## SECOND REGULAR SESSION

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 2237**

## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LeBLANC (Sponsor), SALVA, HUGHES, SCAVUZZO, WALTON GRAY, WEBB, McDONALD, SKAGGS, BROWN (50) AND BURNETT (Co-sponsors).

5174L.01I D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 141.210, 141.220, 141.250, 141.290, 141.300, 141.320, 141.410, 141.420, 141.430, 141.450, 141.480, 141.500, 141.520, 141.570, RSMo, and section 141.530 as enacted by senate committee substitute for house substitute for house committee substitute for house bills nos. 977 & 1608, eighty-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and section 141.530 as enacted by conference committee substitute no. 2 for house committee substitute for senate bill no. 778, eighty-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and to enact in lieu thereof eighteen new sections relating to land tax collection, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 141.210, 141.220, 141.250, 141.290, 141.300, 141.320, 141.410,

- 2 141.420, 141.430, 141.450, 141.480, 141.500, 141.520, 141.570, RSMo, and section 141.530
- 3 as enacted by senate committee substitute for house substitute for house committee substitute
- 4 for house bills nos. 977 & 1608, eighty-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and
- 5 section 141.530 as enacted by conference committee substitute no. 2 for house committee
- 6 substitute for senate bill no. 778, eighty-ninth general assembly, second regular session, are
- 7 repealed and eighteen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 141.210,
- 8 141.220, 141.250, 141.290, 141.300, 141.320, 141.410, 141.420, 141.430, 141.450, 141.480,
- 9 141.500, 141.520, 141.530, 141.570, 141.980, 141.981, and 141.982, to read as follows:
- 141.210. Sections 141.210 to [141.810] **141.982** shall be known by the short title of
- 2 "Land Tax Collection Law".

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141.220. The following words, terms and definitions, when used in sections 141.210 to 141.810, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the text clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) "Appraiser" shall mean a state licensed or certified appraiser licensed or certified pursuant to chapter 339, RSMo, who is not an employee of the collector or collection authority;
- 6 (2) "Collector" shall mean the collector of the revenue in any county affected by sections 7 141.210 to 141.810;
  - (3) "County" shall mean any county of the first class in this state having a charter form of government, any county of the first class not having a charter form of government with a population of at least one hundred fifty thousand but less than one hundred sixty thousand and any county of the first class not having a charter form of government with a population of at least eighty-two thousand but less than eighty-five thousand;
- 13 (4) "Court" shall mean the circuit court of any county affected by sections 141.210 to 14 141.810;
  - (5) "Delinquent land tax attorney" shall mean a licensed attorney-at-law, employed or designated by the collector as hereinafter provided;
    - (6) "Land bank agency", the agency created under section 141.980;
    - (7) "Land bank commission", the commission created under section 141.980;
- 19 **(8)** "Land taxes" shall mean taxes on real property or real estate and shall include the 20 taxes both on land and the improvements thereon;
  - [(7)] (9) "Land trustees" and "land trust" shall mean the land trustees and land trust as the same are created by and described in section 141.700;
  - [(8)] (10) "Municipality" shall include any incorporated city or town, or a part thereof, located in whole or in part within a county of class one, which municipality now has or which may hereafter contain a population of two thousand five hundred inhabitants or more, according to the last preceding federal decennial census;
  - [(9)] (11) "Person" shall mean any individual, male or female, firm, copartnership, joint adventure, association, corporation, estate, trust, business trust, receiver or trustee appointed by any state or federal court, trustee otherwise created, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit, and the plural as well as the singular number;
- [(10)] (12) "School district", "road district", "water district", "sewer district", "levee district", "drainage district", "special benefit district", "special assessment district", or "park district" shall include those located within a county as such county is described in subdivision (3) of this section;
- [(11)] (13) "Sheriff" and "circuit clerk" shall mean the sheriff and circuit clerk, respectively, of any county affected by sections 141.210 to 141.810;

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[(12)] (14) "Tax bill" as used in sections 141.210 to 141.810 shall represent real estate taxes and the lien thereof, whether general or special, levied and assessed by any taxing authority;

[(13)] (15) "Tax district" shall mean the state of Missouri and any county, municipality, school district, road district, water district, sewer district, levee district, drainage district, special benefit district, special assessment district, or park district, located in any municipality or county as herein described;

[(14)] (16) "Tax lien" shall mean the lien of any tax bill as defined in [subdivision (12) of] this section;

[(15)] (17) "Taxing authority" shall include any governmental, managing, administering or other lawful authority, now or hereafter empowered by law to issue tax bills, the state of Missouri or any county, municipality, school district, road district, water district, sewer district, levee district, drainage district, special benefit district, special assessment district, or park district, affected by sections 141.210 to 141.810.

141.250. 1. The respective liens of the tax bills for general taxes of the state of Missouri, the county, any municipality and any school district, for the same tax year, shall be equal and first liens upon the real estate described in the respective tax bills thereof; provided, however, that the liens of such tax bills for the latest year for which tax bills are unpaid shall take priority over the liens of tax bills levied and assessed for less recent years, and the lien of such tax bills shall rate in priority in the order of the years for which they are delinquent, the lien of the tax bill longest delinquent being junior in priority to the lien of the tax bill for the next most recent tax year.

