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

2 3 4 ENROLLED, An Act, Relating to tax collectors; to amend Sections 40-5-1 5 6 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 7 8 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; 9 10 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 11 12 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, 13 14 inclusive; to amend Sections 40-5-41 and 40-5-42; to repeal 15 Section 40-5-43; to amend Sections 40-5-44 and 40-5-45; to 16 repeal Section 40-5-46 of the Code of Alabama 1975; to add 17 Section 40-5-48 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to substantially 18 revise the law governing tax collectors and the duties and 19 powers thereof; and in connection therewith would have as its 20 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased 21 expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 22 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as 23 Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the 24 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended 25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

SB374

1

1	Section 1. Sections 40-5-1 to 40-5-4, inclusive,
2	Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
3	"\$40-5-1.
4	"The tax collector shall keep his office open at the
5	courthouse all the year round. In all counties of the state
6	having a population of 100,000 or less according to the last
7	or any subsequent federal census, the tax collector shall be
8	required between October 1 and January 1 in each year to visit
9	each precinct in the county by himself or by deputy to collect
10	the taxes, and he shall give the same notice of such
11	appointments as is given by the tax assessor. The county
12	commission may by order duly entered on the minutes relieve
13	the tax collector from making the visits to each voting place
14	above provided for when in the judgment of the commission it
15	is deemed advisable and shall by order specify the places in
16	the county which the tax collector shall visit. As used in
17	this chapter, the term "tax collecting official" means the
18	elected or appointed official charged with collecting ad
19	valorem taxes and other prescribed fees on real and personal
20	property in the county.
21	"§40-5-2.
22	The tax <del>collector is authorized to</del> <u>collecting</u>
23	official may appoint deputies, and the acts of such. The
24	deputies shall <del>be recognized as his acts, and he shall</del> be
25	responsible for any <del>loss sustained by any taxpayer or by the</del>

1 state or county by reason of the acts done by such deputies in the line of their powers and duties. Such deputies shall 2 receive no compensation for their services out of the state or 3 4 county revenue, except as otherwise provided by law errors 5 that they make. The bond for each deputy shall be not less 6 than 50 percent of the tax collecting official's bond. The expense of the bond shall be paid from the county general 7 8 fund.

9

"§40-5-3.

10 Before assuming office, the tax collector collecting 11 official must shall execute a bond in duplicate with a surety 12 company authorized to do business in Alabama, payable to the 13 State of Alabama, in an amount to be determined for every 14 county by the Comptroller. The amount of the bond for each tax collector collecting official will shall be set at the 15 16 beginning of his or her elected or appointed term for the 17 duration of such the term. A new bond for an additional amount 18 may be required whenever, in the judgment of the Comptroller, 19 the public welfare demands such action. The amount of the bond 20 will shall be determined by the use of the following table 21 based on a percentage of the total annual taxes collected, as 22 recorded in the latest audit report for each office published 23 at least four months prior to the date the bond is required to 24 be filed:

1 TABLE FOR COMPUTING AMOUNT OF TAX COLLECTOR'S COL-2 LECTING OFFICIAL'S BOND.

3	Over	But Not Over	Amount of Bon
4	Zero	\$ 250,000	\$25 <b>,</b> 000
5	\$ 250,000	\$1,000,000	\$25,000 + 5%
6	\$1,000,000		\$62,500 + 1%

7 The bond of the tax collector collecting official shall be approved by the Comptroller, conditioned faithfully 8 to discharge on the faithful performance of the duties of his 9 10 or her office, which are or may be required of him by law 11 during the time he continues therein or discharges any of the 12 duties thereof. The bond, in duplicate, shall be sent to the office of the Comptroller on or before September 1, next after 13 his or her election or, if appointed, prior to the date that 14 he or she is to assume the duties of the office, for the 15 16 Comptroller's approval. One copy shall be retained and filed 17 in the Comptroller's office, and one copy shall be returned to the office of the probate judge of probate to be filed and 18 19 recorded in his or her office. The cost of the bond required 20 by this section shall be paid out of the general fund of the 21 county on a warrant of the county commission, and the same 22 shall be a preferred claim against the county.

1 "\$40-5-4.

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

1 "(b) The commission herein provided for is to be calculated on collections for real property and personal 2 property, except motor vehicles, for the general fund of the 3 state and county. In counties where the collections, not 4 including taxes on real estate bid in by the state at tax 5 sales and taxes which would be due on property except for the 6 7 provisions of the presently applicable law exempting 8 homesteads from state taxes, exceed \$12,000, the commissions shall be as above declared up to \$12,000, and one and one-half 9 percent on the remainder up to \$15,000, and one percent on the 10 11 remainder above \$15,000. The commissions for collections of taxes on motor vehicles for the general fund of the state and 12 13 county shall be calculated on the same basis and at the same 14 rate as provided for the collections on real property and 15 personal property other than motor vehicles for the general 16 fund of the state and county. The amount of the commissions on 17 taxes which would be due on property except for the provisions 18 of the presently applicable law exempting homesteads from state taxes shall inure to the benefit of the General Fund of 19 20 the state only and shall be covered into the Treasury to the 21 credit of said fund. He shall also be entitled to receive two 22 percent on all collections made by him of special taxes, 23 whether such special taxes are levied for the state or county, to be paid out of such special taxes. The tax collector 24 collecting official, pursuant to Section 40-4-2, shall receive 25

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

8 "<u>(c)</u> In Jefferson County, no fees or commissions 9 shall be allowed for collecting the three-mill county school 10 tax and the three-mill district school tax.

