



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN AND LYDIA EDWARDS

Flaherty Baker Ciommo Essaibi-George Garrison Janey McCarthy O'Malley
Wu Zakim Campbell

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S.1441/H.2029, "AN ACT RELATIVE TO
THE ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS BOARD"**

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council's Committee on City, Neighborhood Services and Veteran and Military Affairs held a well-attended public hearing on May 29, 2019, to take testimony and discuss services for persons with disabilities; *and*

WHEREAS: Boston administration officials, together with other well-informed stakeholders, spoke about the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and on the need and importance of continuous deliberate actions and efforts to protect and propagate opportunities and access for all; *and*

WHEREAS: The Chair of the Advisory Board of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, together with other officials and leaders in attendance at the hearing, requested that the Boston City Council through its Committee on City, Neighborhood Services and Veteran and Military Affairs support the passage of a legislation being considered in the Massachusetts Legislature called "*An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board*"; *and*

WHEREAS: S1441/H2029, "*An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board*" is sponsored and championed by numerous state legislators including many members of the Boston delegation, as it updates the Architectural Access Board's jurisdiction to align with the Americans with Disabilities Act; *and*

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) is the state's accessibility and oversight enforcement body, which develops and enforces regulations designed to make public buildings accessible to, functional for, and safe for use by persons with disabilities, yet it can only uphold compliance with state law, which has fallen decades behind the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; *and*

WHEREAS: S.1441/H.2029 would make more housing units accessible by requiring adaptable units in renovated buildings, as well as requiring employee areas in commercial buildings to be accessible; *and*

WHEREAS: The passage of S.1441/H.2029 would ensure that the buildings in the Commonwealth are ADA compliant, and that our residents with disabilities are able to have accessible living and working spaces; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council strongly supports the passage of S.1441/H.2029 "*An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board*", and urge prompt action in the approval of this legislation; *and be it further*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Governor and members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Massachusetts Senate.

Filed in Council: June 26, 2019