- 2. All tax bills for other than general taxes shall constitute liens junior to the liens for general taxes upon the real estate described therein; provided, however, that a tax bill for other than general taxes, of the more recent issue shall likewise be senior to any such tax bill of less recent date.
- 3. The proceeds derived from the sale of any lands encumbered with a tax lien or liens, or held by the land trustees **or land bank agency**, shall be distributed to the owners of such liens in the order of the seniority of the liens, or their respective interests as shown by the records of the land trust **or land bank agency**. Those holding liens of equal rank shall share in direct proportion to the amounts of their respective liens.
- 141.290. 1. The collector shall compile lists of all state, county, school, and other tax
  bills collectible by him which are delinquent according to his records and he shall combine such
  lists with the list filed by any taxing authority or tax bill owner.
- 4 2. The collector shall assign a serial number to each parcel of real estate in each list and 5 if suit has been filed in the circuit court of the county on any delinquent tax bill included in any

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list, the collector shall give the court docket number of such suit and some appropriate designation of the place where such suit is pending, and such pending suit so listed in any petition filed pursuant to the provisions of sections 141.210 to [141.810] 141.982 shall, without 9 further procedure or court order, be deemed to be consolidated with the suit brought under sections 141.210 to [141.810] 141.982, and such pending suit shall thereupon be abated. 10

- 3. The collector shall deliver such combined lists to the delinquent land tax attorney from time to time but not later than April the first of each year.
- 13 4. The delinquent land tax attorney shall incorporate such lists in petitions in the form 14 prescribed in section 141.410, and shall file such petitions with the circuit clerk not later than 15 June first of each year.
  - 141.300. 1. The collector shall receipt for the aggregate amount of such delinquent tax bills appearing on the list or lists filed with him under the provisions of section 141.290, which receipt shall be held by the owner or holder of the tax bills or by the treasurer or other corresponding financial officer of the taxing authority so filing such list with the collector.
- 2. The collector shall, on or before the fifth day of each month, file with the owner or holder of any tax bill or with the treasurer or other corresponding financial officer of any taxing authority, a detailed statement, verified by affidavit, of all taxes collected by him during the 7 preceding month which appear on the list or lists received by him, and shall, on or before the fifteenth day of the month, pay the same, less his commissions and costs payable to the county, to the tax bill owner or holder or to the treasurer or other corresponding financial officer of any 10 taxing authority; provided, however, that the collector shall be given credit for the full amount 12 of any tax bill which is bid in by the land trustees and where title to the real estate described in such tax bill is taken by the land trust or where title to the real estate described in such tax bill is taken by the land bank agency.
  - 141.320. 1. The collector shall at his option appoint a delinquent land tax attorney at a compensation of ten thousand dollars per year, or in counties having a county counselor, the collector shall at his option designate the county counselor and such of his assistants as shall appear necessary to act as the delinquent land tax attorney.
  - 2. A delinquent land tax attorney who is not the county counselor, with the approval of the collector, may appoint one or more assistant delinquent land tax attorneys at salaries of not less than two hundred dollars and not more than four hundred dollars per month, and such clerical employees as may be necessary, at salaries to be fixed by the collector at not less than three hundred dollars and not more than four hundred dollars per month; and the appointed delinquent tax attorney may incur such reasonable expenses as are necessary for the performance of his duties.

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3. The delinquent land tax attorney and his assistants shall perform legal services for the collector and shall act as attorney for him in the prosecution of all suits brought for the collection of land taxes; but they shall not perform legal services for the land trust **or land bank agency**.

- 4. Salaries and expenses of a delinquent land tax attorney who is not also the county counselor, his assistants and his employees shall be paid monthly out of the treasury of the county from the same funds as employees of the collector whenever the funds provided for by sections 141.150, 141.270, and 141.620 are not sufficient for such purpose.
- 5. The compensation herein provided shall be the total compensation for a delinquent land tax attorney who is not also a county counselor, his assistants and employees, and when the compensation received by him or owing to him by the collector exceeds ten thousand dollars in any one calendar year by virtue of the sums charged and collected pursuant to the provisions of section 141.150, the surplus shall be credited and applied by the collector to the expense of the delinquent land tax attorney and to the compensation of his assistants and employees, and any sum then remaining shall be paid into the county treasury on or before the first day of March of each year and credited to the general revenue fund of the county.
- 6. A delinquent land tax attorney who is not also the county counselor shall make a return quarterly to the county commission of such county of all compensation received by him, and of all amounts owing to him by the collector, and of all salaries and expenses of any assistants and employees, stating the same in detail, and verifying such amounts by his affidavit.
- 141.410. 1. A suit for the foreclosure of the tax liens herein provided for shall be instituted by filing in the appropriate office of the circuit clerk a petition, which petition shall contain a caption, a copy of the list so furnished to the delinquent land tax attorney by the collector, and a prayer. Such petition without further allegation shall be deemed to be sufficient.
  - 2. The caption shall be in the following form:
- 6 In the Circuit Court of ...... County, Missouri,
- 7 In the Matter of
- 8 Foreclosure of Liens for Delinquent Land Taxes
- 9 By Action in Rem.
- 10 Collector of Revenue of .... County, Missouri,
- 11 Plaintiff
- 12 -vs.-

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- Parcels of Land Encumbered with Delinquent Tax Liens
- 14 Defendants.
- 3. **Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section,** the petition shall conclude with a prayer that all tax liens upon such real estate be foreclosed; that the court determine the amounts and priorities of all tax bills, together with interest, penalties, costs, and attorney's fees;

that the court order such real estate to be sold by the sheriff at public sale as provided by sections 19 141.210 to 141.810 and that thereafter a report of such sale be made by the sheriff to the court 20 for further proceedings under sections 141.210 to 141.810.

