- 1 SB374
- 2 212595-2
- 3 By Senators Williams and Sessions
- 4 RFD: Banking and Insurance
- 5 First Read: 01-APR-21

1 SB374

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4 <u>ENGROSSED</u>

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7 A BILL

8 TO BE ENTITLED

9 AN ACT

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Relating to tax collectors; to amend Sections 40-5-1 to 40-5-4, inclusive; to repeal Sections 40-5-5 and 40-5-6; to amend Sections 40-5-7 to 40-5-15, inclusive, and Sections 40-5-17 to 40-5-24, inclusive; to repeal Section 40-5-25; to amend Section 40-5-26; to repeal Sections 40-5-27 and 40-5-28; to amend Section 40-5-29; to repeal Section 40-5-30; to amend Sections 40-5-31 and 40-5-32; to repeal Section 40-5-33; to amend Section 40-5-34; to repeal Section 40-5-35; to amend Section 40-5-36; to repeal Sections 40-5-37 to 40-5-40, inclusive; to amend Sections 40-5-41 and 40-5-42; to repeal Section 40-5-43; to amend Sections 40-5-44 and 40-5-45; to repeal Section 40-5-46 of the Code of Alabama 1975; to add Section 40-5-48 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to substantially revise the law governing tax collectors and the duties and powers thereof; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621

of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as 1 2 Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 4 5 Section 1. Sections 40-5-1 to 40-5-4, inclusive, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: 6 "\$40-5-1. 7 "The tax collector shall keep his office open at the 8 9

courthouse all the year round. In all counties of the state having a population of 100,000 or less according to the last or any subsequent federal census, the tax collector shall be required between October 1 and January 1 in each year to visit each precinct in the county by himself or by deputy to collect the taxes, and he shall give the same notice of such appointments as is given by the tax assessor. The county commission may by order duly entered on the minutes relieve the tax collector from making the visits to each voting place above provided for when in the judgment of the commission it is deemed advisable and shall by order specify the places in the county which the tax collector shall visit. As used in this chapter, the term "tax collecting official" means the elected or appointed official charged with collecting ad valorem taxes and other prescribed fees on real and personal property in the county.

"\$40-5-2.

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The tax collector is authorized to collecting official may appoint deputies, and the acts of such. The

deputies shall be recognized as his acts, and he shall be responsible for any loss sustained by any taxpayer or by the state or county by reason of the acts done by such deputies in the line of their powers and duties. Such deputies shall receive no compensation for their services out of the state or county revenue, except as otherwise provided by law errors that they make. The bond for each deputy shall be not less than 50 percent of the tax collecting official's bond. The expense of the bond shall be paid from the county general fund.

"§40-5-3.

Before assuming office, the tax collector collecting official must shall execute a bond in duplicate with a surety company authorized to do business in Alabama, payable to the State of Alabama, in an amount to be determined for every county by the Comptroller. The amount of the bond for each tax collector collecting official will shall be set at the beginning of his or her elected or appointed term for the duration of such the term. A new bond for an additional amount may be required whenever, in the judgment of the Comptroller, the public welfare demands such action. The amount of the bond will shall be determined by the use of the following table based on a percentage of the total annual taxes collected, as recorded in the latest audit report for each office published at least four months prior to the date the bond is required to be filed:

1		TABLE	FOR	COMPUTING	AMOUNT	OF	TAX	COLLECTOR'S	<u>COL-</u>
2	LECTING	OFFICIAI	L'S I	BOND.					

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3	Over	But Not Over	Amount of Bor
4	Zero	\$ 250,000	\$25,000
5	\$ 250,000	\$1,000,000	\$25,000 + 5%
6	\$1,000,000		\$62,500 + 1%

The bond of the tax collecting official shall be approved by the Comptroller, conditioned faithfully to discharge on the faithful performance of the duties of his or her office, which are or may be required of him by law during the time he continues therein or discharges any of the duties thereof. The bond, in duplicate, shall be sent to the office of the Comptroller on or before September 1, next after his or her election or, if appointed, prior to the date that he or she is to assume the duties of the office, for the Comptroller's approval. One copy shall be retained and filed in the Comptroller's office, and one copy shall be returned to the office of the probate judge of probate to be filed and recorded in his or her office. The cost of the bond required by this section shall be paid out of the general fund of the county on a warrant of the county commission, and the same shall be a preferred claim against the county.

"\$40-5-4.

Τ	" <u>(a)</u> The tax collector shall be entitled to receive
2	commissions on taxes collected by him, not including taxes on
3	real estate bid in by the state at tax sales and taxes which
4	would be due on property except for the provisions of the
5	presently applicable law exempting homesteads from state
6	taxes, as follows: In counties where collections, not Not
7	including taxes on real estate bid in by the state at tax
8	sales and taxes which that would be due on property except for
9	the provisions of the presently applicable law exempting
10	homesteads from state taxes, do not exceed \$12,000, the tax
11	collecting official, in addition to the commissions on
12	assessments pursuant to Section 40-4-2, shall collect
13	commissions from the state and county general funds at the
14	following rate rates of commission:
15	" <u>(1)</u> shall be 10 <u>Ten</u> percent on the first <u>five</u>
16	thousand dollars (\$5,000), five.
17	"(2) Five percent on the next four thousand dollars
18	<u>(</u> \$4,000 <u>).</u>
19	"(3) Four percent on the next three thousand dollars
20	<u>(\$3,000).</u>
21	"(4) One and one-half percent on the remainder up to
22	fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). and four
23	" (5) One percent on the remainder above \$15,000.
24	"(b) The commission herein provided for is to be
25	calculated on collections for real property and personal
26	property, except motor vehicles, for the general fund of the
27	state and county. In counties where the collections, not

