

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY:
**AN ACT REGARDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP,
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION AND URBAN VIOLENCE
PROTECTION**

Sponsors:

Attorney General Martha Coakley, Representative Barry Finegold, Senator James Timilty

The mortgage foreclosure crisis that has gripped our country continues to grow each day. As a result, many properties throughout Massachusetts have been abandoned and thus, are vacant. These properties, which can remain empty for months or years at a time, are susceptible to building code violations, dilapidation, and criminal activity such as copper stripping and theft, drug dealing, and even arson. Such issues hinder efforts to address urban violence at its core, including efforts to revitalize our troubled neighborhoods so that people feel safe.

An Act Regarding Community Leadership, Neighborhood Revitalization and Urban Violence Protection is a bill establishing methods to combat the effects of the foreclosure crisis in our neighborhoods by creating a statewide Abandoned Housing Registry and a statewide Second-Hand Metals Registry.

Municipalities and law enforcement officials face significant obstacles in locating the owners of abandoned properties or the criminal offenders involved in stealing metal from such structures. The lack of consistent registration requirements or statewide databases makes it virtually impossible to obtain this information.

This legislation addresses these problems by creating:

- (a) A two-year pilot program establishing a state-wide vacant and foreclosed property registry, known as the *Massachusetts Abandoned Property Registry (MAP)*, housed within the Attorney General's Office; and
- (b) A state-wide second hand metals registry, known as the *Massachusetts Second-Hand Metals Registry (SHMR)*.

Upon implementation, the legislation will:

- Require all property owners, including: lenders, trustees and service companies, to register and properly maintain vacant and foreclosed properties.
- Establish registration requirements for identifying vacant and foreclosed properties and the property managers.
- Establish a fee and penalty structure to ensure compliance with MAP.
- Require junk dealers and pawnbrokers to register/license their businesses with the state agency running SHMR.
- Require detailed submissions of transactions by junk dealers and pawnbrokers to SHMR.
- Establish a fee and penalty structure to ensure compliance with SHMR.