressive legislation. Issue areas mentioned for possible passage were: spouse and child abuse (MLRI), circuit breaker property tax relief (Fair Share), regulating plant closings (SEOC, Fair Share, Breakfast Group), anti-redlining (CPPAX, Fair Share, League), preventing winter utility shutoffs (MCDA), community economic development (MCDA,Breakfast Group), state boycott of labor law violators (Labor Council), liberalizing paroles (AFSC, PRP), changing the guardianship statute (MARC), anti sterilization abuse (LIPA), establishing an Office for the Handicapped (MCOH), restricting executive impoundment (GBLS), adding hospital controls (LIPA), implementing ERA (CLUM), establishing an economic development bank (CPPAX), and institutionalizing welfare cost of living increases (League).

In related regulatory areas, groups will be working to: insure strong Hill-Burton health care regs (LIPA), implement the 504 handicapped discrimination regs (MCOH), establish a state linked deposit system (SEOC, Fair Share, Breakfast) and prevent winter utility shutoffs (Fair Share).

A number of defensive struggles are expected to be waged again this year. The major one being: maintaining state funding for medicaid abortions, retaining a strong lead paint statute, continuing community based programs, resisting mandatory sentencing proposals, opposing workfare, insuring a good childrens reorg package and monitoring the emergency assistance program.

Four groups have significantly changed focus. Mass. Law Reform will be more involved with budget and taxation issues. Fair Share will reenter the legislative arena, while LIPA does the reverse to concentrate on local issues. And the Black Caucus will focus on economic development issues, particularly those affecting minority businesses. Also, MAMH and MARC have decided not to push for liberalized zoning legislation in favor of concentrating on recent judicial decisions.

What Did the Governor Know & When Did He Know It ?

Controversy around the so-called work experience program (WEP) continues. The focus is now on whether Governor Dukakis turned down a Department of Labor offer of a substitute, prevailing wage paying program. On November 29, Lt. Governor Tom O'Neill attended a meeting in Washington with Labor Secretary Ray Marshall to resolve lingering problems with WEP. O'Neill told the *Update* that a wage program was brought up informally, not as an alternative, but as something to explore. The interpretation from Washington is that Marshall first suggested it as an alternative. O'Neill's response: "Absolutely not!"

According to Washington sources, Marshall called Dukakis one week later to make the offer directly. Dukakis responded by saying that he wanted WEP, a decision which confounded DOL officials because the alternative included a $5 million sweetener to pay for it. The Governor's account of the conversation is that Marshall held out the prospect of both programs, and that he wanted to get WEP off the ground as soon as possible.

To believe state officials, one has to accept that O Neill and Dukakis both failed to understand Marshall. When informed by DOL through O'Neill on December 20 that Marshall really meant one or the other, the Governor refused to change his mind. By his inaction, Dukakis is apparently saying that he prefers not to pay decent wages for forced work he is requiring of welfare fathers.