



JAY D. LIVINGSTONE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
8TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

Committees:  
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Municipalities and Regional Government  
Post Audit and Oversight

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 472  
TEL. (617) 722-2013  
Jay.Livingstone@MAhouse.gov

August 2, 2021

The Honorable Adam Hinds  
The Joint Committee on Revenue, Senate Chair  
24 Beacon St. Room 109-E  
Boston, MA, 02133

The Honorable Mark Cusack  
The Joint Committee on Revenue, House Chair  
24 Beacon St. Room 34  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: H.2986** *An Act authorizing a local affordable housing surcharge*

Dear Chairman Hinds, Chairman Cusack, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I write to you today to advocate for H.2986, an Act authorizing a local affordable housing surcharge. This is a piece of critical legislation that will allow cities and towns to impose a local affordable housing surcharge on specific real property.

Adopting strategies through policy guidance to expand and promote affordable housing is vital to creating and sustaining equitable, thriving constituencies. One such affordable housing strategy, which this legislation provides a framework for, is using an accessible housing surcharge, where profits would proceed to an affordable housing trust.

As this bill specifies, the surcharge would be no more than 2% of the real estate tax levy against real property. Yet, the modest surcharge demonstrates the considerable potential to increase and effectively finance affordable housing if implemented. Following the bill's guidance, tax collectors would collect the surcharge amount according to the warrant-specified computation and direct the funds quarterly or semi-annually to the affordable housing trust.

Implementing this model to support affordable housing with an accessible surcharge serves as a cost-effective investment in Massachusetts affordable housing solutions, an investment that will benefit all of us.

I respectfully request that the committee advance H.2986 with a favorable report. This legislation and the surcharge model it authorizes would create a strategic process to broaden affordable housing and safeguard the well-being of the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your considerate and thorough review of the legislation before you. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email at [Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov](mailto:Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov) or via phone at (617) 910- 6892 with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Livingstone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "L".

Jay Livingstone  
State Representative  
8th Suffolk District