11 "In all counties having a population of 225,000 or 12 more inhabitants according to the last or any subsequent 13 decennial federal census, the license commissioner, director of revenue, or other official in such counties now charged 14 15 with the duty of collecting ad valorem taxes due the state and 16 county on motor vehicles shall continue to collect said ad valorem tax due the state and county on motor vehicles and all 17 18 fees, charges, and commissions for collecting said ad valorem 19 tax on motor vehicles provided in this section to be paid to 20 the tax collector shall be paid to said license commissioner, 21 director of revenue, or other official now charged with the 22 collection of said ad valorem tax on motor vehicles in such 23 county, and he shall pay said commissions into the county treasury, and all commissions collected by the tax collector 24 25 in such counties who is on a salary basis shall be paid into

1	the county treasury, and said commissions so collected and
2	paid into the county treasury shall be the property of the
3	county."
4	Section 2. Sections 40-5-5 and 40-5-6, Code of
5	Alabama 1975, are repealed.
6	Section 3. Sections 40-5-7 to 40-5-15, inclusive,
7	and 40-5-17 to 40-5-24, inclusive, are amended to read as
8	follows:
9	"§40-5-7.
10	"After January 1, the <del>collector</del> <u>tax collecting</u>
11	<u>official</u> <del>must</del> <u>shall</u> make a <del>personal</del> demand in writing <u>by first</u>
12	class mail upon delinquent taxpayers, or their agents charged
13	with the duty of paying their taxes, whenever they may be
14	found, for the amount of their taxes and fees, and when unable
15	to find them, to make a demand by certified or registered mail
16	directed to his last known place of residence or business,
17	return receipt demanded. The demand fee shall be five dollars
18	(\$5) for each property. It shall be the duty of such
19	delinquents forthwith the delinquent taxpayer to pay the taxes
20	and fees assessed and charged against them the taxpayer, but
21	failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall
22	not invalidate the title to any property sold for taxes.
23	"§40-5-8.
24	"If the taxes are paid after they become delinquent,

25 the taxpayer shall pay all costs, fees, and charges, and

1 <u>interest</u>, if any, that may at the time of payment have
2 lawfully accrued.

3 "§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
<u>interest shall</u> be added to and collected as part of the taxes
and <u>shall be</u> reported in such the manner as prescribed by the
Comptroller may prescribe.

10

"§40-5-10.

11 "Upon the payment by any taxpayer of the taxes, 12 fees, and costs, if any, assessed and charged against him the 13 taxpayer, the collector tax collecting official shall give the 14 taxpayer a receipt therefor from the book mentioned in Section 40-5-11, showing the name of the taxpayer, the date of the 15 16 payment, and the total assessed value of real and personal 17 property, separately, and stating the amount of the state, county, and special taxes separately, together with the 18 interest, costs, and fees, and such receipt shall be prima 19 20 facie evidence that such taxpayer has paid all his state and 21 county taxes for that year on the real and personal property 22 and other subjects of taxation contained in his assessment 23 lists and all fees and costs mentioned in such receipt. When 24 any taxpayer shall pay all the taxes on any parcel of real

1	estate separately assessed, the description thereof shall be
2	placed on the receipt.
3	"§40-5-11.
4	"The collector shall keep a book or books of
5	receipts with duplicate sheets for each tax year, from which
6	all receipts given to taxpayers must be taken; and, on payment
7	by any taxpayer, the collector shall enter on the duplicate
8	from which the receipt is taken the name of such taxpayer, the
9	date of payment and the amount of taxes and the interest and
10	costs as specified in the receipt prescribed in Section
11	40-5-10, and such duplicate and the receipt taken therefrom
12	shall bear the same number and correspond in all respects.
13	Such book or books at the end of the tax year shall be
14	delivered by the collector to the chairman of the county
15	commission, and the production thereof by the collector may be
16	compelled by such commission at any time before such delivery.
17	The tax collecting official shall maintain a historic file of
18	all individual tax payments.
19	"§40-5-12.
20	"A purchaser, <del>lien holder</del> <u>lienholder</u> , or mortgagee
21	of real estate or personal property included in an assessment
22	with other real estate or personal property of the person to
23	whom the real estate or personal property was assessed or
24	subject to the lien of taxes upon other real estate or

25 personal property shall not be required to pay the entire

1 amount of taxes due by the person or corporation to whom such real estate or personal property purchased or on which a lien 2 or mortgage is held is assessed, but may discharge the tax 3 lien against such the real estate or personal property 4 5 purchased or on which a lien or mortgage is held by paying the 6 actual amount of the taxes due to the tax collector collecting official of the county in which such the taxes are due and 7 8 payable the actual amount of taxes due on such real estate or 9 personal property purchased or in which a lien or mortgage is 10 held based on the taxable value of such purchased or 11 encumbered property as assessed for taxation by the person or 12 corporation to whom assessed; provided, that such person or 13 corporation to whom such purchased or encumbered property is 14 assessed or for whose taxes such purchased or encumbered 15 property is subject to a tax lien has sufficient other real 16 estate or personal property returned or assessed and subject 17 to levy or sale out of which the remainder of the taxes may be 18 collected by the tax collector and, provided further, that the 19 taxable value of the real estate or personal property sought 20 to be discharged from such tax lien can be ascertained from 21 the assessment.

