

**An Act Relative to Housing Discrimination against Victims of  
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking**

Senator Cynthia Creem (D- 1st Norfolk and Middlesex)

General Summary of the Act

This bill would amend existing housing discrimination laws to prohibit discrimination against victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and stalking. It also creates a defense to eviction if the landlord attempts to evict a tenant because he/she was the victim of one of these crimes. Finally, the bill creates a vehicle for victims of these crimes, with appropriate documentation, to vacate their lease or rental agreements without penalty.

Relevant Specifics of the Act

Amends M.G.L. Chapter 151B § 4 to add victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, and stalking to those protected against housing discrimination.

Amends M.G.L. Chapter 186 by adding a section on early termination of rental agreements which stipulates the notice given to a landlord, documentation needed (i.e. valid restraining order etc.), and other protections about how this information is used once a tenant terminates a rental agreement under this section.

Current Status

This bill is being filed and awaits committee assignment.