

1 H.874

2 SHORT FORM

3 Introduced by Representative Burrows of West Windsor

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Municipal and county government; regulatory provisions and police
7 powers; abandoned property; housing; conservation and development;
8 Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize a
10 municipality to acquire through voluntary sale, judicial foreclosure, or other
11 lawful means, or alternatively to impose incrementally increasing fines on, any
12 residential property located within a designated downtown or village area that
13 has been abandoned. Property acquired would be used solely for a public
14 purpose, such as medical housing, transitional housing, rehabilitative or respite
15 housing, or youth or community facilities. Separately, the bill proposes to
16 authorize a municipality to acquire abandoned commercial property located
17 within a designated downtown or village area and dispose of the commercial
18 property to purchasers who demonstrate a material local economic presence or
19 commitment, operate or intend to operate a startup or small business, and
20 contribute to the downtown or village economic revitalization. In addition, the
21 bill proposes to authorize municipalities to enforce habitability standards for

1 residential and commercial rental properties and to adopt controls on annual
2 rent increases subject to certain limitations. The bill proposes to limit funding
3 under the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program to individuals
4 improving individually owned residential properties, provide additional
5 funding for first-time homebuyers purchasing residential properties needing
6 repairs, and provide funding incentives for housing developments built
7 specifically for senior citizens if the development includes housing for visiting
8 relatives, housing for medical personnel, or respite housing. Finally, the bill
9 proposes to require that all housing developments receiving State funds
10 incorporate universal design principles in the designs of the housing
11 development, to require that a certain number of housing units be fully
12 compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to give priority to
13 applicants with a disability for units designated for individuals exiting
14 homelessness.

15 An act relating to municipal acquisition of abandoned residential and
16 commercial property, municipal regulation of housing, and State funding
17 for housing development

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

19 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)