1	TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
2	The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3	Bill No. 794 entitled "An act relating to municipal authority to repair vacant
4	buildings" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5	that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
6	in lieu thereof the following:
7	Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:
8	§ 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS
9	For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and
10	convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following
11	powers:
12	* * *
13	(13)(A) To compel the cleaning $\Theta_{\overline{1}}$, repair, or removal of any premises
14	which in the judgment of the legislative body is dangerous to the health or
15	safety of the public.
16	(B) To compel the owner of a vacant building in a downtown area,
17	designated downtown, growth center, village center, new town center, or
18	Vermont neighborhood that is damaged or in a state of disrepair such that the
19	building has missing or boarded windows or doors; collapsing or missing
20	walls, roof, or floor; fire damage; or a foundation that is structurally faulty to

repair the building. If the building's owner fails to repair the building within

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1	180 days of an order to repair the building, the municipality may repair the
2	building or, if the building cannot reasonably be repaired, may cause the
3	building to be removed, with any expenses related to the repair or removal of
4	the building to constitute a lien on the property, recorded in the land records, in
5	the same manner and to the same extent as taxes assessed on the grand list, and
6	all procedures and remedies for the collection of taxes shall apply to the
7	collection of those expenses, provided that the town, city, or incorporated
8	village has adopted rules to determine if a building is in the requisite state of
9	disrepair, including provisions for notice in accordance with 32 V.S.A.
10	§ 5252(3) to the building's owner prior to incurring expenses and including
11	provisions for an administrative appeals process.
12	Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
13	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.
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15	
16	(Committee vote:)
17	
18	Representative
19	FOR THE COMMITTEE