- 1 SB339
- 2 219616-1
- 3 By Senator Coleman-Madison
- 4 RFD: Banking and Insurance
- 5 First Read: 07-APR-22

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219616-1:n:04/07/2022:SLU/cr LSA2022-1118

8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the acquisition of real 9 property by local land bank authorities is subject 10 to certain restrictions on the procedure, 11 geographic location, and costs.

12 This bill would provide a shortened 13 redemption period for a tax delinquent property 14 that is not acquired by an open market bidder at a 15 tax sale auction, would authorize a local 16 government or a local land bank authority to 17 purchase property at public auction by tendering 18 the minimum bid in the absence of open market bids, 19 and would limit the geographical boundaries of 20 local land bank authority acquisitions.

This bill would also provide for the creation of multijurisdictional local land bank authorities by intergovernmental agreements, a property tax exemption for a property owned by a local land bank authority, authorize local governments to allocate a portion of local property tax revenues to local land bank authorities, a

1 local land bank authority to convey properties to 2 state and local governments for floodplain management and storm water drainage, and the 3 Governor to create a local land bank authority by 4 5 executive order following a declaration of a state of emergency. 6 7 8 A BILL 9 TO BE ENTITLED 10 AN ACT 11 12 Relating to land bank authorities; to amend Sections 13 24-9-4, 24-9-6, 24-9-10, 40-1-3, 40-10-1, 40-10-18, 40-10-29, 14 40-10-120, 40-10-184, and to add Sections 29-4-11 and 29-4-12 15 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to provide for the creation of multijurisdictional local land bank authorities; further 16 17 authorize the acquisition of tax delinquent property and tax 18 liens by local land bank authorities; further provide for the exemption of land bank authority property from taxes and fees; 19 20 provide for the allocation of a portion of the ad valorem 21 taxes on property conveyed by a land bank authority to the 22 authority; further provide for the conveyance of land bank 23 authority property; and authorize the Governor to create a 24 local land bank authority in the event of a state of 25 emergency. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 26

1	Section 1. Sections 24-9-4, 24-9-6, and 24-9-10,
2	Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
3	"§24-9-4.
4	"When used in the chapter, the following words shall
5	have the following meanings:
6	"(1) AGREEMENT. The intergovernmental cooperation
7	agreement entered into between an authority and a local
8	authority by the parties pursuant to this chapter.
9	"(2) AUTHORITY. The Alabama Land Bank Authority.
10	"(3) BOARD. The Alabama Land Bank Authority Board.
11	"(4) LOCAL <u>LAND BANK</u> AUTHORITY. A local land bank
12	authority created by a county or municipality as provided in
13	Section 24-9-10.
14	"(5) PROPERTY. Real property, including any
15	improvements thereon.
16	"(6) TAX-DELINQUENT PROPERTY. Any property on which
17	the taxes levied and assessed by any party remain in whole or
18	in part unpaid on the date due and payable.
19	"§24-9-6.
20	"(a) The authority, at such times as it deems to be
21	appropriate, may submit a written request to the Land
22	Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Revenue for the
23	transfer of the state's interest in certain properties to the
24	authority. Upon receipt of such request, the Land Commissioner
25	shall issue a tax deed conveying the state's interest in the
26	property to the authority. The authority shall not be required

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1 to pay the amount deemed to have been bid to cover delinquent 2 taxes or any other amount in order to obtain the tax deed.

3 "(b)(1) Delinquent property that may be transferred by the Land Commissioner to the authority shall be limited to 4 5 parcels that have been bid in for the state pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 40 for at least three years and the 6 7 state's interest in real property acquired pursuant to Chapter 29 of Title 40 for delinguent taxes administered by the state 8 9 and held for at least three years. The three-year period shall 10 not apply to properties encumbered by one or more housing or building code liens transmitted to the tax collecting official 11 12 in accordance with Title 11.

"(2) The Land Commissioner or his or her agents or assistants may adopt rules necessary to transfer such properties to the authority.

16 "(c) The authority shall administer properties 17 acquired by it as follows:

18 "(1) All property acquired by the authority shall be 19 inventoried and the inventory shall be maintained as a public 20 record.