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"§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 <u>said the</u> pieces; provided, that <u>he</u> <u>the person</u> shall first pay taxes on all personal property listed by <u>him</u> <u>the person</u> in <del>said</del> the assessment.

4

"§40-5-14.

"(a) After January 1 of each year, the tax collector 5 6 collecting official may must proceed, without delay, to levy 7 upon the personal property of delinquent taxpayers for the payment of their taxes and, after having first given 10 days' 8 notice of the time and place of sale, with a description of 9 10 the property to be sold, by posting the same at three or more 11 public places in the precinct of the residence of such 12 delinquent, either at the time of assessment or of the levy, 13 or, if he is a nonresident of the county, in the precinct in 14 which the levy is made he must certified mail and by posting 15 on an online website controlled by the tax collecting official 16 and accessible from the tax collecting official's website.

17 "(b) The tax collecting official shall sell the same 18 property, or <del>so</del> as much <del>thereof</del> of the property as may be necessary to satisfy the taxes, fees, and expenses of the 19 20 sale, including the expenses of keeping the property and 21 moving the same property to the place of sale in front of the 22 courthouse of the county, or at the voting place, or at the 23 residence or place of business of such the delinquent 24 taxpayer, or at any other place in the precinct in which such 25 the notice was posted, at public outcry to the highest bidder.

1	for cash, and the property so <u>Property</u> sold <del>shall</del> <u>under this</u>
2	<u>section is</u> not <del>be</del> subject to redemption. For making such sale,
3	the collector shall be allowed a fee of $$5$ , to be collected
4	out of the property.
5	"(c) In lieu of physically securing the property or
6	storing or transporting the property to another location for
7	sale, the sale may be held at any place of business,
8	warehouse, storeroom, or facility owned or under the
9	possession of the taxpayer, including without limitation the
10	current location of the property to be sold.
11	" <del>Such</del> <u>(d) The</u> taxpayer may, at any time before the
12	sale, <u>may</u> pay the taxes, interest, fees, and expenses,
13	including the <del>collector's</del> <u>tax collecting official's</u> fees for
14	the sale, the same as if it had been made, and thereby
15	discharge the levy.
16	" <u>(e) A person who knowingly removes, destroys, or</u>
17	defaces personal property subject to levy and sale under this
18	section or who, on the date of the sale of the personal
19	property, knowingly interferes with or obstructs the tax
20	collecting official or sheriff, or an agent or deputy thereof,
21	from accessing or selling the property is guilty of a Class B
22	misdemeanor.
23	"§40-5-15.
24	" <u>(a)</u> The proceeds arising from <del>such</del> <u>a</u> sale <u>for taxes</u>
25	under this chapter shall be applied to the payment of the

1 expenses of the sale and of the taxes, interest, and fees due 2 from such the taxpayer, and any balance remaining shall be paid to the owner of the property, if present at the sale; if 3 not present or if present and he refuses to receive the same, 4 5 the collector shall deposit such balance with the county 6 treasurer or, if there is no county treasurer, with such 7 officer entrusted with the county funds, taking a receipt 8 therefor, and the same shall be kept as a special fund; and, whenever the owner shall apply to the collector for such 9 10 balance, the collector shall deliver to him the receipts 11 therefor, and upon presentation thereof by such owner, the 12 officer with whom such deposit was made shall pay to him the 13 amount expressed in the receipt. If the owner of the property 14 is not present on the day of the sale to receive the remaining 15 balance, the tax collecting official shall maintain the funds 16 for 60 days during which time the owner may apply for the 17 remaining balance. If any remaining balance is not collected or claimed within 60 days after the sale by the person 18 19 entitled to receive the remaining balance, the tax collecting 20 official shall deposit the excess money with the county 21 treasurer, or another officer entrusted with the county funds, 22 to the credit of the county general fund. The county treasurer shall make record of the deposit on his or her books, and the 23 24 excess money shall thereafter be treated as a part of the

25 <u>county general fund.</u>

1 "(b) But if such excess If any remaining balance is 2 not called for collected or claimed in three years within 60 days after such the sale by the person entitled to receive the 3 same remaining balance, upon the order of the county 4 5 commission, stating the case or cases in which such excess was 6 paid, together with a description of the property sold, when 7 sold and the amount of such excess, the county treasurer shall 8 pass transfer such the excess money to the credit of the 9 general fund of the county and make record of the same transfer on his or her books, and such the excess money shall 10 11 thereafter be treated as a part of the general fund of the 12 county.

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"§40-5-17.

