



Legislation Summary:

An Act codifying the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program

Initial bill number(s): H.1351/[SB 888](#)

Sponsors: Rep. Adrian C. Madaro; Sen. Joan B. Lovely

These identical bills codify the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) by placing it in General Law 121B (Public Housing), as a new section 61, for both mobile and project based vouchers. The income ceiling is 80% of the area median income (AMI) and 75% of vouchers must go to households whose income is 30% of AMI or less. Rental payments cannot exceed 110% of market rent and those (with some exceptions) receiving tenant-based assistance shall not pay more than 30% of adjusted household income. Initial and biennial inspections for safety are required. Monthly administrative fees are capped and the Dept. of Housing and Community Development is charged with certain data reporting requirements.

League position

LWVMA supports these bills based on its national Meeting Basic Human Needs position. From [Impact on Issues 2022-24](#): “Persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care.” (p. 146)

“Benefit levels should be sufficient enough to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter. Minimum income standards should be adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living and should be revised periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar. Until a federal welfare program achieves an adequate level of benefits, some states will need to supplement federal payments.” (p. 146)

“State and local governments should assist by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate, and supplement the housing programs of the federal government and the private sector.” (p. 147)