- 4. In lieu of a foreclosure sale, any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county may elect to transfer ownership of the real estate to a land bank agency created under section 141.980. If such an election is made, the petition shall conclude with a prayer that all tax liens upon such real estate be foreclosed, that the court determine the amounts and priorities of all tax bills together with interest, penalties, costs, and attorney's fees, and that the court order such real estate to be transferred by court administrator's deed to the land bank agency.
- 5. The delinquent land tax attorney within ten days after the filing of any such petition, shall forward by United States registered mail to each person or taxing authority having filed a list of delinquent tax bills with the collector as provided by sections 141.210 to 141.810 a notice of the time and place of the filing of such petition and of the newspaper in which the notice of publication has been or will be published.
- [5.] 6. The petition when so filed shall have the same force and effect with respect to each parcel of real estate therein described, as a separate suit instituted to foreclose the tax lien or liens against any one of said parcels of real estate.
- 141.420. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of section 141.520, any person having any right, title or interest in, or lien upon, any parcel of real estate described in such petition, may redeem such parcel of real estate by paying to the collector all of the sums mentioned therein, including principal, interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs then due, at any time prior to the time of the **execution of the deed to the land bank agency or the** foreclosure sale of such real estate by the sheriff.
- 2. In the event of failure to redeem prior to the time of the foreclosure sale by the sheriff, such person shall be barred and forever foreclosed of all his right, title and interest in and to the parcels of real estate described in such petition.
- 3. Upon redemption, as permitted by this section, the person redeeming shall be entitled to a certificate of redemption from the collector describing the property in the same manner as it is described in such petition, and the collector shall thereupon note on his records the word "redeemed" and the date of such payment opposite the description of such parcel of real estate.
- 4. The collector shall promptly notify the taxing authority and the delinquent land tax attorney of such redemption, and such payment shall operate as a release of the lien of the tax bill or bills involved and as a dismissal of the suit so far as such tax bill or bills are concerned.

141.430. 1. Upon the filing of such suits with the circuit clerk, the delinquent land tax

- 2 attorney shall forthwith cause a notice of foreclosure to be published four times, once a week,
- 3 during successive weeks, and on the same day of each week, in a daily newspaper of general
- 4 circulation regularly published in such county, qualified according to law for the publication of
- 5 public notices and advertisements.

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- 2. Such notice shall be in substantially the following form:
- 7 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT
- 8 LAND TAXES, BY ACTION IN REM
- Public notice is hereby given that on the ...... day of ....., 20.., the Collector of Revenue of ...... County, Missouri, filed a petition, being suit No. ....., in the Circuit Court of ...... County, Missouri, at ...... (stating the city), for the foreclosure of liens for delinquent land taxes (except liens in force of the United States of America, if any), against the real extens situated in such
- 12 liens in favor of the United States of America, if any) against the real estate situated in such
- 13 county, all as described in said petition.

The object of said suit is to execute a deed to the land bank agency for such real estate or obtain from the Court a judgment foreclosing the tax liens against such real estate and ordering the sale of such real estate for the satisfaction of said tax liens thereon (except liens in favor of the United States of America, if any), including principal, interest, penalties, attorneys' fees and costs. Such action is brought against the real estate only and no personal judgment shall be entered therein.

The serial number assigned by the Collector to each parcel of real estate, a description of each such parcel, a statement of the total principal amount of all delinquent tax bills against each such parcel of real estate, all of which, as to each parcel, is more fully set out and itemized in the aforesaid petition, and the name of the last known person appearing on the records of the collector in whose name said tax bills were listed or charged for the year preceding the calendar year in which the list described in said petition was filed with the collector, are, respectively, as follows: (Here set out the respective serial numbers, descriptions, names, and statements of total principal amounts of tax bills, next above referred to.)

The total principal amounts of delinquent taxes set out in this notice do not include the lawful interest, penalties, attorneys' fees and costs which have accrued against the respective parcels of real estate, all of which in each case is set out and itemized in the aforesaid petition.

Any person or taxing authority owning or holding any tax bill or claiming any right, title or interest in or to or lien upon any such parcel of real estate, must file an answer to such suit in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the aforesaid County, and a copy of such answer with the Delinquent Land Tax Attorney at the office of the Collector of Revenue of said County, on or before the .... day of ...., 20.., and in such answer shall set forth in detail the nature and amount

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36 of such interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure of the tax liens, or any affirmative relief he or it may be entitled to assert with respect thereto. 37

Any person having any right, title or interest in or to, or lien upon, any parcel of such real estate, may redeem such parcel of real estate by paying all of the sums mentioned therein, to the undersigned Collector of Revenue, including principal, interest, penalties, attorneys' fees and costs then due, at any time prior to the time of the execution of the deed to the land bank **agency or the** foreclosure sale of such real estate by the sheriff.

In the event of failure to answer or redeem on or before the date herein fixed as the last day for filing answer in the suit, by any person having the right to answer or redeem, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed as to any defense or objection he might have to the foreclosure of such liens for delinquent taxes and a judgment of foreclosure may be taken by default. Redemption may be made, however, up to the time fixed for the **execution of the deed** to the land bank agency or the holding of sheriff's foreclosure sale, and thereafter there shall be no equity of redemption and each such person having any right, title or interest in or to, or any lien upon, any such parcel of real estate described in the petition so failing to answer or redeem as aforesaid, shall be forever barred and foreclosed of any right, title or interest in or lien upon or any equity of redemption in said real estate.

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        Collector of Revenue ......
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        County, Missouri
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        Address .....
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   Delinquent Land Tax Attorney .....
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   Address .....
   First Publication: .....
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141.450. Such notice shall be substantially as follows:

2 To the person to whom this notice is addressed:

You are the last known person, according to the records in this office, in whose name land taxes were billed or charged, as to one or more parcels of real estate described in a certain petition bearing cause No. .... (fill in number of case) filed in the Circuit Court of .... County, Missouri, at .... (fill in city), on ...., 20.., wherein a foreclosure of the lien of various delinquent tax bills is sought and a court order asked for the purpose of executing a deed for the real estate to the land bank agency or selling said real estate at a public sale for payment of all delinquent tax bills, together with interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs. Publication of notice of such foreclosure was commenced on the .... day of ...., 20..., in .... (here insert name of newspaper), a

11 daily newspaper published in .... (here insert name of city), Missouri.

