



Text of the Accessible Housing Commission Section of the Affordable Homes Act

SECTION 127. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special commission to study and make recommendations on accessibility in housing for persons with disabilities and seniors to increase the ability of individuals to live in a safe, dignified and healthy environment in their residences. The special commission shall consider the scope and positive impacts of longstanding accessibility standards.

(b) The commission shall consist of: the secretary of housing and livable communities, or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the executive director of the architectural access board established in section 13A of chapter 22 of the General Laws, or a designee; the chairs of the joint committee on housing; the executive director of the Massachusetts office on disability established in section 185 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, or a designees; a representative appointed by the statewide Independent Living Council; a representative of the Institute for Human Centered Design, Inc.; a representative of NAIOP Massachusetts, Inc.; a representative of the Disability Law Center, Inc.; a representative of the Arc Massachusetts, Inc.; and a representative of the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc.

(c) The commission shall:

- (i) examine accessibility features in residential housing that benefit persons with disabilities and seniors, including, but not limited to, features for individuals with physical, sensory, intellectual, mental health and neurodivergent disabilities; and
- (ii) review the definition of accessibility in housing for persons with disabilities and seniors.

The commission shall review and consider the potential financial barriers and any impacts on programs and consider the impact of climate change on housing for people with disabilities The commission shall make recommendations, if any, including any recommendations related to 780 CMR.

(d) Not later than June 30, 2025, the commission shall file a report and recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on housing.