including taxes on real estate bid in by the state at tax sales and taxes which would be due on property except for the provisions of the presently applicable law exempting homesteads from state taxes, exceed \$12,000, the commissions shall be as above declared up to \$12,000, and one and one-half percent on the remainder up to \$15,000, and one percent on the remainder above \$15,000. The commissions for collections of taxes on motor vehicles for the general fund of the state and county shall be calculated on the same basis and at the same rate as provided for the collections on real property and personal property other than motor vehicles for the general fund of the state and county. The amount of the commissions on taxes which would be due on property except for the provisions of the presently applicable law exempting homesteads from state taxes shall inure to the benefit of the General Fund of the state only and shall be covered into the Treasury to the credit of said fund. He shall also be entitled to receive two percent on all collections made by him of special taxes, whether such special taxes are levied for the state or county, to be paid out of such special taxes. The tax collector collecting official, pursuant to Section 40-4-2, shall receive two percent commissions on all special county or district taxes levied for school purposes. The collector may retain his commissions upon collections when he makes payment into the Treasury collect and disburse all commissions on special taxes at a rate of two percent for collecting and two percent for

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assessing to the county general fund, unless specifically exempted by law.

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"(c) In Jefferson County, no fees or commissions shall be allowed for collecting the three-mill county school tax and the three-mill district school tax.

"In all counties having a population of 225,000 or more inhabitants according to the last or any subsequent decennial federal census, the license commissioner, director of revenue, or other official in such counties now charged with the duty of collecting ad valorem taxes due the state and county on motor vehicles shall continue to collect said ad valorem tax due the state and county on motor vehicles and all fees, charges, and commissions for collecting said ad valorem tax on motor vehicles provided in this section to be paid to the tax collector shall be paid to said license commissioner, director of revenue, or other official now charged with the collection of said ad valorem tax on motor vehicles in such county, and he shall pay said commissions into the county treasury, and all commissions collected by the tax collector in such counties who is on a salary basis shall be paid into the county treasury, and said commissions so collected and paid into the county treasury shall be the property of the county."

Section 2. Sections 40-5-5 and 40-5-6, Code of Alabama 1975, are repealed.

Section 3. Sections 40-5-7 to 40-5-15, inclusive, and 40-5-17 to 40-5-24, inclusive, are amended to read as follows:

4 "\$40-5-7.

"After January 1, the collector tax collecting official must shall make a personal demand in writing by first class mail upon delinquent taxpayers, or their agents charged with the duty of paying their taxes, whenever they may be found, for the amount of their taxes and fees, and when unable to find them, to make a demand by certified or registered mail directed to his last known place of residence or business, return receipt demanded. The demand fee shall be five dollars (\$5) for each property. It shall be the duty of such delinquents forthwith the delinquent taxpayer to pay the taxes and fees assessed and charged against them the taxpayer, but failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall not invalidate the title to any property sold for taxes.

"\$40-5-8.

"If the taxes are paid after they become delinquent, the taxpayer shall pay all costs, fees, and charges, and interest, if any, that may at the time of payment have lawfully accrued.

"§40-5-9.

"Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 40-1-44, all ad valorem taxes becoming delinquent bear interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum, and such interest must. The interest shall be added to and collected as part of the taxes

and <u>shall be</u> reported in such <u>the</u> manner as <u>prescribed by</u> the Comptroller may prescribe.

"\$40-5-10.

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"Upon the payment by any taxpayer of the taxes, fees, and costs, if any, assessed and charged against him the taxpayer, the collector tax collecting official shall give the taxpayer a receipt therefor from the book mentioned in Section 40-5-11, showing the name of the taxpayer, the date of the payment, and the total assessed value of real and personal property, separately, and stating the amount of the state, county, and special taxes separately, together with the interest, costs, and fees, and such receipt shall be prima facie evidence that such taxpayer has paid all his state and county taxes for that year on the real and personal property and other subjects of taxation contained in his assessment lists and all fees and costs mentioned in such receipt. When any taxpayer shall pay all the taxes on any parcel of real estate separately assessed, the description thereof shall be placed on the receipt.

"\$40-5-11.

"The collector shall keep a book or books of receipts with duplicate sheets for each tax year, from which all receipts given to taxpayers must be taken; and, on payment by any taxpayer, the collector shall enter on the duplicate from which the receipt is taken the name of such taxpayer, the date of payment and the amount of taxes and the interest and costs as specified in the receipt prescribed in Section

40-5-10, and such duplicate and the receipt taken therefrom shall bear the same number and correspond in all respects.

