

# STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012**

**AG: DEBT COLLECTION REGS TAKE EFFECT FRIDAY |** New state debt collection regulations set to take effect on Friday will better protect consumers and more accurately reflect improvements and changes in technology, Attorney General Martha Coakley's office announced Thursday. The regulations were aired during public hearings in the spring of 2011 and make numerous changes that Coakley's office says will streamline rules under the state's Consumer Protection Act. According to Coakley's office, the regulations will ensure that "abusive dialogue" by phone recordings and text messages is banned, include first mortgages or loans exceeding \$25,000 in the definition of debt, and amend the definition of creditor to include buyers of delinquent debt who hire a third party to collect. The new regulations also incorporate banned practices from the state Division of Banks and require any person collecting debt to determine in good faith whether the debt is "time barred," or no longer collectible through court action. 2:21 p.m.