Unless all delinquent taxes be paid upon the parcels of real estate described in said petition and said real estate redeemed prior to the time of the execution of the deed to the land bank agency or the foreclosure sale of such real estate by the sheriff, the owner or any person claiming any right, title or interest in or to, or lien upon, any such parcels of real estate, shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to such parcels of real estate; provided, however, that any such persons shall have the right to file an answer in said suit on or before the .... day of ...., 20.., in the office of the Circuit Clerk and a copy thereof with the Delinquent Land Tax Attorney, setting forth in detail the nature and amount of the interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure.

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23	Delinquent Land Tax	Collector of Revenue
24	Attorney	County, Missouri
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26	Address	Address

141.480. 1. Upon the trial of the cause upon the question of foreclosure, the tax bill, whether general or special, issued by any taxing authority shall be prima facie proof that the tax described in the tax bill has been validly assessed at the time indicated by the tax bill and that the tax is unpaid. Absent any answer the court shall take the allegations of the petition as confessed. Any person alleging any jurisdictional defect or invalidity in the tax bill or in the sale thereof must particularly specify in his answer the defect or basis of invalidity, and must, upon trial, affirmatively establish such defense.

2. Prior to formal hearing, the court may conduct an informal hearing for the purpose of clarifying issues, and shall attempt to reach an agreement with the parties upon a stipulated statement of facts. The court shall hear the evidence offered by the collector or relator as the case may be, and by all answering parties, and shall determine the amount of each and every tax bill proved by the collector or any answering party, together with the amount of interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs accruing upon each tax bill and the date from which interest began to accrue upon each tax bill and the rate thereof. The court shall hear evidence and determine every issue of law and of fact necessary to a complete adjudication of all tax liens asserted by any and every pleading, and may also hear evidence and determine any other issue of law or fact affecting any other right, title, or interest in or to, or lien upon, such real estate, sought to be enforced by any party to the proceeding against any other party to the proceeding who has been served by process or publication as authorized by law, or who has voluntarily appeared, and shall determine the order and priority of the liens and of any other rights or interest put in issue by the pleadings.

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3. After the court has first determined the validity of the tax liens of all tax bills affecting parcels of real estate described in the petition, the priorities of the respective tax bills and the amounts due thereon, including principal, interest, penalties, attorney's fees, and costs, the court shall thereupon enter judgment of foreclosure of such liens and fix the time of the execution of the court administrator's deed transferring ownership of the real estate to the land bank **agency or** the time and place of the foreclosure sale. The petition shall be dismissed as to any parcel of real estate redeemed prior to the time fixed for the execution of the deed to the land bank agency or the sheriff's foreclosure sale as provided in sections 141.210 to 141.810. If the parcel of real estate auctioned off at sheriff's foreclosure sale is sold for a sum sufficient to fully pay the principal amount of all tax bills included in the judgment, together with interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs, and for no more, and such sale is confirmed by the court, then all other proceedings as to such parcels of real estate shall be finally dismissed as to all parties and interests other than tax bill owners or holders; provided, however, that any parties seeking relief other than an interest in or lien upon the real estate may continue with said suit to a final adjudication of such other issues; provided, further, an appeal may be had as to any claim attacking the validity of the tax bill or bills or the priorities as to payment of proceeds of foreclosure sale. If the parcel of real estate auctioned off at sheriff's foreclosure sale is sold for a sum greater than the total amount necessary to pay the principal amount of all tax bills included in the judgment, together with interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs, and such sale is confirmed by the court, and no appeal is taken by any person claiming any right, title or interest in or to or lien upon said parcel of real estate or by any person or taxing authority owning or holding or claiming any right, title or interest in or to any tax bills within the time fixed by law for the filing of notice of appeal, the court shall thereupon order the sheriff to make distribution to the owners or holders of the respective tax bills included in the judgment of the amounts found to be due and in the order of priorities. Thereafter all proceedings in the suit shall be ordered by the court to be dismissed as to such persons or taxing authorities owning, holding or claiming any right, title, or interest in any such tax bill or bills so paid, and the case shall proceed as to any parties claiming any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the parcel of real estate affected by such tax bill or bills as to their respective claims to such surplus funds then remaining in the hands of the sheriff.

4. Whenever an answer is filed to the petition, as herein provided, a severance of the action as to all parcels of real estate affected by such answer shall be granted, and the issues raised by the petition and such answer shall be tried separate and apart from the other issues in the suit, but the granting of such severance shall not delay the trial or other disposition of any other issue in the case. A separate appeal may be taken from any action of the court affecting any right, title, or interest in or to, or lien upon, such real estate, other than issues of law and fact

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affecting the amount or validity of the lien of tax bills, but the proceeding to foreclose the lien of any tax bills shall not be stayed by such appeal. The trial shall be conducted by the court without the aid of a jury and the suit shall be in equity. This action shall take precedence over and shall be triable before any other action in equity affecting the title to such real estate, upon motion of any interested party.

