

THE BEACON HILL
UPDATE
MONITORING STATE ACTIVITIES
AFFECTING LOW INCOME PEOPLE

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Michael Segal's inability to get out of the way of a paper towel which assaulted his eye is the cause of this abbreviated edition.

Bills & Regs

HOUSING The good cause for eviction bill, S1259, which would limit landlord eviction powers, has been ordered to the Senate Committee on Third Reading... Two other Urban Affairs bills, S1284, strengthening the enforcement of sanitary code violations, and S1290, protecting tenants from landlord reprisals, have been engrossed in the Senate and are up for a second reading in the House. ... Also, Urban Affairs gave S1285, which would place two tenants on the board of the Mass Housing Finance Agency, a favorable.

In public housing, S1295, a bill to provide relief to housing authorities and tenants for energy costs, is in Senate Ways & Means and will be redrafted with input from advocates. ... DCA's bill to extend rental assistance contracts to 15 years, H16, has been changed to apply to only owner occupied apartments of six units or less... A bill to set up a \$5 million public housing lead paint removal loan fund (along with a number of other smal-

ler policy changes), H3624, has been given a favorable report by Urban Affairs.

Two important issues will be aired this week at the State House. DCA's revolving loan fund to municipalities bill, H18, will be heard today by Urban Affairs... And the 16 anti-redlining bills which have been filed this year will be heard by Banks and Banking on March 28.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/JOB The Governor filed his economic development package last week. This shortened version of last year's package includes bills to create the Mass. Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) and the Community Economic Development Assistance Corp. (CEDAC). They will be heard during the first week in April... The Community Development Finance Corp. has a new address: 131 State St., Boston, 02109, (617) 742-0366... The newly created Capital Resource Company has begun processing loan applications.

U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Ernie Green said last week that DOL supports Massachusetts' approach of allowing groups to retain income from CETA Title VI projects. Mass. Law Reform's Mark Weiss said this represents a strong economic push for community-based organizations... The ad hoc

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GR Scorecard Still Stalled

The Administration's near euphoria over this year's "restoration" budget is marred by continued neglect of the state's General Relief population. The disrespect for this politically weak group is best illustrated by the high level reluctance to adopt a "scorecard" approach to defining GR eligibility.

When the Welfare Department submitted its budget request to the Human Services office, its accompanying narrative explained the purpose of the proposed scorecard: "To take into account *non-medical* factors...such as age, language barriers, and lack of work history or education." After a meeting with Welfare and Administration budget officials, EOHS's Jerald Stevens decided to eliminate the scorecard from his budget recommendation to the Governor. Said one source, Administration and Finance Secretary John Buckley ordered the Department to "get off the case."

While Welfare Commissioner Sharp and Stevens profess a desire to see new and fairer regulations implemented, they have not gone directly to the Governor to make the case. They will soon meet with Chief Secretary David Liederman to elicit his support.