Such book or books at the end of the tax year shall be delivered by the collector to the chairman of the county commission, and the production thereof by the collector may be compelled by such commission at any time before such delivery. The tax collecting official shall maintain a historic file of all individual tax payments.

"\$40-5-12.

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"A purchaser, lien holder lienholder, or mortgagee of real estate or personal property included in an assessment with other real estate or personal property of the person to whom the real estate or personal property was assessed or subject to the lien of taxes upon other real estate or personal property shall not be required to pay the entire amount of taxes due by the person or corporation to whom such real estate or personal property purchased or on which a lien or mortgage is held is assessed, but may discharge the tax lien against such the real estate or personal property purchased or on which a lien or mortgage is held by paying the actual amount of the taxes due to the tax collecting official of the county in which such the taxes are due and payable the actual amount of taxes due on such real estate or personal property purchased or in which a lien or mortgage is held based on the taxable value of such purchased or encumbered property as assessed for taxation by the person or corporation to whom assessed; provided, that such person or

corporation to whom such purchased or encumbered property is assessed or for whose taxes such purchased or encumbered property is subject to a tax lien has sufficient other real estate or personal property returned or assessed and subject to levy or sale out of which the remainder of the taxes may be collected by the tax collector and, provided further, that the taxable value of the real estate or personal property sought to be discharged from such tax lien can be ascertained from the assessment.

"\$40-5-13.

"Any person listing who lists for assessment more than one piece or parcel of real property which that has been listed and valued separately may pay taxes on any one or more of said the pieces; provided, that he the person shall first pay taxes on all personal property listed by him the person in said the assessment.

"\$40-5-14.

"(a) After January 1 of each year, the tax collector collecting official may must proceed, without delay, to levy upon the personal property of delinquent taxpayers for the payment of their taxes and, after having first given 10 days' notice of the time and place of sale, with a description of the property to be sold, by posting the same at three or more public places in the precinct of the residence of such delinquent, either at the time of assessment or of the levy, or, if he is a nonresident of the county, in the precinct in which the levy is made he must certified mail and by posting

on an online website controlled by the tax collecting official and accessible from the tax collecting official's website.

"(b) The tax collecting official shall sell the same property, or so as much thereof of the property as may be necessary to satisfy the taxes, fees, and expenses of the sale, including the expenses of keeping the property and moving the same property to the place of sale in front of the courthouse of the county, or at the voting place, or at the residence or place of business of such the delinquent taxpayer, or at any other place in the precinct in which such the notice was posted, at public outcry to the highest bidder. for cash, and the property so Property sold shall under this section is not be subject to redemption. For making such sale, the collector shall be allowed a fee of \$5, to be collected out of the property.

"(c) In lieu of physically securing the property or storing or transporting the property to another location for sale, the sale may be held at any place of business, warehouse, storeroom, or facility owned or under the possession of the taxpayer, including without limitation the current location of the property to be sold.

"Such (d) The taxpayer may, at any time before the sale, may pay the taxes, interest, fees, and expenses, including the collector's tax collecting official's fees for the sale, the same as if it had been made, and thereby discharge the levy.

"(e) A person who knowingly removes, destroys, or defaces personal property subject to levy and sale under this section or who, on the date of the sale of the personal property, knowingly interferes with or obstructs the tax collecting official or sheriff, or an agent or deputy thereof, from accessing or selling the property is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

"\$40-5-15.

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"(a) The proceeds arising from such a sale for taxes under this chapter shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of the sale and of the taxes, interest, and fees due from such the taxpayer, and any balance remaining shall be paid to the owner of the property, if present at the sale; if not present or if present and he refuses to receive the same, the collector shall deposit such balance with the county treasurer or, if there is no county treasurer, with such officer entrusted with the county funds, taking a receipt therefor, and the same shall be kept as a special fund; and, whenever the owner shall apply to the collector for such balance, the collector shall deliver to him the receipts therefor, and upon presentation thereof by such owner, the officer with whom such deposit was made shall pay to him the amount expressed in the receipt. If the owner of the property is not present on the day of the sale to receive the remaining balance, the tax collecting official shall maintain the funds for 60 days during which time the owner may apply for the remaining balance. If any remaining balance is not collected

or claimed within 60 days after the sale by the person
entitled to receive the remaining balance, the tax collecting
official shall deposit the excess money with the county
treasurer, or another officer entrusted with the county funds,
to the credit of the county general fund. The county treasurer
shall make record of the deposit on his or her books, and the
excess money shall thereafter be treated as a part of the
county general fund.

"(b) But if such excess If any remaining balance is not called for collected or claimed in three years within 60 days after such the sale by the person entitled to receive the same remaining balance, upon the order of the county commission, stating the case or cases in which such excess was paid, together with a description of the property sold, when sold and the amount of such excess, the county treasurer shall pass transfer such the excess money to the credit of the general fund of the county and make record of the same transfer on his or her books, and such the excess money shall thereafter be treated as a part of the general fund of the county.

"\$40-5-17.

"(a) When the collector a tax collecting official has information that any person owing taxes in his the county, whether due or not, has left the county, he the tax collecting official shall make out and certify to the judge of probate a bill against such the person and procure the approval thereof of the bill by the judge of probate in all respects as

provided in Section 40-5-31, and such . The bill shall operate as a writ of fieri facias, and the same.

