HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 205 FILED ON: 1/8/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1164

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cleon H. Turner

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to private subdivision fees..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cleon H. Turner	*1st Barnstable*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 205 FILED ON: 1/8/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1164

By Mr. Turner of Dennis, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1164) of Cleon H. Turner relative to private subdivision fees charged to owners of affordable housing units. Housing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *387* OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to private subdivision fees..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 40B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Section XXX. Homeowner association fees or assessments in affordable housing developments that contain mixed affordable and market rate housing units shall not increase more than 3 per cent per year for any unit in such mixed occupancy development that is maintained as an affordable home under Chapter 40B of the General Laws.

(a) Any vote taken by the owners association that raises the association fee above 3 per cent in any calendar year shall not be binding on the owner of the affordable units.

(b) Any vote taken by the owners or owners' association that proposes to add an amenity to the subdivision common areas that is not an essential amenity shall not require the owners of the affordable units within the complex to contribute to the construction or maintenance of such amenities. Nothing in this section shall prevent any owner of an affordable unit within such development from voluntarily participating in the construction and maintenance fees for non essential amenities.

(c) No owner of an affordable unit in a mixed occupancy development shall be required to pay attorney's fees to the owners' association or other owners for challenging or defending against the actions of an owners' association unless the affordable owner loses the challenge and

18 the rule, regulation or by-law attempting to be enforced against the affordable owner addresses
19 the health, safety or welfare of the development as a whole.

20 The purpose of this section is to ensure that units, including the costs and fees related to
21 such units do not increase to a level that would cause such unit ownership to be unaffordable.