14 "(a) When the collector a tax collecting official has information that any person owing taxes in his the county, 15 16 whether due or not, has left the county, he the tax collecting 17 official shall make out and certify to the judge of probate a 18 bill against such the person and procure the approval thereof of the bill by the judge of probate in all respects as 19 provided in Section 40-5-31, and such . The bill shall operate 20 21 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 1 2 of the writ to the collector tax collecting official of any other county in which the delinquent taxpayer has any 3 property, and the collector the tax collecting official of 4 5 such the other county, on the receipt of such the writ, shall 6 file the same writ for record in the probate office in his or 7 her county and, without delay shall give notice to the 8 delinquent taxpayer in person or by certified or registered 9 mail, return receipt demanded.

10 "(d) On failure of said the delinquent taxpayer to 11 satisfy after 30 days from the date of such the notice, the taxes, fees, and costs due under the writ, in addition to the 12 13 recording fee and a fee of five dollars (\$5) for executing 14 such writ, he the tax collecting official shall proceed to execute the same writ as if issued in his or her county. He 15 16 The tax collecting official shall remit collections thereon to the collector tax collecting official sending him the writ and 17 18 is liable under his bond for any neglect of duty under this section." 19

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"§40-5-18.

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

25 "§40-5-19.

1 "(a) When no personal property can be found out of 2 which the taxes of any delinquent taxpayer can be collected, or an amount insufficient to fully satisfy such the taxes, the 3 real estate of such the delinquent taxpayer or the real estate 4 5 upon which such the delinquent taxpayer's taxes are a lien 6 shall be sold for the payment thereof of the taxes, or of the 7 balance due thereon, in the manner hereinafter prescribed as 8 provided in this chapter. 9 "(b) But Notwithstanding subsection (a), the failure 10 of the tax <del>collector</del> collecting official to <del>so</del> exhaust <del>such</del> 11 the personal property of the delinquent taxpayer shall does not invalidate the sale of any real estate. 12 "§40-5-20. 13 14 "(a)(1) If the tax upon assessed tangible personal property of a taxpayer remains unpaid after January 1 in any 15 16 year, the county tax collecting official shall present the 17 account for taxes to any person or entity who the collecting 18 official the collector ascertains or has just cause to believe that any person is may be indebted to the delinquent taxpayer, 19 20 or has in his or her possession or under his or her control 21 any money, property, or choses in action belonging to any delinquent taxpayer in his the county, and demand the payment 22 23 of the taxes and fees due from the taxpayer. The demand shall 24 operate as a levy upon any assets of the delinquent taxpayer 25 in the possession or control of the third party indebted to

1 the delinquent taxpayer and shall have the force and effect of a writ of garnishment. he shall forthwith serve upon such 2 3 person a notice in writing to appear before some court in the 4 county having jurisdiction of the amount involved, naming the 5 court, to answer as garnishee and under oath whether he was 6 indebted to such taxpayer at the time of the service of the 7 notice or at the time of making his answer, or whether he will 8 be indebted to him by any contract then existing, and if so, the amount of such indebtedness, and whether he has in his 9 10 possession, or under his control any and what money, property, 11 or choses in action belonging to such taxpayer; and in such notice he shall state the amount of the taxes and fees due 12 13 from such taxpayer. He The tax collecting official shall also 14 forthwith immediately give such the delinquent taxpayer, if in the county, written notice of the service of such the 15 16 garnishment; and if he. If the delinquent taxpayer resides in 17 the state but is not in the county and resides in the state, 18 and his or her address is known or can be ascertained, he the tax collecting official shall give notice to such the 19 20 delinquent taxpayer, and return the executed garnishment and 21 notice he shall, without delay, return executed to the court 22 before which the garnishee is cited to appear. 23 "(2) The person or entity to whom the account for 24 delinquent taxes is presented shall pay over to the county tax

25 <u>collecting official the amount of the taxes and fees that the</u>

1	delinquent taxpayer owes and shall take the tax collecting
2	official's receipt for the payment. The receipt shall be taken
3	in all courts of this state as payment on the delinquent
4	taxpayer's indebtedness to the full amount expressed on the
5	receipt.
6	"(b) If, on demand, the person or entity fails or
7	refuses to pay over the amount of the tax that the delinquent
8	taxpayer owes to the tax collecting official, the tax
9	collecting official shall file a statement of the amount of
10	the tax and fees with the person or entity so refusing. The
11	statement shall operate as a garnishment upon the person or
12	entity so served. The tax collecting official shall proceed to
13	collect the taxes in the manner fixed by law in cases of
14	garnishment.
15	" <u>(c)</u> It shall be the duty of the <del>collector, as far</del>
16	as by diligent inquiry he can, tax collecting official to
17	ascertain what persons are indebted to or have in their
18	possession any money, property, or choses in action belonging
19	to any delinquent taxpayer.
20	"(d) A delinquent taxpayer may not be compelled to
21	pay any debt before the debt is due, nor be compelled to pay a
22	greater amount than is owed.
23	"(e) The cost of garnishment shall be paid by the
24	party refusing to pay the taxes when so requested.
25	"§40-5-21.