"(b) The writ may be executed by the collector tax collecting official if the assessed personal property of the taxpayer is found in his the county of the tax collecting official. or may be by such collector forwarded

"(c) The tax collecting official may forward a copy of the writ to the collector tax collecting official of any other county in which the delinquent taxpayer has any property, and the collector the tax collecting official of such the other county, on the receipt of such the writ, shall file the same writ for record in the probate office in his or her county and, without delay shall give notice to the delinquent taxpayer in person or by certified or registered mail, return receipt demanded.

"(d) On failure of said the delinquent taxpayer to satisfy after 30 days from the date of such the notice, the taxes, fees, and costs due under the writ, in addition to the recording fee and a fee of five dollars (\$5) for executing such writ, he the tax collecting official shall proceed to execute the same writ as if issued in his or her county. He The tax collecting official shall remit collections thereon to the collector tax collecting official sending him the writ and is liable under his bond for any neglect of duty under this section."

"\$40-5-18**.**

"No property shall be is exempt from the levy and sale for the payment of taxes and the fees and charges that are lawfully incurred in assessing and collecting the taxes against the owner thereof of the property.

"§40-5-19.

"(a) When no personal property can be found out of which the taxes of any delinquent taxpayer can be collected, or an amount insufficient to fully satisfy such the taxes, the real estate of such the delinquent taxpayer or the real estate upon which such the delinquent taxpayer's taxes are a lien shall be sold for the payment thereof of the taxes, or of the balance due thereon, in the manner hereinafter prescribed as provided in this chapter.

"(b) But Notwithstanding subsection (a), the failure of the tax collector collecting official to so exhaust such the personal property of the delinquent taxpayer shall does not invalidate the sale of any real estate.

"§40-5-20.

"(a) (1) If the tax upon assessed tangible personal property of a taxpayer remains unpaid after January 1 in any year, the county tax collecting official shall present the account for taxes to any person or entity who the collecting official the collector ascertains or has just cause to believe that any person is may be indebted to the delinquent taxpayer, or has in his or her possession or under his or her control any money, property, or choses in action belonging to any delinquent taxpayer in his the county, and demand the payment

of the taxes and fees due from the taxpayer. The demand shall operate as a levy upon any assets of the delinquent taxpayer in the possession or control of the third party indebted to the delinquent taxpayer and shall have the force and effect of a writ of garnishment. he shall forthwith serve upon such person a notice in writing to appear before some court in the county having jurisdiction of the amount involved, naming the court, to answer as garnishee and under oath whether he was indebted to such taxpayer at the time of the service of the notice or at the time of making his answer, or whether he will be indebted to him by any contract then existing, and if so, the amount of such indebtedness, and whether he has in his possession, or under his control any and what money, property, or choses in action belonging to such taxpayer; and in such notice he shall state the amount of the taxes and fees due from such taxpayer. He The tax collecting official shall also forthwith immediately give such the delinquent taxpayer, if in the county, written notice of the service of such the garnishment; and if he. If the delinquent taxpayer resides in the state but is not in the county and resides in the state, and his or her address is known or can be ascertained, he the tax collecting official shall give notice to such the delinquent taxpayer, and return the executed garnishment and notice he shall, without delay, return executed to the court before which the garnishee is cited to appear.

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"(2) The person or entity to whom the account for delinquent taxes is presented shall pay over to the county tax

1	collecting official the amount of the taxes and fees that the
2	delinquent taxpayer owes and shall take the tax collecting
3	official's receipt for the payment. The receipt shall be taken
4	in all courts of this state as payment on the delinquent
5	taxpayer's indebtedness to the full amount expressed on the
6	receipt.
7	"(b) If, on demand, the person or entity fails or
8	refuses to pay over the amount of the tax that the delinquent
9	taxpayer owes to the tax collecting official, the tax
10	collecting official shall file a statement of the amount of
11	the tax and fees with the person or entity so refusing. The
12	statement shall operate as a garnishment upon the person or
13	entity so served. The tax collecting official shall proceed to
14	collect the taxes in the manner fixed by law in cases of
15	garnishment.
15 16	<pre>garnishment. "(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far</pre>
16	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far
16 17	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to
16 17 18	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their
16 17 18 19	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their possession any money, property, or choses in action belonging
16 17 18 19 20	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their possession any money, property, or choses in action belonging to any delinquent taxpayer.
16 17 18 19 20 21	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their possession any money, property, or choses in action belonging to any delinquent taxpayer. "(d) A delinquent taxpayer may not be compelled to
16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their possession any money, property, or choses in action belonging to any delinquent taxpayer. "(d) A delinquent taxpayer may not be compelled to pay any debt before the debt is due, nor be compelled to pay a</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	"(c) It shall be the duty of the collector, as far as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their possession any money, property, or choses in action belonging to any delinquent taxpayer. "(d) A delinquent taxpayer may not be compelled to pay any debt before the debt is due, nor be compelled to pay a greater amount than is owed.

Such Garnishment proceedings shall be conducted in the name of the state and before the circuit court.

"\$40-5-22.

