

HCS SB 214 -- EMERGING ISSUES

SPONSOR: Pearce (Jones)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 1.

Currently, any person who expends labor, services, skill, or material upon any chattel at the request of its owner, authorized agent of the owner, or the lawful possessor in the amount of \$25 or less must have a lien upon the property beginning on the date that the labor, service, skill, or material is commenced until the possession of the chattel is voluntarily relinquished to the owner or authorized agent, or to one entitled to the possession. This bill increases that amount to \$500 or less.

Currently, any chattel not exceeding \$100 in value that is not redeemed within one year of the agreed upon date for redemption must be deemed abandoned to the lienor and the owner or depositor of the chattel must be barred from the recovery of the chattels, the value thereof, or of any damages growing out of the failure of the person to receive the chattels. The bill increases the value to not exceeding \$500.

The bill establishes the Joint Legislative Task Force on Scrap Metal Salvage Dealers to study statutes and regulations concerning scrap metal and salvage materials, disparities in or needs for modification to existing statutes or regulations, and ways in which existing statutes or regulations may be improved to reduce the theft and sale of materials as scrap metal. The task force will consist of four members of the General Assembly appointed as specified in the bill who must serve without compensation. The members must compile a report of their findings for the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House by December 31, 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help small businesses dispose of property that is left with them and on which they have a lien. The amount of liens should be increased to account for inflation.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Pearce.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.