"(2) The authority shall have the power to manage, maintain, protect, rent, lease, repair, insure, alter, sell, trade, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any property acquired pursuant to subsection (b)(1), on terms and conditions determined in the sole discretion of the authority.

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"(d) Nothing contained in Act 2013-249 shall be
 construed to grant any power of eminent domain to the
 authority or any local authority.

4 "§24-9-10.

5 "(a) If the number of tax delinquent properties in a 6 municipality exceeds 100, then the governing body of a 7 municipality may adopt a resolution declaring that it is wise, 8 expedient, and necessary that a local <u>land bank</u> authority be 9 formed by the municipality by the filing for record of a 10 certificate of incorporation in accordance with the provisions 11 of subsection (c)(d).

12 "(b) If the number of tax delinquent properties in a 13 municipality exceeds 100, then the governing body of a county 14 may adopt a resolution declaring that it is wise, expedient, 15 and necessary that a local <u>land bank</u> authority be formed by 16 the county by the filing for record of a certificate of 17 incorporation in accordance with the provisions of subsection 18 $\frac{-(c)}{(d)}$.

19 "(c) A county and a municipality located within such 20 county may create a single land bank authority by an 21 intergovernmental agreement, so long as both the county and 22 the municipality each meet the criteria of subsections (a) and 23 (b). The intergovernmental agreement shall comply with all 24 provisions of subsections (d) and (e).

"(c)(d) Upon the adoption of the authorizing
resolution, the municipality or county, as the case may be,
shall proceed to incorporate the local <u>land bank</u> authority by

filing for record in the office of the judge of probate of the county a certificate of incorporation which shall comply in form and substance with the requirements of this section and which shall be in the form and executed in the manner herein provided. The certificate of incorporation of the local <u>land</u> <u>bank</u> authority shall state all of the following:

7 "(1) The name of the local unit of government8 forming the local land bank authority.

9

"(2) The name of the local land bank authority.

10 "(3) The size of the initial governing body of the 11 local <u>land bank</u> authority, which shall be composed of an odd 12 number of members, but not less than five.

"(4) The qualifications, method of selection, andterms of office of the initial board members.

15 "(5) A method for the adoption of bylaws by the
16 governing body of the local <u>land bank</u> authority.

17 "(6) A method for the distribution of proceeds from
18 the activities of the local <u>land bank</u> authority.

"(7) A method for the dissolution of the local <u>land</u>
<u>bank</u> authority.

"(8) Any other matters considered advisable by the
local unit of government, consistent with Act 2013-249.

23 "(d)(e) Following incorporation, a local authority 24 may enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the 25 authority providing for the transfer to the local authority of 26 any property held by the authority which is located within the corporate limits of the municipality or the boundary of the
 county which created the land bank.

3 "(e)(f) A local <u>land bank</u> authority shall have all
4 of the powers of the authority as set forth in this chapter.
5 In addition, a local <u>land bank</u> authority shall have the
6 following powers:

7 "(1) Without the approval of a local unit of 8 government in which property held by the local land bank authority is located, control, hold, manage, maintain, 9 10 operate, repair, lease as lessor, secure, prevent the waste or deterioration of, demolish, and take all other actions 11 necessary to preserve the value of the property it holds or 12 13 owns. An A local land bank authority may take or perform the following actions with respect to property held or owned by 14 15 the local land bank authority:

"a. Grant or acquire a license, easement, or option
with respect to property as the authority determines is
reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

19 "b. Fix, charge, and collect rents, fees, and
20 charges for use of property under the control of the <u>local</u>
21 <u>land bank</u> authority or for services provided by the authority.

"c. Pay any tax or special assessment due on
 property acquired or owned by the <u>local land bank</u> authority.

"d. Take any action, provide any notice, or
institute any proceeding required to clear or quiet title to
property held by the <u>local land bank</u> authority in order to
establish ownership by and vest title to property in the

authority, including, but not limited to, a quiet title and
 foreclosure action pursuant to Section 24-9-8.

3 "e. Remediate environmental contamination on any
4 property held by the <u>local land bank</u> authority.

