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H.794

Introduced by Representatives Martin of Wolcott, Peltz of Woodbury, and
Woodward of Johnson

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal authority; ordinances; vacant buildings

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to grant
municipalities the authority to compel the repair of vacant buildings that are
open to weather.

An act relating to municipal authority to repair vacant buildings

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

§ 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and
convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following
powers:

* * *

(13)(A) To compel the cleaning or repair of any premises which in the
judgment of the legislative body is dangerous to the health or safety of the
public.

1 (B) To compel the owner of a vacant building that is in a state of
2 disrepair such that the interior of the building is open to the weather and
3 elements to repair the building. If the building's owner fails to repair the
4 building within 90 days of an order to repair the building, the municipality may
5 repair the building or, if the building cannot reasonably be repaired, may cause
6 the building to be removed, with any expenses related to the repair or removal
7 of the building to constitute a lien on the property in the same manner and to
8 the same extent as taxes assessed on the grand list, and all procedures and
9 remedies for the collection of taxes shall apply to the collection of those
10 expenses.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.