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1	Such Garnishment proceedings shall be conducted in
2	the name of the state and before the circuit court.
3	"§40-5-22.
4	"The clerk and the sheriff shall be entitled to the
5	same fees as in cases of garnishment on judgments, and the
6	<del>collector</del> <u>county general fund shall be entitled</u> to <u>two dollars</u>
7	<u>(</u> \$2 <u>)</u> .
8	"§40-5-23.
9	"The tax collector shall in each year report on oath
10	to the Department of Revenue at Montgomery, and to the county
11	commission at the June meeting thereof, a list on a form
12	prescribed by the Department of Revenue of the persons from
13	whom the taxes assessed against them cannot be collected, with
14	the amount of taxes, state and county assessed against each,
15	which shall be termed "list of insolvents," and a list of such
16	persons as have been overassessed or wrongfully assessed, with
17	the taxes, state and county assessed against each, which shall
18	be termed "list of errors in assessments," and any taxes which
19	may be in litigation, in order that the same may be passed
20	upon and determined by the commission. The tax collector shall
21	cause the said "list of insolvents" to be published twice
22	during the month of July following the submission thereof at
23	the first regular meeting in June of the county commission.
24	Said publication shall be made in a daily newspaper printed
25	and published in said county or, if no such paper is published

1 therein, then in a weekly newspaper published in said county; if there is neither a daily nor weekly newspaper of any sort 2 published in said county, then he shall post said "list of 3 insolvents" in the courthouse and in three other conspicuous 4 places in said county and keep said posting available for the 5 6 public during the entire month of July. A failure to publish 7 said list as here required shall constitute a misdemeanor. "One third of the cost of advertisement provided in 8 9 this section shall be paid out of the General Fund of the state by warrant drawn by the Comptroller, and two thirds 10 11 thereof shall be paid out of the general fund of the county in which said advertisement is made. 12 13 "(a)(1) On or before the first regular county commission meeting in June of the current tax year, the tax 14 collecting official shall submit a report to the county 15 16 commission on a form provided by the Department of Revenue showing all errors in assessments, taxes in litigation, 17 insolvents, lands bid in to the state, and tax liens that were 18 not auctioned or sold, including a list of insolvents. 19 20 "(2) The list of insolvents required to be reported 21 in subdivision (1) shall include the name, residential or 22 business address, and all taxes, cost, and interest charged against each listed person. The tax collecting official shall 23 24 cause the list to be published for two weeks in July on a website of the tax collecting official or the county website 25

1	of which the tax collecting official has access, or in a local
2	newspaper published and printed in the county.
3	"(3) A tax collecting official who fails to publish
4	and display the list of insolvents as required in subdivision
5	(2) shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.
6	"(b) The cost, if any, for advertisement of the list
7	of insolvents required under this section shall be paid from
8	the county general fund and any money collected from
9	insolvents shall include the cost of advertisement and repaid
10	to the county general fund.
11	"(c) All reports submitted to the county commission
12	under this section shall be certified by the tax collecting
13	official and forwarded to the Comptroller upon the tax
14	collecting official's final settlement to allow credits to the
15	tax collecting official.
16	"§40-5-24.
17	"At the first regular meeting in June, the county
18	commission shall make a careful and rigid examination of such
19	lists and of the facts pertaining thereto, in consultation
20	with the tax assessors, and shall ascertain and determine what
21	taxes contained in the lists of insolvents the collector could
22	not, by the use of due diligence, have collected, and what
23	taxes contained in the list of errors in assessments should
24	not have been collected by him by reason of such errors, and
25	shall correct such list accordingly, shall credit the

collector with the county taxes contained in such list as

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

1 Section 5. Section 40-5-26, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows: 2 "\$40-5-26. 3 "Upon the allowance and credit to the tax collector 4 collecting official of insolvent taxes for insolvents and 5 6 taxes in litigation, a new account must be stated by the county commission for county taxes and by the Comptroller for 7 state taxes for the credits allowed the tax collecting 8 official and shall remain charges for no more than three years 9 from the tax lien date of the initial tax insolvency. For 10 11 taxes in litigation, termination shall be at the discretion of the state Comptroller. as provided in Sections 40-5-24 and 12 13 40-5-25, the county commission shall, on behalf of the county, 14 state a new account against the collector for the amounts of 15 insolvent county taxes and county taxes in litigation so 16 allowed and credited; and, upon allowance by the Comptroller 17 of the credits for insolvent state taxes and state taxes in litigation, as provided in Section 40-5-25, a new account must 18 19 be stated by the Comptroller against the collector for the amounts of insolvent state taxes and the amounts of state 20 21 taxes in litigation so allowed and credited; and the collector 22 shall remain charged with such sums until the liability is 23 discharged, as hereinafter provided." Section 6. Sections 40-5-27 and 40-5-28, Code of 24

24 Section 6. Sections 40-5-27 and 40-5-28, Code of 25 Alabama 1975, are repealed. Section 7. Section 40-5-29, Code of Alabama 1975, is
 amended to read as follows:

"\$40-5-29.

