

# **Affordable housing threatened**

## **City seeks to preserve status quo**

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There is a housing emergency in Boston, lawmakers and city officials said yesterday.

In 2010, if the system is not changed, landlords and owners could convert thousands of affordable city apartments and homes into expensive sales or rental property, displacing families and elderly tenants.

A bill backed by Mayor Thomas Menino and state Rep. Anthony Petrucci (D-Boston) would maintain Boston's affordable housing after federal rules expire.

"It's just basic justice," said City Councilor Charles Yancey, who testified yesterday at a hearing of the Joint Committee on Housing.

Sandra Henriquez, CEO of the Boston Housing Authority, said that if the bill doesn't become law, the city would have to spend \$570 million to replace lost units - and only if the city could find somewhere to build.

"The owners must come to the table and make a fair deal," said City Councilor Sam Yoon. He said hoped the owners would see it as a partnership with the city.