5 "(2) Enter into an intergovernmental agreement with
6 a municipality or county, or another local land bank
7 <u>authority</u>, providing for one or more of the following:

8 "a. The conveyance to the authority of tax 9 delinquent property held by the municipality or county for 10 title clearance, including, but not limited to, a quiet title 11 and foreclosure action under Section 24-9-8.

12 "b. The acquisition and title clearance of property 13 by the authority of property to be conveyed by the <u>local land</u> 14 <u>bank</u> authority to the municipality or county or another entity 15 pursuant to the agreement between the authority and the 16 municipality or county.

17 "<u>c. The performance of operational and</u>
 18 administrative services to be provided to another local land
 19 bank authority.

20 "(3) Acquire real property at a sale conducted in 21 accordance with Section 40-10-18 by tendering a bid equal to the minimum amount specified in the decree of sale and the 22 costs and expenses subsequently accruing, which shall be 23 24 accepted by the judge of probate and the local land bank 25 authority shall be the purchaser at the sale. The tender of 26 the minimum bid in accordance with this subsection shall be for cash, with a credit for any and all components of the 27

1 minimum bid already due and payable to the governmental entity 2 that created the local land bank authority. After 90 days from 3 the date of sale, the judge of probate shall execute and deliver to the governmental entity a deed to each lot or 4 5 parcel of real estate sold to the local land bank authority. The deed shall convey to, and vest in, the grantee all right, 6 7 title, interest, and estate of any and all persons having an 8 interest in the property as of the date of the sale. 9 "(4) Acquire a tax lien at an auction conducted in 10 accordance with Section 40-10-184 by tendering a cash bid at an interest rate of 0.00 percent, which shall be accepted as 11 the successful bid. The bid shall be tendered for cash subject 12 13 to a credit for any and all amounts already due and payable to 14 the governmental entity that created the local land bank 15 authority. "(f) (g) A local unit of government and any agency or 16 17 department of such local unit of government may do one or more 18 of the following: "(1) Anything necessary or convenient to aid a local 19 20 land bank authority in fulfilling its purposes under Act 21 2013 - 249. 22 "(2) Lend, grant, transfer, appropriate, or contribute funds to a local land bank authority in furtherance 23 24 of its purposes. 25 "(3) Lend, grant, transfer, or convey funds to a local land bank authority that are received from the federal 26

1 government or this state or from any nongovernmental entity in 2 aid of the purposes of Act 2013-249.

"(g)(h) A local land bank authority created by a 3 county or a municipality may acquire real property only within 4 5 the geographical boundaries of the county or municipality, and only in those portions of the county or municipality In the 6 7 event a county creates a local authority, the local authority 8 may acquire real property that has been tax delinquent for 9 three or more years only in those portions of the county 10 located outside of the geographical boundaries of any other local land bank authority created by any municipality located 11 12 partially or entirely within the county. The Land Bank 13 Authority may acquire real property that has been tax delinquent for three or more years only in those portions of 14 15 the state located outside of the geographical boundaries of any local authority created by any municipality or county. 16

17 "(h)(i) Any local <u>land bank</u> authority formed by a 18 municipality or county pursuant to this section shall continue 19 to exist in accordance with its articles of incorporation and 20 this section in the event that the number of tax delinquent 21 properties in the local jurisdiction forming the authority 22 subsequently decreases to 100 or less.

23 "(i)(j) Any local <u>land bank</u> authority formed by a 24 municipality or county pursuant to this section shall permit 25 the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to 26 perform an audit upon request by the department. The 1 department shall assess the cost of the audit against the 2 local authority.