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"At the first regular meeting of the county 4 5 commission held during in January of the year next succeeding, 6 the collector must tax collecting official shall make a final report of the uncollected balances of such insolvent taxes and 7 taxes in litigation. The county commission shall issue a 8 credit to the tax collecting official for the satisfaction of 9 10 final settlement with the Comptroller. , showing the name of 11 every insolvent taxpayer from whom he has been unable to collect, the amounts of state and county taxes due from him 12 13 and an itemized report of the taxes still in litigation; and 14 thereupon, if the commission is satisfied that the collector 15 has made diligent effort to collect such taxes, the commission 16 shall make an order allowing the collector credit for such 17 insolvent taxes as he has been unable to collect and for taxes remaining in litigation and shall credit him with all county 18 19 taxes included therein; and the presiding officer shall certify the same to the Comptroller, who shall thereupon 20 21 credit the collector with the state taxes included in the 22 lists so allowed. The account for accounts of taxes remaining in litigation that are remaining shall thereafter be kept in 23 24 such a manner as the prescribed by the Comptroller may 25 prescribe."

Section 8. Section 40-5-30, Code of Alabama 1975, is
 repealed.

3 Section 9. Sections 40-5-31 and 40-5-32, Code of
4 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

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"§40-5-31.

6 "It shall be the duty of the tax <del>collector</del> collecting official, whenever upon information or otherwise he 7 8 or she has good reason to believe that any person owing taxes, 9 whether due or not, is about to leave or remove his or her 10 property from the county, or that such the person is closing 11 out or going out of business or disposing of substantially all 12 of his or her personal property and thereby the collection of 13 such the taxes is endangered, to make out and certify to the 14 judge of probate a bill against such the person for the amount of such the taxes and any fees due to the assessor or 15 16 collector collecting official; and, upon. Upon the approval 17 thereof of the bill by the judge of probate in writing 18 endorsed thereon, such the bill shall operate as a writ of fieri facias which that the collector collecting official is 19 20 authorized to may execute by levy and sale, in the same manner 21 as sheriffs are authorized to execute such writs when issued 22 out of the circuit court. Said The writ may be executed in any 23 county of the state where property of the taxpayer is found. 24 The collector tax collecting official of such the county must shall execute the writ forwarded to him or her by the 25

1 collector collecting official of the county where the 2 assessment was made, the same as if issued in his or her own county. He The tax collecting official shall remit collections 3 thereon on the writ to the collector other collecting official 4 who sending him sent the writ and is liable on his or her bond 5 6 for any neglect of duty under this section. Advertisements in 7 newspapers or otherwise of sales of any personal property as a closing out sale, fire sale, bankrupt sale, or any sale of 8 like character shall be prima facie evidence that the 9 10 collection of taxes due on property so advertised is 11 endangered within the meaning of this section. "§40-5-32. 12 "On failure of the tax collector to act when 13 14 notified that any person is about to leave or remove his 15 property from the county or that such person is closing out or 16 going out of business or is disposing of substantially all of 17 his personal property by a closing out sale, bankrupt sale, fire sale, manufacturers' sale, or otherwise, and the 18 19 collection of taxes due or to become due is endangered, he 20 shall be liable for the amount of taxes assessed against such 21 person. 22 "(a) As used in this section, the term "partial 23 payment" means a payment that is less than the full amount of 24 taxes due.

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1	"(b) At the discretion of the tax collecting
2	official, the collecting official may accept one or more
3	partial payments of any amount per tax account for payment of
4	taxes and assessments on tangible personal property.
5	" <u>(c) Each partial payment, less a 10 dollar (\$10)</u>
6	processing fee payable to the tax collecting official, shall
7	be credited to the tax account. The taxpayer has the
8	responsibility to ensure that the remaining amount due is
9	paid.
10	"(d) The tax collecting official shall prepare and
11	mail at least one notice with the balance due. The collecting
12	official shall mail the notice in the form as he or she
13	considers proper and necessary or as may be required by rule
14	of the Department of Revenue.
15	"(e) At the tax collecting official's discretion, an
16	underpayment of 10 dollars (\$10) or less may be deemed a
17	payment in full, rather than a partial payment, in accordance
18	with the rules, policies, and procedures of the state
19	<u>Comptroller.</u>
20	"(f) The state Comptroller shall adopt rules to
21	implement and administer this section."
22	Section 10. Section 40-5-33, Code of Alabama 1975,
23	is repealed
24	Section 11. Section 40-5-34, Code of Alabama 1975,
25	is amended to read as follows:

1 "\$40-5-34.

2 "(a) It is the duty of the collector tax collecting official, when engaged in the collection of taxes for any 3 year, if he discovers upon discovering that any person or 4 5 property within his the county has not been assessed with the 6 tax or any taxes lawfully chargeable to such the person or 7 property for that year, or any preceding year, not more than 8 five years before that the time of discovery, forthwith to assess and collect the taxes due on the same and in writing to 9 10 notify the assessor of the fact so discovered, in order that 11 proper assessment of unassessed taxes may be made, and the 12 collector has the same authority to administer oaths and 13 propound questions as the assessor has, and any party failing 14 or refusing to answer such questions or to give in his 15 property shall be liable to the same penalties as provided in 16 cases where parties fail or refuse to return their property to 17 the assessor or answer the questions required to be propounded 18 by the assessor. In such assessments of escaped taxes, the taxpayer on giving notice to the tax collector shall have the 19 20 right of appeal as provided for escaped assessments made by 21 the tax assessor, and all provisions and conditions applying 22 thereto shall apply as to escaped assessments made by the tax 23 assessor tax assessing official that certain property has 24 escaped taxation.

