

# Single-Staircase Residential Buildings

## SPONSORS

Rep. Meghan Kilcoyne (D)

Sen. John Cronin (D)

## BILL GOALS



Reduce construction costs



Build more family-sized apartments



Improve resident safety

## SINGLE-STAIR BY THE NUMBERS

**11**

States that have enacted laws or amended regulations to explore or allow single-stairway designs for four-to-six-story buildings

**Zero**

Fire-related deaths in modern single-stair buildings in New York City and Seattle attributed to lack of a second staircase

**130,000+**

Net new homes that could be created in Greater Boston

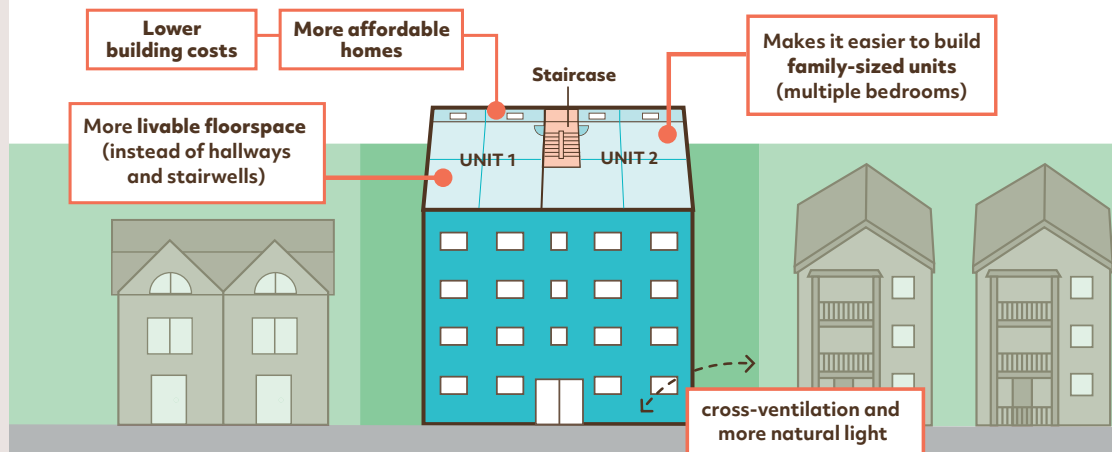
## Why we need this bill

Currently, Massachusetts Building Code requires that residential buildings above three stories contain at least two staircases. Originally put in place as a fire safety measure, improvements in fire safety technology such as sprinklers and smoke control systems, along with a **growing body of research indicating the safety and efficiency of single-stair buildings**, have prompted a re-assessment of this rule.

## This bill will...

- ▶ **Establish a commission of experts** to develop a model building code that defines how single-stair residential buildings up to six stories would be legalized
- ▶ **Allocate \$250,000 to support the commission's work**, including conducting fire safety tests

## Single-Stair Buildings have many benefits including:



## PROPOSED COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts
- American Institute of Architects
- National Fire Protection Association
- Board of Building Regulations and Standards
- Home Builders and Remodelers Association
- American Planning Association Massachusetts Chapter
- NAIOP
- Center for Building in North America
- Abundant Housing MA