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"The clerk and the sheriff shall be entitled to the same fees as in cases of garnishment on judgments, and the collector county general fund shall be entitled to two dollars (\$2).

"§40-5-23.

"The tax collector shall in each year report on oath to the Department of Revenue at Montgomery, and to the county commission at the June meeting thereof, a list on a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue of the persons from whom the taxes assessed against them cannot be collected, with the amount of taxes, state and county assessed against each, which shall be termed "list of insolvents," and a list of such persons as have been overassessed or wrongfully assessed, with the taxes, state and county assessed against each, which shall be termed "list of errors in assessments," and any taxes which may be in litigation, in order that the same may be passed upon and determined by the commission. The tax collector shall cause the said "list of insolvents" to be published twice during the month of July following the submission thereof at the first regular meeting in June of the county commission. Said publication shall be made in a daily newspaper printed and published in said county or, if no such paper is published therein, then in a weekly newspaper published in said county; if there is neither a daily nor weekly newspaper of any sort

published in said county, then he shall post said "list of insolvents" in the courthouse and in three other conspicuous places in said county and keep said posting available for the public during the entire month of July. A failure to publish said list as here required shall constitute a misdemeanor.

"One third of the cost of advertisement provided in this section shall be paid out of the General Fund of the state by warrant drawn by the Comptroller, and two thirds thereof shall be paid out of the general fund of the county in which said advertisement is made.

"(a) (1) On or before the first regular county

commission meeting in June of the current tax year, the tax

collecting official shall submit a report to the county

commission on a form provided by the Department of Revenue

showing all errors in assessments, taxes in litigation,

insolvents, lands bid in to the state, and tax liens that were

not auctioned or sold, including a list of insolvents.

"(2) The list of insolvents required to be reported in subdivision (1) shall include the name, residential or business address, and all taxes, cost, and interest charged against each listed person. The tax collecting official shall cause the list to be published for two weeks in July on a website of the tax collecting official or the county website of which the tax collecting official has access, or in a local newspaper published and printed in the county.

"(3) A tax collecting official who fails to publish and display the list of insolvents as required in subdivision

(2) shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

"(b) The cost, if any, for advertisement of the list of insolvents required under this section shall be paid from the county general fund and any money collected from insolvents shall include the cost of advertisement and repaid to the county general fund.

"(c) All reports submitted to the county commission under this section shall be certified by the tax collecting official and forwarded to the Comptroller upon the tax collecting official's final settlement to allow credits to the tax collecting official.

"\$40-5-24.

"At the first regular meeting in June, the county commission shall make a careful and rigid examination of such lists and of the facts pertaining thereto, in consultation with the tax assessors, and shall ascertain and determine what taxes contained in the lists of insolvents the collector could not, by the use of due diligence, have collected, and what taxes contained in the list of errors in assessments should not have been collected by him by reason of such errors, and shall correct such list accordingly, shall credit the collector with the county taxes contained in such list as corrected and shall ascertain what taxes are in litigation and credit the collector with the county taxes so in litigation.

_	The creates arrowed the tax corrector under this section sharp
2	be approved by the Department of Revenue.
3	"(a) The county commission shall make a careful
4	examination of all reports submitted to the county commission
5	pursuant to Section 40-5-23 and, in consultation with the tax
6	collecting official, shall determine which taxes on insolvents
7	on the list could not be collected.
8	"(b) The county commission shall direct the tax
9	collecting official to provide to the official responsible for
10	issuing state, county, and municipal business or manufacturing
11	licenses that no license shall be issued for any person that
12	has insolvent status until confirmation is provided by the tax
13	collecting official that the insolvent's taxes have been paid.
14	As provided in this subsection, payment of insolvent taxes
15	includes all taxes, fees, and interest that have accrued and
16	any cost incurred to collect the taxes.
17	"(c) After all reports have been examined and
18	approved, the county commission shall provide a letter of
19	approval and acceptance for credits to the state Comptroller
20	for final settlement for the tax collecting official."
21	Section 4. Section 40-5-25, Code of Alabama 1975, is
22	repealed.
23	Section 5. Section 40-5-26, Code of Alabama 1975, is
24	amended to read as follows:
25	" §40-5-26.
26	"Upon the allowance and credit to the tax collector
27	collecting official of insolvent taxes for insolvents and

taxes in litigation, a new account must be stated by the 2 county commission for county taxes and by the Comptroller for state taxes for the credits allowed the tax collecting 3 official and shall remain charges for no more than three years 4 5 from the tax lien date of the initial tax insolvency. For taxes in litigation, termination shall be at the discretion of the state Comptroller. as provided in Sections 40-5-24 and 40-5-25, the county commission shall, on behalf of the county, state a new account against the collector for the amounts of 10 insolvent county taxes and county taxes in litigation so allowed and credited; and, upon allowance by the Comptroller 11 of the credits for insolvent state taxes and state taxes in 12 13 litigation, as provided in Section 40-5-25, a new account must be stated by the Comptroller against the collector for the 14 15 amounts of insolvent state taxes and the amounts of state taxes in litigation so allowed and credited; and the collector 16 17 shall remain charged with such sums until the liability is 18 discharged, as hereinafter provided." Section 6. Sections 40-5-27 and 40-5-28, Code of 19 20 Alabama 1975, are repealed. 21 Section 7. Section 40-5-29, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows: 22 "\$40-5-29. 23 24 "At the first regular meeting of the county

