



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Chrystal Komegay, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2015-08

To: All Local Housing Authority Executive Directors
From: Steve Carvalho, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing & Rental Assistance
Subject: Regarding the Election of Tenant Board Member
Date: March 12, 2015

On August 6, 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed Chapter 235, "An Act Relative to Local Housing Authorities." This Act represents significant reform to the state public housing system. The law establishes many new provisions, including but not limited to, a requirement that Local Housing Authorities, in towns, have a tenant on the board. The statute inserts the following language into chapter 121B after section 5:

- Section 5A. The department shall promulgate regulations establishing election procedures for tenants to elect a tenant as a member of the housing authority in the town and regulations establishing appointment by the board of selectmen of the town, if no election may be held; provided, however, that 1 member of the housing authority board shall be a tenant. The department shall provide regulations creating waiver of this section if federal law requires the town to maintain a tenant member as 1 of the 5 members or if a tenant has been elected under section 5.

However, in order for LHAs to proceed, DHCD must promulgate regulations. Since regulations have not been promulgated to date, LHAs should continue business as usual, regarding board elections. We will notify all LHAs as soon as regulations have been filed.