3	"(k) As public property used for public purposes,
4	the real property of a local land bank authority, including,
5	but not limited to, real property held by a local land bank
6	authority pursuant to a long-term lease contract with
7	community land trusts, and its income are exempt from all
8	license fees, recording fees, and all other taxes imposed by
9	the state or by any of its political subdivisions.
10	" <u>(1) Up to 75 percent of the ad valorem taxes</u>
11	collected on real property, except any state or school
12	district ad valorem tax, conveyed by a local land bank
13	authority shall be remitted to the local land bank authority.
14	The specific percentage of the taxes to be remitted shall be
15	set forth in the local law, ordinance, resolution, or
16	intergovernmental contract of the local land bank authority.
17	The allocation of property tax revenues shall commence with
18	the first taxable year following the date of conveyance and
19	shall continue for a period of five consecutive tax years. The
20	funds shall be remitted to the local land bank authority in
21	accordance with the administrative procedures established by
22	the tax commissioner or tax collecting official of the county
23	in which the local land bank authority is located. The
24	allocation of property tax revenues shall not occur if the
25	taxes have been previously allocated to a tax allocation
26	district, or allocated to secure a debt of the local
27	government, unless the tax allocation district or local

1 government enters into an agreement with the local land bank 2 authority for the remittance of the funds to the local land 3 bank authority." Section 2. Sections 24-9-11 and 24-9-12 are added to 4 5 the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows: \$24-9-11. 6 7 (a) A local land bank authority may convey ownership 8 of, or interest in, real property to a state or local 9 governmental entity for purposes of floodplain management or 10 storm water drainage in the event of all of the following: (1) Floodplain management or storm water retention 11 or drainage is the highest and best use of the real property. 12 13 (2) As a result of housing and building code restrictions, floodplain elevations, and other local, state, 14 15 or federal law or public and private agreements, conditions, and limitations, the real property is no longer suitable for 16 17 development or redevelopment. (b) (1) A local land bank authority may convey 18 ownership of, or interest in, real property under this section 19 20 by grant, deed lease, or other form of conveyance, and may 21 include additional limitations, restrictions, and conditions 22 to be determined by the local land bank authority. 23 (2) Consideration for the conveyance may be any of 24 the following not otherwise prohibited by law: 25 a. A nominal monetary payment. 26 b. A contractual obligation in favor of the party to 27 which the real property is being conveyed.

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c. An exchange of real property.

d. Other consideration determined by the local land
bank authority and the party to whom the real property is to
be conveyed.

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§24-9-12.

6 (a) Upon declaring a state of emergency caused by a 7 natural disaster that causes widespread damage to, and 8 destruction of, real property and improvements and dislocation 9 of residents, the Governor may create a local land bank 10 authority in accordance with this section.

(1) The Governor may issue an executive order providing for the immediate creation of a local land bank authority of and for local governments of the geographic areas subject to the declaration of the state of emergency.

15 (2) The executive order shall provide for
16 incorporation and certification of the local land bank
17 authority as required under this chapter.

(b) Any local land bank authority created pursuant
to this section shall have all powers of a local land bank
authority created pursuant to Section 24-9-10.

(c) Upon the necessary and appropriate action of the
local governments having jurisdiction over the geographic
areas subject to the declaration of the state of emergency, a
local land bank authority created pursuant to this section may
be converted into a local land bank authority created pursuant
to Section 24-9-10, at which time, the local land bank

authority shall be the successor in interest and at law to the
 local authority created pursuant to this section.

3 (d) In the event that a local land bank authority
4 created pursuant to this section is not converted pursuant to
5 subsection (c), 12 months following the date of the Governor's
6 executive order, the local land bank authority created by the
7 executive order shall be dissolved in accordance with the
8 provisions of the Governor's executive order.

9 Section 3. Sections 40-1-3, 40-10-1, 40-10-18,
10 40-10-29, 40-10-120, and 40-10-184, Code of Alabama 1975, are
11 amended to read as follows:

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"§40-1-3.

13 "From and after October 1 of each year, when 14 property becomes assessable the state shall have a lien upon 15 each and every piece or parcel of property owned by any 16 taxpayer for the payment of all taxes which may be assessed 17 against him or her and upon each piece and parcel of property 18 real or personal assessed to owner unknown, which lien shall continue until such taxes are paid, and the county shall have 19 a like lien thereon for the payment of the taxes which may be 20 21 assessed by it; and, if such property is within the limits of 22 a municipal corporation, such municipal corporation shall have 23 a like lien thereon for the payment of the taxes which may be 24 assessed by it. These liens shall be superior to all other 25 liens and shall exist in the order named, and each of such 26 liens may be enforced and foreclosed by sale for taxes as provided in this title, or as other liens upon property are 27

enforced, except as otherwise provided by laws law. These taxes and liens shall include any and all liens transmitted to the tax collecting official by counties and municipal corporations in accordance with Sections 11-40-35, 11-53B-16, and 11-67-66.