1	"(b) The tax assessing official shall prepare an
2	assessment up to five prior years at the time of discovery
3	with an assessment to the person with ownership of the
4	property. The assessment shall be made with other like
5	property and shall charge a 10 percent penalty on the total
6	assessed value, plus one five dollar (\$5) fee. The tax
7	assessing official shall notify the tax collecting official in
8	writing of the total amount of taxes, fees, and costs to be
9	collected. The tax assessing official shall enter the same in
10	the tax collecting official's abstract, provided the escape
11	exists prior to final settlement for the tax collecting
12	official. If the escape occurs after final settlement, the tax
13	collecting official shall make a report to the state and
14	disburse the proceeds to each agency, withholding the
15	commission at the rate that was applicable prior to final
16	settlement."
17	Section 12. Section 40-5-35, Code of Alabama 1975,
18	is repealed.
19	Section 13. Section 40-5-36, Code of Alabama 1975,
20	is amended to read as follows:
21	"§40-5-36.
22	" <u>(a)</u> The tax <del>collector</del> <u>collecting official,</u> on
23	October 15 of each year and on the first and fifteenth day of
24	each month thereafter, shall make under oath, to the county
25	treasurer and school treasurer or, if there is no county

1 treasurer or school treasurer in the county, to the custodian of the funds of the county and schools, an itemized report in 2 3 writing, a copy of which shall be by the collector forwarded to the Comptroller, and a copy filed with the probate judge, 4 setting forth separately the taxes, interest, and penalties 5 collected by him for the state, county, and schools since the 6 making of his last report; and within five days after making 7 8 such report, he must pay to the State Treasurer all state taxes, interest, and penalties then due from him to the state, 9 10 and he must also pay to the county treasurer and to the school 11 treasurer or, if there is no county treasurer or school 12 treasurer in the county, to the custodian of the funds of the 13 county and of the schools, all county taxes, interest, and penalties and all school taxes, interest, and penalties then 14 due from him to the county and to the schools, by him before 15 that time collected. Where any official other than a tax 16 collector is charged with the collection of ad valorem taxes 17 18 on automobiles, such official may make his said reports and distribution of ad valorem taxes collected on automobiles, 19 20 trucks, trailers, motorcycles, and all other motor vehicles at 21 the same time he distributes money received by him for motor 22 vehicle licenses. The county treasurer and the school 23 treasurer, or, if there is no county treasurer or school treasurer in the county, then the custodian of the funds of 24 25 the county and of the schools, shall give to the collector a

1 receipt in duplicate of such semimonthly payment, one of which 2 duplicates shall be promptly forwarded to the Comptroller by the tax collector. If no collection of taxes, interest, or 3 penalties have been collected by the collector prior to any 4 5 reporting date, he shall make the report herein required 6 stating under oath that no taxes, interest, or penalties were 7 collected during the period for which report is made provide a 8 detailed report showing the total gross receipts, including the calculation of taxes for each, interest collected, 9 commissions withheld, and all other documented withholdings 10 11 from each agency that receives taxes. The report shall have a detailed showing for each millage rate assessed for each 12 13 agency. The report shall be a sworn statement that is 14 duplicated for each agency, a copy of the report shall be 15 available to each agency receiving disbursements upon request. 16 "No later than five days after this report must be 17 provided, the tax collecting official shall make disbursements 18 to each agency that receives taxes.

19 "(b) Should the report and payment of taxes, 20 interest, and penalties herein required not be made within 10 21 days after the same is due, the Comptroller shall immediately 22 notify the Chief Examiner of Public Accounts, who shall 23 forthwith cause the books of the official to be examined, and 24 the Comptroller shall also immediately notify the tax 25 collector's bondsmen, who may within 30 days from date of

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

1 Section 14. Sections 40-5-37 to 40-5-40, inclusive, 2 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are repealed. Section 15. Sections 40-5-41 and 40-5-42, Code of 3 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: 4 "§40-5-41. 5 6 "When the object for which such special taxes were 7 levied and collected shall have has been accomplished or for 8 any other reason the same special taxes are no longer required 9 for the purpose for which they were levied, the parties 10 charged with the administration or application thereof of the 11 taxes shall notify the treasurer or, if there is no county 12 treasurer, the custodian of the funds of the county, who shall 13 thereupon close the account of such taxes and transfer any 14 balance remaining to the account of the general fund of the county commission. 15 16 "\$40-5-42. 17 "(a) In cases where there is no provision by law 18 authorizing the collection of taxes by an action, the taxes due to the state or to any county, city, town, special school 19 20 district, or other special district may, after the same shall 21 taxes have become delinquent, the taxes may be collected by 22 the state or by any county, city, or town municipality, or the county or city board of education, or by an action in any 23

24 court of competent jurisdiction.

