

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 286**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Ronald Mariano***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act regulating secondary metals dealings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ronald Mariano</i>	<i>3rd Norfolk</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 286**

By Mr. Mariano of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 286) of Ronald Mariano and others relative to secondary metals dealings. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1984 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act regulating secondary metals dealings.

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

1 SECTION 1. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 140B, the  
2 following chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 140B½.

4 SECONDARY METAL DEALING

5 Section 1. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following  
6 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

7 “Engaging in a business”, a regular occupation or constant employment; not an isolated  
8 or occasional transaction.

9           “Metal” or “metal article”, any substance or article consisting of metal or a metal alloy  
10 but excluding aluminum beverage containers if such containers have a refund value pursuant to  
11 section 322 of chapter 94.

12           “Prohibited metal”, any metal article as listed in clauses (1) through (12), inclusive, of  
13 subsection (d) of section 3 of this chapter.

14           “Registration”, process by which the scrap metal dealer will file a form at the local  
15 municipal police station which will be addressed to the local police chief which will include  
16 basic information regarding the scrap metal facility. Such form shall list the name of the  
17 registrant, nature of the business and address and contact information.

18           “Secondary metals dealer”, any business, individual, corporation, association or  
19 organization engaged in secondary metals dealing for profit.

20           “Secondary metals dealing”, engaging in a business, from a fixed location or otherwise,  
21 of gathering or obtaining metal or metal articles that are no longer in use and the economic value  
22 thereof is based upon the metal or article’s potential for re-use or upon the worth of the raw  
23 material of which such article is made.

24           Section 2. (a) No person shall carry on the business of being a scrap metal processor,  
25 collector of, dealer in or keeper of a shop for the purchase, sale, and barter of junk, scrap metal  
26 commodities, old metals or second hand articles without filing a registration form with the  
27 municipality’s chief of police or designee.

28 All registrations under this section shall be made on a form or forms to be prescribed by  
29 the municipality's chief of police or designee and shall set forth the name of the registrant, the  
30 nature of the business and the building or place in the city or town in which it is to be carried on.

31 The fee for such registration shall be determined by the chief of police or designee.  
32 Societies, associations or corporations organized solely for religious or charitable purposes shall  
33 not be required to pay a fee for such registration. No registrations shall be transferred without  
34 prior consent of the chief of police and all registrations shall be posted on the registrant's  
35 premises in a conspicuous place and manner.

36 Every registration issued under this section shall expire on May first following the date of  
37 issue.

38 Section 3. A secondary metals dealer registered in accordance with this section 2 of this  
39 chapter shall comply with the following procedures when purchasing any metal products:

40 (a) The dealer shall require that the individual selling the metals provide a Massachusetts  
41 or state-issued photo identification and the dealer shall maintain a copy of the same in the record  
42 of transaction.

43 (b) The dealer shall ascertain the identity of any business, organization, society,  
44 corporation or other entity, selling the metals by requiring that a federal employer identification  
45 number be provided and the dealer shall maintain a copy of the number in the record of  
46 transaction.

47 (c) The dealer shall keep a daily transaction log, in the English language and such log  
48 information shall include: (1) Name, date of birth and residence of the person with whom such a

49 transaction was made, or company or organization name and principal address with whom such a  
50 transaction was made; (2) The date and time when such a transaction occurred; (3) The price  
51 paid for the article; (4) A description of the article, including type, weight and quantity; (5) The  
52 license plate number and state of issue of the vehicle being used by the person offering the article  
53 to transport the article to the registrant's place of business; and (6) A written statement from the  
54 person offering the article stating that he or she is in lawful possession of the article being  
55 offered.

56 (d) A secondary metals dealer may not accept from any individual, who is not company  
57 affiliated or an authorized contractor of the manufacturer, municipality, government,  
58 communications company or utility, the following items: (1) guardrails; (2) manhole covers; (3)  
59 cables used only in high voltage transmission lines; (4) historical markers; (5) cemetery plaques;  
60 (6) full sized new materials, such as those used in construction; (7) equipment tools used by  
61 contractors; (8) bleachers from an athletic field; (9) traffic signs; (10) beer kegs; (11) railroad  
62 scrap metal; (12) materials that have been reported stolen through the Institute of Scrap  
63 Recycling Industries, Inc. or "ISRI" alert system; and (13) any metal item bearing the mark of  
64 any government entity, utility or communications company, or copper wire, the insulation  
65 around which the dealer knew or reasonably should have known had been burned or stripped  
66 away.

67 A list of the materials named above which are deemed to be prohibited metals shall be  
68 prominently posted on a large sign at every registered facility in the commonwealth.

69 (e) The record file shall be retained by the dealer for a period of 1 year from the date of  
70 the transaction. Accompanying documentation may be destroyed following the 1 year period. If

71 documentation is stored electronically, said documents must be stored or backed-up by any  
72 current electronic means and may be deleted at the completion of the 1 year period.