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commission held during in January of the year next succeeding,

the collector must tax collecting official shall make a final

report of the uncollected balances of such insolvent taxes and

taxes in litigation. The county commission shall issue a 2 credit to the tax collecting official for the satisfaction of final settlement with the Comptroller. , showing the name of 3 every insolvent taxpayer from whom he has been unable to 4 5 collect, the amounts of state and county taxes due from him and an itemized report of the taxes still in litigation; and thereupon, if the commission is satisfied that the collector has made diligent effort to collect such taxes, the commission shall make an order allowing the collector credit for such 9 10 insolvent taxes as he has been unable to collect and for taxes remaining in litigation and shall credit him with all county 11 12 taxes included therein; and the presiding officer shall 13 certify the same to the Comptroller, who shall thereupon credit the collector with the state taxes included in the 14 15 lists so allowed. The account for accounts of taxes remaining in litigation that are remaining shall thereafter be kept in 16 17 such a manner as the prescribed by the Comptroller may 18 prescribe." Section 8. Section 40-5-30, Code of Alabama 1975, is 19 20 repealed. 21 Section 9. Sections 40-5-31 and 40-5-32, Code of 22 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: "\$40-5-31. 23

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"It shall be the duty of the tax collector collecting official, whenever upon information or otherwise he or she has good reason to believe that any person owing taxes, whether due or not, is about to leave or remove his or her

property from the county, or that such the person is closing out or going out of business or disposing of substantially all of his or her personal property and thereby the collection of such the taxes is endangered, to make out and certify to the judge of probate a bill against such the person for the amount of such the taxes and any fees due to the assessor or collector collecting official; and, upon. Upon the approval thereof of the bill by the judge of probate in writing endorsed thereon, such the bill shall operate as a writ of fieri facias which that the collector collecting official is authorized to may execute by levy and sale, in the same manner as sheriffs are authorized to execute such writs when issued out of the circuit court. Said The writ may be executed in any county of the state where property of the taxpayer is found. The collector tax collecting official of such the county must shall execute the writ forwarded to him or her by the collector collecting official of the county where the assessment was made, the same as if issued in his or her own county. He The tax collecting official shall remit collections thereon on the writ to the collector other collecting official who sending him sent the writ and is liable on his or her bond for any neglect of duty under this section. Advertisements in newspapers or otherwise of sales of any personal property as a closing out sale, fire sale, bankrupt sale, or any sale of like character shall be prima facie evidence that the collection of taxes due on property so advertised is endangered within the meaning of this section.

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1 "\$40-5-32

"On failure of the tax collector to act when notified that any person is about to leave or remove his property from the county or that such person is closing out or going out of business or is disposing of substantially all of his personal property by a closing out sale, bankrupt sale, fire sale, manufacturers' sale, or otherwise, and the collection of taxes due or to become due is endangered, he shall be liable for the amount of taxes assessed against such person.

- "(a) As used in this section, the term "partial payment" means a payment that is less than the full amount of taxes due.
- "(b) At the discretion of the tax collecting official, the collecting official may accept one or more partial payments of any amount per tax account for payment of taxes and assessments on tangible personal property.
- "(c) Each partial payment, less a 10 dollar (\$10)

 processing fee payable to the tax collecting official, shall

 be credited to the tax account. The taxpayer has the

 responsibility to ensure that the remaining amount due is

 paid.
- "(d) The tax collecting official shall prepare and mail at least one notice with the balance due. The collecting official shall mail the notice in the form as he or she considers proper and necessary or as may be required by rule of the Department of Revenue.

1	"(e) At the tax collecting official's discretion, an
2	underpayment of 10 dollars (\$10) or less may be deemed a
3	payment in full, rather than a partial payment, in accordance
4	with the rules, policies, and procedures of the state
5	Comptroller.

"(f) The state Comptroller shall adopt rules to implement and administer this section."

Section 10. Section 40-5-33, Code of Alabama 1975, is repealed

Section 11. Section 40-5-34, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"\$40-5-34.

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"(a) It is the duty of the collector tax collecting official, when engaged in the collection of taxes for any year, if he discovers upon discovering that any person or property within his the county has not been assessed with the tax or any taxes lawfully chargeable to such the person or property for that year, or any preceding year, not more than five years before that the time of discovery, forthwith to assess and collect the taxes due on the same and in writing to notify the assessor of the fact so discovered, in order that proper assessment of unassessed taxes may be made, and the collector has the same authority to administer oaths and propound questions as the assessor has, and any party failing or refusing to answer such questions or to give in his property shall be liable to the same penalties as provided in cases where parties fail or refuse to return their property to

the assessor or answer the questions required to be propounded by the assessor. In such assessments of escaped taxes, the taxpayer on giving notice to the tax collector shall have the right of appeal as provided for escaped assessments made by the tax assessor, and all provisions and conditions applying thereto shall apply as to escaped assessments made by the tax assessor tax assessing official that certain property has escaped taxation.