1 "(b) In addition to the remedy here given to public agencies for the collection of taxes due them by an action, 2 the tax collector collecting official of every county is 3 authorized to sue in his or her own name and in the capacity 4 of his or her office for the recovery of all taxes collectable 5 6 by his or her office which are due to any of the above 7 agencies or any other public agency for which the tax 8 collector is charged with the responsibility of collecting the tax. Such The county tax collectors are also authorized to 9 10 collecting officials may act in their own names and in the 11 capacity of their office in any bankruptcy or other insolvency proceeding, or any other type of litigation or court 12 13 proceedings wherein in which taxes due to any public agency 14 which are collectable by such a tax collector collecting official may be recovered, and to take such any action in such 15 16 the proceedings as may be appropriate or necessary for the 17 collection of such the taxes due to any of said the public agencies." 18 Section 16. Section 40-5-43, Code of Alabama 1975, 19

20 is repealed.

21 Section 17. Sections 40-5-44 and 40-5-45, Code of 22 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

23 "\$40-5-44.

24 "(a) On or before July 1 in each year, the tax
 25 collector must make final settlement, under oath, with the

1 Comptroller, of all matters pertaining to the office of tax collector and pay over to the State Treasurer the balance 2 which may be found due from him or her for taxes with which he 3 or she is chargeable under the laws of the state, and at that 4 time the tax collector must also account to the Comptroller 5 and pay over to the proper governmental authorities and any 6 7 holder of a tax lien certificate issued pursuant to Acts 1995, No. 95-408 all money received by the tax collector for the 8 sale of lands and other property which may have been sold for 9 10 payment of taxes and also account to the Comptroller for all 11 lands bought by the state. The tax collector must also report 12 under oath to the Comptroller and pay over to the State 13 Treasurer all escaped taxes assessed and collected. For 14 failure of any tax collector to make any of the settlements 15 herein required to be made by July 10 of each year, the tax 16 collector shall forfeit ten dollars (\$10) per day, which shall 17 be deducted from the amount of commissions due and payable to 18 the tax collector on such settlements respectively; and it shall be the duty of the Comptroller, or the county treasurer, 19 20 or the custodian of the county funds, as the case may be, to 21 withhold all commissions in cases where settlements are not 22 made by July 10 of each year.

"(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

1 charged with collecting ad valorem taxes on motor vehicle tags 2 shall make final settlement, under oath, with the Comptroller 3 of all matters pertaining to the respective office's 4 collection of ad valorem taxes on motor vehicle tags.

5 "(2) Failure of any official to make the settlement 6 required by this subsection by November 10 of each year shall forfeit ten dollars (\$10) per day which shall be deducted from 7 the amount of commission or other public compensation due and 8 9 payable to the official on the settlement respectively. It 10 shall be the duty of the Comptroller, the county treasurer, or 11 the custodian of the county funds to withhold all commissions 12 or other public compensation in cases where settlements are 13 not made by December 10 of each year.

14 "(3) Final determinations shall be made in
15 accordance with rules adopted by the state Comptroller
16 regarding the format of the final settlement, the time frame
17 to be covered by the final settlement, and the date when final
18 settlement will be made with the state Comptroller's Office
19 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

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1	be made in accordance with rules adopted by the state
2	Comptroller.
3	"(b) Unless otherwise excepted by the Comptroller, a
4	tax collecting official who fails to make settlement as
5	provided in this section by the tenth day of July of each year
6	shall be assessed a fine of 10 dollars (\$10) per day until the
7	final settlement is made in accordance with this section. The
8	fine shall be assessed in the official's personal capacity.
9	"§40-5-45.
10	"The tax <del>collector</del> <u>collecting official</u> shall receive
11	the rate per mile allowed by law for state officers and
12	employees, once each year, in going $to$ and returning from the
13	respective county seat of government for the purpose of making
14	the final settlement provided for in Section 40-5-44, the
15	distance to be the same as that established by law for the
16	members of the Legislature".
17	Section 18. Section 40-5-46, Code of Alabama 1975,
18	is repealed.
19	Section 19. Section 40-5-48 is added to the Code of
20	Alabama 1975, to read as follows:
21	\$40-5-48.
22	(a) A tax collecting official who collects ad
23	valorem tax on real property, in addition to the ad valorem
24	tax on motor vehicles collected pursuant to Section 40-12-253,
25	may disburse the collections with each semi-monthly report.

1 (b) A tax collecting official who has the responsibility to assess and collect the ad valorem tax on 2 motor vehicles under Section 40-12-253 and to also collect the 3 annual motor vehicle license taxes and registration fees under 4 Section 40-12-242 shall disburse all ad valorem tax 5 6 collections as provided under Sections 40-5-4 and 40-4-2 during the same time period set out under Section 40-12-269. 7 (c) Manufactured home fees, commissions, or 8

9 penalties charged and collected pursuant to Section 40-12-255
10 shall be disbursed on or before the twentieth day of the
11 following month.

12 Section 20. Although this bill would have as its 13 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased 14 expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further 15 requirements and application under Amendment 621, now 16 appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of 17 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, because the 18 bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an 19 existing crime.

20 Section 21. This act shall become effective October 21 1, 2021, following its passage and approval by the Governor, 22 or its otherwise becoming law.

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4	President and Presiding Officer of the Senate
5	
6	Speaker of the House of Representatives
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	SB374 Senate 15-APR-21 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended. Patrick Harris, Secretary.
16 17 18 19	House of Representatives Passed: 17-MAY-21
20 21	By: Senator Williams