141.500. 1. After the trial of the issues, the court shall, as promptly as circumstances permit, render judgment. If the court finds that no tax bill upon the land collectible by the collector or the relator was delinquent when the suit was instituted or tried, then the judgment of the court shall be that the cause be dismissed as to the parcels of real estate described in the tax bill; or, if the evidence warrant, the judgment may be for the principal amount of the delinquent tax bills upon the real estate upon which suit was brought, together with interest, penalties, attorney's and appraiser's fees and costs computed as of the date of the judgment. The judgment may recite the amount of each tax bill, the date when it began to bear interest, and the rate of such interest, together with the rate and amount of penalties, attorney's and appraiser's fees not to exceed fifteen dollars. It may decree that the lien upon the parcels of real estate described in the tax bill be foreclosed and such real estate **deeded to the land bank agency or** sold by the sheriff, and the cause shall be continued for further proceedings, as herein provided.

2. The collector may, at his option, cause to be prepared and sent by restricted, registered or certified mail with postage prepaid, within thirty days after the rendering of such judgment, a brief notice of such judgment and the availability of a written redemption contract pursuant to section 141.530 to the persons named in the judgment as being the last known persons in whose names tax bills affecting the respective parcels of real estate described in such judgment were last billed or charged on the books of the collector, or the last known owner of record, if different, and to the addresses of such persons upon the records of the collector. The terms "restricted", "registered" or "certified mail" as used in this section mean mail which carries on the face thereof in a conspicuous place, where it will not be obliterated, the endorsement, "DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY", and which also requires a return receipt or a statement by the postal authorities that the addressee refused to receive and receipt for such mail. If the notice is returned to the collector by the postal authorities as undeliverable for reasons other than the refusal by the addressee to receive and receipt for the notice as shown by the return receipt, then the collector shall make a search of the records maintained by the county, including those kept by the recorder of deeds, to discern the name and address of any person who, from such records, appears as a successor to the person to whom the original notice was addressed, and to cause another notice to be mailed to such person. The collector shall prepare and file with the circuit clerk prior to confirmation hearings an affidavit reciting to the court any name, address and serial number of the tract of real estate affected of any such notices of judgment that are

undeliverable because of an addressee's refusal to receive and receipt for the same, or of any notice otherwise nondeliverable by mail, or in the event that any name or address does not appear on the records of the collector, then of that fact. The affidavit in addition to the recitals set forth above shall also state reason for the nondelivery of such notice.

- 141.520. 1. After the judgment of foreclosure has been entered, or, after a motion for a new trial has been overruled, or, if an appeal be taken from such judgment and the judgment has been affirmed, after the sheriff shall have been notified by any party to the suit that such judgment has been affirmed on appeal and that the mandate of the appellate court is on file with the circuit clerk, there shall be a waiting period of six months before any advertisement of sheriff's sale shall be published.
- 2. If any such parcel of real estate be not redeemed, or if no written contract providing for redemption be made within six months after the date of the judgment of foreclosure, if no motion for rehearing be filed, and, if filed, within six months after such motion may have been overruled, or, if an appeal be taken from such judgment and the judgment be affirmed, within six months after the sheriff shall have been notified by any party to the suit that such judgment has been affirmed on appeal and that the mandate of the appellate court is on file with the circuit clerk, the sheriff shall commence to advertise the real estate described in the judgment and shall fix the date of sale within thirty days after the date of the first publication of the notice of sheriff's sale as herein provided, and shall at such sale proceed to sell the real estate.
- 3. In cases of the real estate being deeded to the land bank agency, after the judgment of foreclosure has been entered or after a motion for a new trial has been overruled or if an appeal is taken from such judgment and the judgment has been affirmed, after the collector shall have been notified by any party to the suit that such judgment has been affirmed on appeal and that the mandate of the appellate court is on file with the circuit clerk, there shall be a waiting period of six months before execution of the deed to the land bank agency.
- **4.** Any provisions of this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding, the owner of any parcel of real property against which a judgment has been rendered shall not have the right to redeem such property from said judgment if at the time of judgment such property is assessed as residential property and the judgment finds the property has been vacant for a period of not less than six months prior to the judgment. After a judgment as provided for in this section becomes final, the waiting period shall not apply to such judgment and a sale under execution of the judgment shall be immediately held as provided under the applicable provisions of this chapter.
- 141.530. 1. Except as otherwise provided in section 141.520, during such waiting period and at any time prior to the time of **the execution of the deed to the land bank agency or the** foreclosure sale by the sheriff, any interested party may redeem any parcel of real estate as

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provided by this chapter. During such waiting period and at any time prior to the time of the execution of the deed to the land bank agency or the foreclosure sale by the sheriff, the 5 collector may, at the option of the party entitled to redeem, enter into a written redemption contract with any such party interested in any parcel of real estate, providing for payment in installments, monthly or bimonthly, of the delinquent tax bills, including interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs charged against such parcel of real estate, provided, however, that in no instance shall such installments exceed twelve in number or extend more than twenty-four 10 11 months next after any agreement for such installment payments shall have been entered into; 12 provided further, that upon good cause being shown by the owner of any parcel of real estate occupied as a homestead, or in the case of improved real estate with an assessed valuation of not more than three thousand five hundred dollars, owned by an individual, the income from such 15 property being a major factor in the total income of such individual, or by anyone on his behalf, the court may, in its discretion, fix the time and terms of payment in such contract to permit all 16 of such installments to be paid within not longer than forty-eight months after any order or 17 18 agreement as to installment payments shall have been made.

- 2. So long as such installments be paid according to the terms of the contract, the said six months waiting period shall be extended, but if any installment be not paid when due, the extension of said waiting period shall be ended without notice, and the real estate shall forthwith be advertised for sale or included in the next notice of sheriff's foreclosure sale.
- 3. No redemption contracts may be used under this section for residential property which has been vacant for at least six months in any municipality contained wholly or partially within a county with a population of over six hundred thousand and less than nine hundred thousand.