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"(b) The tax assessing official shall prepare an assessment up to five prior years at the time of discovery with an assessment to the person with ownership of the property. The assessment shall be made with other like property and shall charge a 10 percent penalty on the total assessed value, plus one five dollar (\$5) fee. The tax assessing official shall notify the tax collecting official in writing of the total amount of taxes, fees, and costs to be collected. The tax assessing official shall enter the same in the tax collecting official's abstract, provided the escape exists prior to final settlement for the tax collecting official. If the escape occurs after final settlement, the tax collecting official shall make a report to the state and disburse the proceeds to each agency, withholding the commission at the rate that was applicable prior to final settlement."

Section 12. Section 40-5-35, Code of Alabama 1975, is repealed.

Section 13. Section 40-5-36, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"\$40-5-36.

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"(a) The tax collector <u>collecting official</u>, on October 15 of each year and on the first and fifteenth day of each month thereafter, shall make under oath, to the county treasurer and school treasurer or, if there is no county treasurer or school treasurer in the county, to the custodian of the funds of the county and schools, an itemized report in writing, a copy of which shall be by the collector forwarded to the Comptroller, and a copy filed with the probate judge, setting forth separately the taxes, interest, and penalties collected by him for the state, county, and schools since the making of his last report; and within five days after making such report, he must pay to the State Treasurer all state taxes, interest, and penalties then due from him to the state, and he must also pay to the county treasurer and to the school treasurer or, if there is no county treasurer or school treasurer in the county, to the custodian of the funds of the county and of the schools, all county taxes, interest, and penalties and all school taxes, interest, and penalties then due from him to the county and to the schools, by him before that time collected. Where any official other than a tax collector is charged with the collection of ad valorem taxes on automobiles, such official may make his said reports and distribution of ad valorem taxes collected on automobiles, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, and all other motor vehicles at

the same time he distributes money received by him for motor vehicle licenses. The county treasurer and the school treasurer, or, if there is no county treasurer or school treasurer in the county, then the custodian of the funds of the county and of the schools, shall give to the collector a receipt in duplicate of such semimonthly payment, one of which duplicates shall be promptly forwarded to the Comptroller by the tax collector. If no collection of taxes, interest, or penalties have been collected by the collector prior to any reporting date, he shall make the report herein required stating under oath that no taxes, interest, or penalties were collected during the period for which report is made provide a detailed report showing the total gross receipts, including the calculation of taxes for each, interest collected, commissions withheld, and all other documented withholdings from each agency that receives taxes. The report shall have a detailed showing for each millage rate assessed for each agency. The report shall be a sworn statement that is duplicated for each agency, a copy of the report shall be available to each agency receiving disbursements upon request. "No later than five days after this report must be provided, the tax collecting official shall make disbursements

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"(b) Should the report and payment of taxes, interest, and penalties herein required not be made within 10 days after the same is due, the Comptroller shall immediately notify the Chief Examiner of Public Accounts, who shall

to each agency that receives taxes.

forthwith cause the books of the official to be examined, and 1 2 the Comptroller shall also immediately notify the tax collector's bondsmen, who may within 30 days from date of 3 notice from the Comptroller withdraw from further 4 5 responsibility as such bondsmen by giving 15 days' notice by 6 certified or registered mail to the tax collector collecting 7 official, the probate judge of probate of the county, and the 8 Comptroller, but such the bondsmen shall not be relieved of 9 any responsibility with respect to the tax collector 10 collecting official arising during the time they are on his the tax collecting official's bond. When the bondsmen on a tax 11 collecting official's collector's bond serve notice of their 12 13 desire to withdraw from the responsibility as such bondsmen as 14 herein provided, it shall be the duty of the tax collector 15 collecting official to make, on or before the withdrawal date of his or her then bondsmen, a new bond in an amount and with 16 17 such sufficient surety as may be required by law. Upon failure 18 of the tax collector collecting official to make such the new bond, the Comptroller shall notify the Governor that a vacancy 19 20 exists in the office of tax collector collecting official of 21 the county, and the Governor shall appoint a tax collector 22 collecting official to serve the remainder of the term for 23 which the former tax collector collecting official was elected 24 or appointed to serve. The tax collector collecting official 25 appointed to serve the remainder of the term shall, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall make bond in the 26 amount and with such surety as is required by this code." 27

Section 14. Sections 40-5-37 to 40-5-40, inclusive, of the Code of Alabama 1975, are repealed.

Section 15. Sections 40-5-41 and 40-5-42, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§40-5-41.

"When the object for which such special taxes were levied and collected shall have has been accomplished or for any other reason the same special taxes are no longer required for the purpose for which they were levied, the parties charged with the administration or application thereof of the taxes shall notify the treasurer or, if there is no county treasurer, the custodian of the funds of the county, who shall thereupon close the account of such taxes and transfer any balance remaining to the account of the general fund of the county commission.

"\$40-5-42.

