

Vacant houses fall into disrepair, attract crime, and create safety issues in neighborhoods. Further, metal piping and other fixtures are stolen from the structure, thus making its title unmarketable for mortgage loan qualification purposes and hurting home values in neighborhoods in which thefts occur. S.145 seeks to halt and reverse this problem with a two-prong approach:

Second-Hand Metal Dealer Registry

Abandoned Property Registry

Second-Hand Metal Dealer Registry: All Scrap Dealers must:

- a. Keep a log of information from all transactions (e.g. purchasing metal from walk-in customers):
 1. Signed statement by seller as to his personal information;
 2. Photocopy of a driver's license or similar government-issued ID;
 3. Photo and record of weight of metal item received if valued over \$250 (or notation of serial number, if present)
- b. Forward the information on item and seller to Criminal History Systems Board within 48 hours.
- c. Retain all metal items received for 10 days.

Bill provides criminal penalties for providing false personal information, or for knowingly receiving stolen items.

Abandoned Property Registry

The primary difficulty in ensuring that vacant properties are kept in decent condition lies in the difficulty in locating their owners, who are responsible for keeping their property up to Code and preventing it from becoming a public nuisance.

In response to the growing foreclosure/vacancy problem, some cities have enacted local ordinances requiring the registration of vacant properties. However, there is no state law with a single, unified Registry.

S.145 creates a two-year pilot program establishing a statewide vacant and foreclosed property registry housed within the Attorney General's Office.

Status: Before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure. Tentative hearing on July 19, 2011.

Action Needed: Ask your legislators to urge the Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure to report the Bill "OUGHT to Pass."