[141.530. 1. Except as otherwise provided in section 141.520, during such waiting period and at any time prior to the time of foreclosure sale by the sheriff, any interested party may redeem any parcel of real estate as provided by this chapter. During such waiting period and at any time prior to the time of foreclosure sale by the sheriff, the collector may, at the option of the party entitled to redeem, enter into a written redemption contract with any such party interested in any parcel of real estate, other than a residential property which has been vacant for at least six months, providing for payment in installments, monthly or bimonthly, of the delinquent tax bills, including interest, penalties, attorney's fees and costs charged against such parcel of real estate, provided, however, that in no instance shall such installments exceed twelve in number or extend more than twenty-four months next after any agreement for such installment payments have been entered into; provided further, that upon good cause being shown by the owner of any parcel of real estate occupied as a homestead, or in the case of improved real estate with an assessed valuation of not more than three thousand five hundred dollars, owned by an individual, the income from such property being a major factor in the total income of such

individual, or by anyone on the individual's behalf, the court may, in its discretion, fix the time and terms of payment in such contract to permit all of such installments to be paid within not longer than forty-eight months after any order or agreement as to installment payments being made.

2. So long as such installments are paid according to the terms of the contract, the six-month waiting period shall be extended, but if any installment is not paid when due, the extension of such waiting period shall be ended without notice, and the real estate shall forthwith be advertised for sale or included in the next notice of sheriff's foreclosure sale.]

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- 141.570. 1. The title to any real estate which shall vest in the land trust **or land bank agency** under the provisions of sections 141.210 to [141.810] **141.982** shall be held by the land trust of such county **or the land bank agency of such city** in trust for the tax bill owners and taxing authorities having an interest in any tax liens which were foreclosed, as their interests may appear in the judgment of foreclosure.
- 6 2. The title to any real estate which shall vest in any purchaser, upon confirmation of 7 such sale by the court, shall be an absolute estate in fee simple, subject to rights-of-way thereon of public utilities on which tax has been otherwise paid, and subject to any lien thereon of the United States of America, if any, and all persons, including the state of Missouri, infants, 10 incapacitated and disabled persons as defined in chapter 475, RSMo, and nonresidents who may 11 have had any right, title, interest, claim, or equity of redemption in or to, or lien upon, such lands, shall be barred and forever foreclosed of all such right, title, interest, claim, lien or equity of 12 redemption, and the court shall order immediate possession of such real estate be given to such purchaser; provided, however, that such title shall also be subject to the liens of any tax bills 15 which may have attached to such parcel of real estate prior to the time of the filing of the petition 16 affecting such parcel of real estate not then delinquent, or which may have attached after the 17 filing of the petition and prior to sheriff's sale and not included in any answer to such petition, 18 but if such parcel of real estate is sold to the land trust or land bank agency, the title thereto shall be free of any such liens to the extent of the interest of any taxing authority in such real 20 estate; provided further, that such title shall not be subject to the lien of special tax bills which 21 have attached to the parcel of real estate prior to November 22, 1943, but the lien of such special tax bills shall attach to the proceeds of the sheriff's sale or to the proceeds of the ultimate sale of such parcel by the land trust. 23

141.980. 1. Any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county may establish a land bank agency for the management, sale, transfer, and other disposition of tax delinquent lands and other lands in its possession. Any such land bank agency created shall be created to foster the public purpose of returning land, including land that is in a nonrevenue-generating nontax-

producing status, to effective use in order to provide housing, new industry, and jobs for citizens of the city, and to create new revenues for such city. Such land bank agency shall be established by order or ordinance as provided by the city's charter. The land bank agency shall have authority over only tax delinquent lands and other lands in its possession that are located within the portion of any county with a charter form of government in which the city is located.

- 2. Any land bank agency created under this section shall be known as "The Land Bank of the City of ......, Missouri". Such land bank agency shall have the authority to accept the grant of any interest in real property made to it, or to accept gifts and grant in aid assistance. Such land bank agency shall have and exercise all the powers that are conferred by sections 141.210 to 141.982 necessary and incidental to the effective management, sale, or other disposition of real estate acquired under and by virtue of the foreclosure of the lien for delinquent real estate taxes, as provided in such sections, and in the exercise of such powers, the land bank agency shall be deemed to be a public corporation acting in a governmental capacity.
- 3. The beneficiaries of the land bank agency shall be the taxing authorities that held or owned tax bills against the respective parcel of real estate sold to the land bank agency at sheriff's foreclosure sale included in the judgment of the court, and their respective interests in each parcel of real estate shall be to the extent and in the proportion and according to the priorities determined by the court on the basis that the principal amount of their respective tax bills bore to the total principal amount of all of the tax bills described in the judgment.
- 4. The land bank agency shall be composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the board of directors of the school district that then has the largest population according to the last preceding federal decennial census and is located in a county with a charter form of government, one of whom shall be appointed by the mayor of the city, and one of whom shall be appointed by the county with a charter form of government in which a portion of the city is located. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority, may be employees of the appointing authority, and shall serve without compensation. Any vacancy in the office of land bank commissioner shall be filled by the same appointing authority that made the original appointment. If any appointing authority fails to make any appointment of a land bank commissioner within the time the first appointments are required, or within thirty days after any term expires, then the appointment shall be made by the mayor of the city.
- 5. The land bank commissioners shall meet immediately after all have been appointed and qualified, and shall select a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary. The

commissioners shall each furnish a surety bond, if such bond is not already covered by governmental surety bond, in a penal sum not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars to be approved by the comptroller or director of finance, the premium on such bond to be paid by the comptroller or director of finance out of the city funds. Such bond shall be issued by a surety company licensed to do business in the state of Missouri, and shall be deposited with the county clerk of such county, and shall be conditioned to guarantee the faithful performance of their duties under sections 141.980 to 141.982, and shall be written to cover all the commissioners.

