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## DIGEST

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HB 512 Original

2025 Regular Session

Phelps

**Abstract:** Provides relative to criminal blighting.

Present law (R.S. 14:107.3) provides for the crime of criminal blighting.

Proposed law retains present law generally.

Present law (R.S. 14:107.3(A)(1)) defines the term "blighted property".

Proposed law amends present law to provide that "blighted property" shall include premises that are occupied by tenants who have a right of possession, ownership, occupancy, or a lease interest, or by adverse possessors.

Present law (R.S. 14:107.3(B)) provides that criminal blighting of property is the intentional or criminally negligent permitting of the existence of a condition of deterioration of property by the owner, which is deemed to have occurred when the property has been declared or certified as blighted after an administrative hearing, pursuant to present law (R.S. 13:2575 or 2576).

Proposed law amends present law to include a representative or agent of the property owner or anyone with custody, control, or ownership of the property as individuals who may be subject to prosecution for criminal blighting.

Proposed law provides that a municipality that receives a complaint alleging a violation of present law shall investigate such complaint as practicable. Further provides that if the complaint is found to be credible, the municipality shall proceed with an administrative hearing pursuant to present law (R.S. 13:2575 or 2576).

(Amends R.S. 14:107.3(A)(1) and (B); Adds R.S. 14:107.3(I))