"(a) In cases where there is no provision by law authorizing the collection of taxes by an action, the taxes due to the state or to any county, city, town, special school district, or other special district may, after the same shall taxes have become delinquent, the taxes may be collected by the state or by any county, city, or town municipality, or the county or city board of education, or by an action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

"(b) In addition to the remedy here given to public agencies for the collection of taxes due them by an action, the tax collector collecting official of every county is

authorized to sue in his or her own name and in the capacity 1 2 of his or her office for the recovery of all taxes collectable by his or her office which are due to any of the above 3 agencies or any other public agency for which the tax 4 5 collector is charged with the responsibility of collecting the tax. Such The county tax collectors are also authorized to collecting officials may act in their own names and in the capacity of their office in any bankruptcy or other insolvency proceeding, or any other type of litigation or court 9 10 proceedings wherein in which taxes due to any public agency which are collectable by such a tax collector collecting 11 official may be recovered, and to take such any action in such 12 13 the proceedings as may be appropriate or necessary for the collection of such the taxes due to any of said the public 14 15 agencies."

Section 16. Section 40-5-43, Code of Alabama 1975, is repealed.

Section 17. Sections 40-5-44 and 40-5-45, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"\$40-5-44.

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"(a) On or before July 1 in each year, the tax collector must make final settlement, under oath, with the Comptroller, of all matters pertaining to the office of tax collector and pay over to the State Treasurer the balance which may be found due from him or her for taxes with which he or she is chargeable under the laws of the state, and at that time the tax collector must also account to the Comptroller

and pay over to the proper governmental authorities and any holder of a tax lien certificate issued pursuant to Acts 1995, No. 95-408 all money received by the tax collector for the sale of lands and other property which may have been sold for payment of taxes and also account to the Comptroller for all lands bought by the state. The tax collector must also report under oath to the Comptroller and pay over to the State Treasurer all escaped taxes assessed and collected. For failure of any tax collector to make any of the settlements herein required to be made by July 10 of each year, the tax collector shall forfeit ten dollars (\$10) per day, which shall be deducted from the amount of commissions due and payable to the tax collector on such settlements respectively; and it shall be the duty of the Comptroller, or the county treasurer, or the custodian of the county funds, as the case may be, to withhold all commissions in cases where settlements are not made by July 10 of each year.

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"(b)(1)(a)(1) On or before November 1 in each year, all tax collectors, elected assistant tax collectors, revenue commissioners, license commissioners, and probate judges charged with collecting ad valorem taxes on motor vehicle tags shall make final settlement, under oath, with the Comptroller of all matters pertaining to the respective office's collection of ad valorem taxes on motor vehicle tags.

"(2) Failure of any official to make the settlement required by this subsection by November 10 of each year shall forfeit ten dollars (\$10) per day which shall be deducted from

the amount of commission or other public compensation due and payable to the official on the settlement respectively. It shall be the duty of the Comptroller, the county treasurer, or the custodian of the county funds to withhold all commissions or other public compensation in cases where settlements are not made by December 10 of each year.

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"(3) Final determinations shall be made in accordance with rules adopted by the state Comptroller regarding the format of the final settlement, the time frame to be covered by the final settlement, and the date when final settlement will be made with the state Comptroller's Office and approved by the Chief Examiner of Public Accounts.

"(a) On or before July 1 of each year, each tax collecting official, under oath, shall make final settlement with the Comptroller and shall pay to the State Treasurer the balance which may be found due from charges from the abstract of taxes pursuant to Section 40-7-35. Final settlement shall be made in accordance with rules adopted by the state Comptroller.

"(b) Unless otherwise excepted by the Comptroller, a tax collecting official who fails to make settlement as provided in this section by the tenth day of July of each year shall be assessed a fine of 10 dollars (\$10) per day until the final settlement is made in accordance with this section. The fine shall be assessed in the official's personal capacity. "\$40-5-45.

"The tax collector collecting official shall receive the rate per mile allowed by law for state officers and employees, once each year, in going to and returning from the respective county seat of government for the purpose of making the final settlement provided for in Section 40-5-44, the distance to be the same as that established by law for the members of the Legislature".

Section 18. Section 40-5-46, Code of Alabama 1975, 9 is repealed.

Section 19. Section 40-5-48 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

\$40-5-48.

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- (a) A tax collecting official who collects ad valorem tax on real property, in addition to the ad valorem tax on motor vehicles collected pursuant to Section 40-12-253, may disburse the collections with each semi-monthly report.
- (b) A tax collecting official who has the responsibility to assess and collect the ad valorem tax on motor vehicles under Section 40-12-253 and to also collect the annual motor vehicle license taxes and registration fees under Section 40-12-242 shall disburse all ad valorem tax collections as provided under Sections 40-5-4 and 40-4-2 during the same time period set out under Section 40-12-269.
- (c) Manufactured home fees, commissions, or penalties charged and collected pursuant to Section 40-12-255 shall be disbursed on or before the twentieth day of the following month.

Section 20. Although this bill would have as its 1 2 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased 3 expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements and application under Amendment 621, now 4 appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of 5 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, because the bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an 7 existing crime. 8 Section 21. This act shall become effective October 9 10 1, 2021, following its passage and approval by the Governor, 11 or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	Senate	
4 5 6	Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Banking and Insurance	0.1-APR-21
7 8 9	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar	0.7-APR-21
10	Read for the third time and passed as amended	1.5-APR-21
11 12	Yeas 28 Nays 0	
13 14		
15 16 17	Patrick Harris, Secretary.	