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"§40-10-1.

7 "(a) The probate court of each county may order the 8 sale of lands therein for the payment of taxes assessed on the 9 lands, or against the owners of the lands, when the tax 10 collector shall report to the court that he or she or the holder of a tax lien issued pursuant to Acts 1995, No. 95-408 11 12 was unable to collect the taxes assessed against the land, or 13 any mineral, timber or water right or special right, or 14 easement therein, or the owner thereof, without a sale of the 15 land.

16 "(b) For purposes of any enforcement proceedings
17 under this chapter, the taxes due shall include any and all
18 liens of a municipality for housing and building code
19 violations and enforcement actions which liens are transmitted
20 to the tax collecting official in accordance with Title 11.
21 "\$40-10-18.

"(a) If no person shall bid for any real estate
offered at such sale an amount sufficient to pay the sum
greater than the minimum bid specified in the decree of sale,
and the costs and expenses subsequently accruing, and no
minimum bid is tendered by a local government or a local land
bank authority, the judge of probate shall bid in such real

estate for the state at a price not exceeding the sum
specified in such decree and such subsequently accruing cost
and expenses the minimum bid. In no event shall the judge of
probate bid in for the state less than the entire amount of
real estate included in any assessment.

"(b) If no person shall bid for any real estate 6 7 offered at such sale, an amount greater than the minimum bid specified in the degree of sale, and the costs and expenses 8 9 subsequently accruing, a local government or local land bank 10 authority in which the real estate is located may tender a bid for the minimum amount which bid shall be accepted by the 11 judge of probate, and the successful bidder shall be the 12 13 purchaser at the sale. The tender of the minimum bid in 14 accordance with this subsection shall be for cash, with a credit for any and all amount already due and owing the local 15 governmental entity submitting the bid. 16

17

"§40-10-29.

18 "(a) After the expiration of three years from the date of the sale of any real estate for taxes, the judge of 19 20 probate then in office must execute and deliver to the 21 purchaser, other than the state, or person to whom the 22 certificate of purchase has been assigned, upon the return of 23 the certificate, proof that all ad valorem taxes have been 24 paid, and payment of a fee of five dollars (\$5) to the judge 25 of probate, a deed to each lot or parcel of real estate sold to the purchaser and remaining unredeemed, including therein, 26 27 if desired by the purchaser, any number of parcels, or lots

purchased by him <u>or her</u> at such sale; and such deed shall convey to and vest in the grantee all the right, title, interest, and estate of the person whose duty it was to pay the taxes on such real estate and the lien and claim of the state and county thereto, but it shall not convey the right, title, or interest of any reversioner or remainderman therein.

7 "(b) After the expiration of 90 days from the sale for the minimum bid to a local government or local land bank 8 9 authority, the judge of probate then in office shall execute 10 and deliver to the entity a deed to the real estate sold to the entity and the deed shall convey to and vest in the 11 grantee all of the right, title, and interest of any and all 12 13 persons having an interest in the property as of the date of 14 the sale.

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"§40-10-120.

"(a) Except as otherwise provided in this

17 subsection, real Real estate which hereafter may be sold for 18 taxes and purchased by the state may be redeemed at any time 19 before the title passes out of the state or, if purchased by 20 any other purchaser, may be redeemed at any time within three 21 years from the date of the sale by the owner, his or her heirs, or personal representatives, or by any mortgagee or 22 23 purchaser of such lands, or any part thereof, or by any person 24 having an interest therein, or in any part thereof, legal or 25 equitable, in severalty or as tenant in common, including a 26 judgment creditor or other creditor having a lien thereon, or 27 on any part thereof; and an infant or insane person entitled

1 to redeem at any time before the expiration of three years 2 from the sale may redeem at any time within one year after the removal of the disability; and such redemption may be of any 3 part of the lands so sold, which includes the whole of the 4 5 interest of the redemptioner. If the mortgage or other instrument creating a lien under which a party seeks to redeem 6 7 is duly recorded at the time of the tax sale, the party shall, in addition to the time herein specified, have the right to 8 redeem the real estate sold, or any portion thereof covered by 9 10 his or her mortgage or lien, at any time within one year from the date of written notice from the purchaser of his or her 11 purchase of the lands at tax sale served upon such party, and 12 13 notice served upon either the original mortgagees or lienholders or their transferee of record, or their heirs, 14 15 personal representatives, or assigns shall be sufficient 16 notice.

