

Vacant and abandoned properties detract from the quality of neighborhood life and, instead of generating property tax revenues, create a drain on community resources and services. Ultimately, getting these properties back into productive use provides opportunities for future home ownership, neighborhood improvement, creation of local jobs in rehabilitation, and increasing the municipality's tax base. Redevelopment of such properties supports smart growth and a general positive upward spiral for the community. Current Law:

- Under current law, a municipality has broad discretion in establishing criteria for the selection of buyers and sale terms, but there are significant public notice requirements for the solicitation of proposals to purchase.
- The current law can be slow and inefficient. It is prescriptive and does not provide flexibility in regard to quickly identifying and moving properties from municipal ownership to private ownership that have value for rehabilitation and occupancy, particularly in older urban communities.
- The current law does not allow communities to effectively leverage real estate brokers and their marketing infrastructure to identify value, focus marketing resources and expertise, and quickly move properties to private ownership. This bill would permit municipalities to engage brokers and receive these benefits.

S.1029, H.1460 :

The SCOPE Bill would give municipalities the option of selling its vacant and under-utilized properties to qualified buyers in the open market through a more efficient and cost-effective process.

- This proposal for an alternative approach will provide municipalities with the ability to choose a market-driven sales program using locally knowledgeable real estate brokers while at the same time, provide a clear and predictable path for the municipal seller, the broker, and the buyer.
- By providing municipalities with this option, they will be able to access the network of independent private sector real estate brokers and agents to supply the marketing and brokerage services that most buyers and sellers have come to depend upon to help address their housing and real estate needs.

Status: Before the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Hearing not yet scheduled.

Action Needed: Ask your legislators to urge the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to schedule a prompt hearing and to report the Bill "OUGHT to Pass."