

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27TH DISTRICT

Gleason Press Release

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Senator Gleason Introduces Legislation to License Scrap Yards, Deter Purchase of Stolen Materials

Struggling Economy Leads to Increased Theft and Sale of Copper, Aluminum and Other Metals

LANSING —Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing) introduced Senate Bill 1089 today to address the growing problem of metal materials theft and sale to disreputable junk yards. The legislation would require the Department of Labor and Economic Growth to license secondhand and junk dealers that local governments aren't currently regulating.

“Since Michigan has fallen on tough economic times, we have seen a huge spike in the stealing of valuable metal materials—from out of construction sites to under car hoods—for resale to junkyards, and we need to do everything we can to put that to a stop,” said Sen. Gleason. “This legislation will make sure our laws evolve to prevent this growing problem.”

Currently, secondhand and junk dealers are only licensed by local authorities, but some don't license those types of establishments. The dramatic increase of theft and subsequent sale of copper, aluminum and other metals to secondhand and junk dealers has made it necessary for the state to step in and regulate where local units of government have not enacted an ordinance.

“This is a growing problem in Genesee County and around the state, and becoming more detrimental not just to landlords and property owners, but utility companies, construction contractors and regular citizens as well,” said Terry Hanson, Executive Officer of the Genesee Landlords Association. “We appreciate Senator Gleason's efforts to nip this in the bud and protect our holdings and everyone else whose livelihood and lives are affected by this crime.”

SB 1089 would make the sale or purchase of unlawfully obtained “construction materials” a felony with a maximum of 5 years and or \$10, 000 dollars. This would include: wire, cable, pipes or siding made of aluminum; catalytic converters containing platinum, palladium, or rhodium; copper, titanium, tungsten, and nickel in any form; and any materials normally associated with the construction or renovation of a house or a building that may be found at a new construction/demolition site or in an existing occupied or unoccupied building or house.

“Property owners can't monitor their rentals at all times, and when they are unoccupied, they are highly susceptible to invasion and pillaging,” said Clay Powell, Director of the Rental Property Owners Association of Michigan. “Rental properties are an asset and an investment, and this legislation would go far to protect them from the increasing threat of material burglary.”

SB 1089 would put an end to “mobile” junk dealers, require dealers to keep a log listing the weight, amount, and number of articles sold as well as the seller’s name, amount paid, and location the scrap was obtained from. It would prohibit cash payment for the purchase of scrap (only check or electronic means), and require records to be given to law enforcement within 24 hours of request in addition to the current requirement of reporting each week.

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