6. Before entering upon the duties of office, each commissioner shall take and subscribe to the following oath:

I, ...., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Missouri; that I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as a member of the Land Bank Agency of ......, Missouri; that I will, according to my best knowledge and judgment, administer such tax delinquent lands held by me in trust, according to the laws of this state and for the benefit of the public bodies and the tax bill owners which I represent, so help me God.

**Notary Public** 

141.981. 1. Such land bank agency shall be a continuing body and shall have and adopt an official seal which shall bear on its face the words "Land Bank Agency of ......, Missouri", "Seal", and shall have the power to sue and issue deeds in its name, which deed shall be signed by the chair or vice chair, and attested by the secretary and the official seal of the land bank agency affixed thereon, and shall have the general power to administer its business as any other corporate body.

2. The land trust may convey title to any real estate sold or conveyed by it by general or special warranty deed, and may convey as absolute title in fee simple, without in any case procuring any consent, conveyance, or other instrument from the beneficiaries for which it acts, provided that each such deed shall recite whether the selling price represents a consideration equal to or in excess of two-thirds of the appraised value of such real estate so sold or conveyed. If such selling price represents a consideration less than

two-thirds of the appraised value of the real estate, then the land bank commissioners shall first procure the consent thereto of not less than two of the three appointing authorities, which consent shall be evidenced by a copy of the action of each such appointing authority duly certified to by its clerk or secretary attached to and made a part of land bank commission official minutes. However, the land bank agency may retain a reversionary interest in any real estate conveyed by it for up to two years from the date of conveyance.

- 3. It shall be the duty of such land bank agency to administer the tax delinquent lands and other lands in its possession as provided in this section.
- (1) The land bank agency shall immediately assume possession and control of all real estate acquired by it under the provisions of sections 141.210 to 141.982 or otherwise and proceed to inventory and appraise such land, and thereafter keep and maintain a perpetual inventory of such real estate, except that individual parcels may be consolidated and grouped or regrouped for economy, utility, or convenience.
- (2) The land bank agency shall classify such land as to its use into the following three classifications:
  - (a) Suitable for private use;
  - (b) Suitable for use by a public agency;
- (c) Not usable in its present condition or situation and held as a public land reserve. Any parcel of property may be reclassified by a two-thirds vote of the land bank commissioners, and all properties classified as not usable under this paragraph shall be reviewed annually to determine the appropriateness of such classification.
- (3) Such land bank agency shall administer all property classified under paragraph (a) of subdivision (2) of this subsection as provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection. Every effort shall be made to sell the property at a price as close to its appraised value as soon as possible. Property classified under paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection may be transferred at no cost, except any administrative expenses connected with the transfer, by the land bank agency upon request of and to those public agencies provided for in paragraph (b) of subdivision (2) of this subsection upon submission of a plan of use for the property by the public agency to the land bank commissioners, except that no property shall be transferred at no cost unless there is a unanimous vote of the three land bank commissioners. If the property is transferred at no cost to any public agency and the public agency sells or otherwise disposes of the property within ten years for any consideration, the proceeds of the sale or disposal shall be returned to the land bank commissioners, who shall distribute such proceeds in accordance with subsection 2 of section 141.982. If the land bank commissioners do not give an affirmative vote to the request for transfer, the land bank agency may dispose of the property in accordance with

subdivision (4) of this subsection. Properties classified under paragraph (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be studied and recommendations made to taxing authorities as to possible uses for real estate in the classification. In furtherance of this object such land bank agency shall have access to any and all city or county records at any time and may call upon any and all city and county officers, departments, boards, planning commissions, or other commissions for studies, statistics, or recommendations. The land bank agency shall prepare a list of all land classified under paragraph (a) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, which list shall be corrected and amended on a quarterly basis. commissioners may make a charge, not to exceed one dollar for each copy of the list, which money shall be used to help defray the costs of preparing the list. Any person may purchase a copy of the list. Any real estate agent or broker licensed to do business in the city may, when authorized by the commissioners, sell any property upon the terms and conditions imposed by the commissioners, and the commissioners are authorized and empowered to pay a reasonable real estate commission. Nothing in sections 141.980 to 141.982 shall prohibit the commissioners from selling or exchanging any such real estate directly to or with any purchaser.

- (4) The land bank commissioners shall have power, and it shall be their duty, to manage, maintain, protect, rent, lease, repair, insure, alter, hold and return, assemble, sell, trade, acquire, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any such real estate, on such terms and conditions as may be determined in the sole discretion of the commissioners. The land bank commissioners may assemble tracts or parcels of real estate for public parks or any other purposes and to such end may exchange or acquire parcels, and otherwise effectuate such purposes by agreement with any taxing authority.
- (5) The land bank agency shall adopt rules and regulations in harmony with sections 141.210 to 141.982, and shall keep records of all its transactions, which records shall be open to inspection of any taxing authority in the city at any time. There shall be an annual audit of the affairs, accounts, expenses, and financial transactions of such land bank agency by certified public accountant as of December thirty-first of each year, which accountants shall be employed by the commissioners on or before November first of each year, and certified copies thereof shall be furnished to the appointing authorities described in section 141.980, and shall be available for public inspection at the office of the land bank agency. In addition to the annual audit provided for in this subdivision, the land bank agency may be performance audited at any time by the state auditor or by the auditor of the city that appoints members. The cost of such audit shall be paid by the land bank agency, and copies shall be made available to the public within thirty days of the completion of the audit.

