

By Miss Howe of Somerville, petition of Marie E. Howe and Richard F. Finnigan relative to correcting certain conditions in unoccupied buildings which are detrimental to public safety, health, welfare or morals. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CORRECTION OF CERTAIN CONDITIONS IN UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS WHICH ARE DETRIMENTAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, WELFARE OR MORALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 5 the following section:—

3 *Section 4A.* A building commissioner of a city, or other
4 officer performing similar duties, upon receipt of written notice
5 from a public officer or other interested party that there is in such
6 city a building which has been unoccupied or not used for six
7 months or longer and which by reason of dilapidation, lack of
8 repair or lack of sanitation facilities, is detrimental to public
9 safety, health, welfare or morals or, if a dwelling, is unfit for
10 human habitation, shall cause an immediate investigation of the
11 condition of said building to be made.

12 If said building commissioner or other officer finds that the
13 statements contained in said written notice are true he shall
14 forthwith send a notice, by registered mail, to the owner of record
15 of the building which shall require said owner to make the
16 building safe or, in the case of a dwelling, fit for human
17 habitation.

18 If said owner fails to comply substantially with said notice
19 within fourteen days of the receipt thereof said building
20 commissioner or other officer shall enter, condemn the building

21 and cause it to be razed forthwith, and in that event the cost of the
 22 investigation, notice and razing, and incidental expenses shall
 23 constitute a lien upon the land upon which the building is located
 24 which shall be enforced within the time and the manner provided
 25 for the collection of taxes.