17 "(1) When any real property is sold for taxes and 18 <u>has also been sold in one or more prior sales for taxes</u> 19 without redemption from such prior tax sales, the three-year 20 <u>period for redemption shall be measured from the date of the</u> 21 <u>earliest sale of the real property for taxes.</u>

"(2) When any real property is sold for taxes and
the minimum bid specified in the decree of sale, and the costs
and expenses subsequently accruing includes amounts
attributable to one or more housing and building code liens or
nuisance abatement liens and the property is not lawfully

occupied as a residence, the period for redemption shall be
 one year from the date of the sale.

3 "(3) When any real property is sold to a local 4 government or local land bank in accordance with Section 5 40-10-18 for the minimum bid specified in the decree of sale 6 and the costs and expenses subsequently accruing, the period 7 for redemption shall be one year from the date of the sale.

8 "(b) If any real property has been sold for taxes 9 and is subject to redemption from the sale as set forth in 10 subsection (a) and has also been sold in one or more subsequent sales for taxes, then any party entitled to redeem 11 such sale for taxes may redeem such sale if the redemptioner 12 13 simultaneously redeems his or her sale and all subsequent 14 sales. In the event of a redemption of successive sales, the 15 redemption amount shall be ascertained by applying the 16 provisions of Sections 40-10-121 and 40-10-122. Redemption 17 amounts computed pursuant to Section 40-10-121 shall be paid 18 as stated therein. Redemption amounts computed pursuant to Section 40-10-122 shall be paid as stated therein if the 19 20 purchaser had the right to redeem pursuant to subsection (a) 21 or was the owner of the then current tax certificate or tax 22 title. Otherwise, those funds shall be disposed of as set forth in Section 40-10-28 and paid to such purchaser or his or 23 24 her assignee only as set forth in Section 40-10-28, with the 25 time limits for such application computed utilizing the sale 26 date when the purchaser's interest was sold for taxes. 27 "§40-10-184.

"(a) On the day and time designated for a tax lien 1 2 auction, the tax collecting official shall proceed to auction all tax liens described in the tax lien auction list compiled 3 as provided in Section 40-10-183, except those for which the 4 5 taxes, penalties, interest, fees, and costs thereon have been paid. Any tax lien unsold after a tax lien auction shall be 6 7 retained by the county for future auction or sale as provided in this article. 8

9 "(b) A tax lien shall be sold at auction pursuant to 10 this article to the person who pays all taxes, interest, penalties, fees, and costs due on the property, including an 11 origination cost of twenty dollars (\$20) as of the date of 12 13 auction and a twenty dollar (\$20) auction fee, and who, in addition, bids the lowest interest rate on the amount required 14 15 to be paid to redeem the property from the sale. The beginning interest rate bid shall not exceed a rate of 12 percent and 16 17 additional bids may be made at a rate less than the 18 immediately preceding bid. If the interest rate bid for the property reaches 0.00 percent and <u>a bid is submitted</u> by the 19 20 local government or local land bank authority in which the 21 property is located, the bid shall be accepted as the 22 successful bid. The tender of the bid shall be for cash, with 23 a credit for any and all amounts already due and payable to 24 the local governmental entity submitting the bid. If no bid is 25 submitted and more than one bidder remains, the tax collecting 26 official shall draw lots to determine the winning bidder for 27 the property.

"(c) The sale of a tax lien does not extinguish any deed restriction, deed covenant, or easement on or appurtenant to the parcel. A tax lien offered for auction or sale shall be identified by a uniform parcel number and a legal description."

6 Section 4. This act shall become effective 7 immediately following its passage and approval by the 8 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.