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- 4. The land bank commissioners may appoint a director and such other employees who are deemed necessary to carry out the responsibilities and duties imposed under sections 141.980 to 141.982, and may incur such other reasonable and proper costs and expenses as are related thereto. The director shall furnish a surety bond at the expense of the land bank agency in a penal sum of not less than ten thousand dollars, to be approved by the land bank commissioners, conditioned to guarantee the faithful performance of the director's duties. The bond shall be filed with the county clerk of the county. The director, who shall be a person experienced in the management and sale of real estate, shall be executive officer and administrator of the land bank agency, and shall manage all of its business, under the supervision, direction, and control of the land bank commissioners.
- 5. Each annual budget of the land bank agency shall be itemized as to objects and purposes of expenditure, prepared not later than December tenth of each year with copies delivered to the county and city that appointed members, and shall include therein only such appropriations as shall be deemed necessary to meet the reasonable expenses of the land bank agency during the forthcoming fiscal year. That budget shall not become the required annual budget of the land bank agency unless and until it has been approved by the governing bodies of the county or city that appointed members. If either of the governing bodies of the county and city that appointed members fails to notify the land bank agency in writing of any objections to the proposed annual budget on or before December twentieth, then such failure or failures to object shall be deemed approval. In the event objections have been made and a budget for the fiscal year beginning January first has not been approved by the governing bodies of the county and city on or before January first, then the budget for the previous fiscal year shall become the approved budget for that fiscal year. Any unexpended funds from the preceding fiscal year shall be deducted from the amounts needed to meet the budget requirements of the forthcoming year. Copies of the budget shall be made available to the public on or before December tenth, and a public hearing shall be had thereon before December twentieth, in each year. The approved and adopted budget may be amended by the land bank commissioners only with the approval of the governing bodies of the county and city that appointed members.
- 6. If at any time there are not sufficient funds available to pay the salaries and other expenses of such land bank agency and of its employees, incident to the administration of sections 141.210 to 141.982, including any expenditures authorized by subsection 3 of section 141.981, funds sufficient to pay such expenses shall be advanced and paid to the land bank agency upon its requisition therefor, fifty percent thereof by the county commission of such county, and the other fifty percent by the city that appointed members. The land bank agency shall have power to requisition such funds in an amount

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not to exceed twenty-five percent of the total annual budget of the land bank agency from 122 such sources for that fiscal year of the land bank agency for which there are not sufficient 123 funds otherwise available to pay the salaries and other expenses of the land bank agency, 124 but any amount in excess of twenty-five percent of the total annual budget in any fiscal 125 year may be requisitioned by and paid to the land bank agency only if such additional 126 sums are agreed to and approved by the county commission and the city in such county so 127 desiring to make such payment. All moneys so requisitioned shall be paid in a lump sum 128 within thirty days after such requisition or the commencement of the fiscal year of the land 129 bank agency for which such requisition is made, whichever is later, and shall be deposited 130 to the credit of the land bank agency in some bank or trust company, subject to withdrawal by warrant as herein provided. Such appropriations by the county and city shall be 132 considered advances to the land bank agency subject to repayment from funds subsequently collected by the land bank agency under law.

- 7. The fiscal year of the land bank agency shall commence on January first of each year. Such land bank agency shall audit all claims for the expenditure of money and shall, acting by the chair or vice chair thereof, draw warrants therefor from time to time.
- 8. No warrant for the payment of any claim shall be drawn by such land bank agency until such claim shall have been approved by the director and shall bear the director's certificate that there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in the proper appropriation and sufficient unexpended cash available for the payment thereof.
- 141.982. 1. Such land bank agency shall set up and maintain a perpetual inventory on each tract of its real estate, except that individual tracts may be consolidated and grouped or regrouped for economy or convenience.
- 2. When any parcel of real estate is sold or otherwise disposed of by the land bank agency, the proceeds therefrom shall be applied and distributed in the following order:
  - (1) To the payment of the expenses of sale;
- (2) The balance to be retained by the land bank agency to pay the salaries and other expenses of such land bank agency and of its employees, including any expenditures authorized by subsection 3 of section 141.981, as provided for in its annual budget;
- (3) Any funds in excess of those necessary to meet the expenses of the annual budget of the land bank agency in any fiscal year, and including a reasonable sum to carry over into the next fiscal year to assure that sufficient funds will be available to meet initial expenses for that next fiscal year, and to repay advances as provided in subsections 4 to 8 of section 141.981, may be paid to the respective taxing authorities that, at the time of the distribution, are taxing the real property from which the proceeds are being distributed. The distributions shall be in proportion to the amounts of the taxes levied on the properties

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by the taxing authorities. Distribution shall be made on January first and July first of each year, and at such other times as the land bank commissioners in their discretion may determine.

- 3. Upon acquiring title to any real estate under sections 141.980 to 141.982, such land bank agency shall immediately notify the county assessor and the city assessors of the various cities, towns, and villages in the county of such ownership, and the interests of each taxing authority therein shall be exempt from all taxation, in the same manner and to the same extent as any other publicly owned real estate, and upon the sale or other disposition of any real estate held by it, such land bank agency shall immediately notify the county assessor and the appropriate city assessor of such change of ownership.
- 4. Neither the land bank commissioners nor any salaried employee of the land bank agency provided for in sections 141.980 to 141.982 shall receive any compensation, emolument, or other profit directly or indirectly from the rental, management, purchase, sale, or other disposition of any lands held by such land bank agency other than the salaries, expenses, and emoluments provided for in sections 141.980 to 141.982. Any person convicted of violating this subsection shall be deemed guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be sentenced to serve not less than two nor more than five years in the state penitentiary.