73 (f) During the 1 year period, the log shall be open for inspection by the state and local  
74 police upon reasonable request.

75 Section 4. (a) Following notification, either verbally or in writing, from a law  
76 enforcement officer that specific scrap materials have been reported as stolen, a scrap processor  
77 or recycling facility operator that is in possession of the scrap material in question shall hold that  
78 scrap material intact and safe from alteration, damage or commingling and shall place an  
79 identifying tag or other suitable identification upon the scrap material.

80 (b) A law enforcement officer making a verbal request shall provide the scrap processor  
81 or recycling facility operator, upon request, with the officer's name, badge number and  
82 department contact telephone number so that the scrap processor or recycling facility operator  
83 may call back to confirm the identity of the law enforcement officer.

84 (c) Within 48 hours of notification by the law enforcement officer or 48 hours of the  
85 receipt of the material, whichever is later, the scrap processor or recycling facility operator shall  
86 notify the law enforcement officer that scrap material matching the law enforcement officer's  
87 description is on the premises.

88 (d) The scrap processor or recycling facility shall hold the scrap material for a period of  
89 time as directed by the applicable law enforcement agency, up to a maximum of 48 hours  
90 following notification, unless extended pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

91 (e) A law enforcement officer shall not place a hold on any scrap material unless that law  
92 enforcement officer reasonably suspects that the scrap material is lost or stolen. The request to  
93 hold scrap material shall be as specific as possible by using descriptive language, including, but  
94 not limited to, the type and style of the material, length or weight or any other such description to  
95 identify the material to be held. Any hold that is placed on scrap material shall not exceed 48  
96 hours, and the scrap material must be returned to the owner or released when the hold has been  
97 released or has expired.

98 (f) A holding period may be extended beyond 48 hours only upon the order of a clerk-  
99 magistrate after the clerk-magistrate has determined that probable cause exists that the scrap  
100 material is lost or stolen.

101 (g) A scrap processor or recycling facility operator that receives material that does not  
102 meet the description materials being sought by a law enforcement officer may dispose of that  
103 material at its discretion.

104 Section 5. (a) Any secondary metals dealer who knowingly buys or receives a prohibited  
105 metal may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 for the first offense. Upon a second  
106 offense, such dealer may be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000. Upon a third or  
107 subsequent offense, such dealer may be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000.

108 (b) It shall be illegal to engage in secondary metals dealing without registering in  
109 accordance with section 2 of this chapter. Any person who illegally engages in secondary metals  
110 dealing without registering may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$3,000 by the city or  
111 town in which the violation occurred. This penalty shall be imposed pursuant to any by-law or  
112 ordinance adopted by a town or city under chapter 40.

113 (c) Any person who violates section 30 of chapter 266 and in which the property for such  
114 violation is a prohibited metal may be punished by a fine of not more than \$250 for the first  
115 offense. Upon a second offense, such person may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.  
116 Upon a third or subsequent offense, such person may be punished by a fine of not more than  
117 \$1,000.

118 (d) Any person who fails to comply with the procedures and record-keeping requirements  
119 as outlined in section 3 of this chapter may be punished by a fine of not more than \$150 for the  
120 first offense. Upon a second offense, such person may be punished by a fine of not more than  
121 \$300. Upon a third or subsequent offense, such person may be punished by a fine of not more  
122 than \$500.

123 (e) Any penalty imposed for a violation of this chapter shall be imposed in addition to  
124 any other penalty imposed under laws of the commonwealth and shall be payable to the city or  
125 town where the violation occurred.

126 Section 6. The provisions set forth in this act shall not apply to vehicles received by an  
127 entity subject to the regulation and reporting requirements of the federal National Motor Vehicle  
128 Title Information System, as set forth in 49 U.S.C. § 30501.

129 SECTION 2. Section 54 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
130 Official Edition, appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 5, the words “old metals”.

131 SECTION 3. Section 202 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
132 by striking out, in line 2, the words “old metals and”.



133 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
134 commissioner of banks shall establish a 2-year pilot program to implement a Massachusetts  
135 abandoned property registry, hereinafter referred to as MAP. Such registry shall require all  
136 property owners, including lenders, trustees, and service companies, to properly register and  
137 maintain vacant or foreclosing properties located in the commonwealth. Law enforcement  
138 entities including, but not limited to, the attorney general and municipalities shall have access to  
139 the MAP. The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations governing the implementation and  
140 administration of the MAP pilot program and shall have the authority to impose a civil  
141 assessment for failure to register or maintain vacant or abandoned properties of not more than  
142 \$3,000 for each violation subject to the provisions of chapter 30A.

143 Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with any local ordinance regulating  
144 vacant and abandoned properties.

145 SECTION 5. Section 4 shall take effect 120 days after the after the effective date of this  
146 act.