## **HOUSE BILL No. 1435**

### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 6-1.1; IC 32-21-8.

**Synopsis:** Tax sale redemptions. Provides that a tax deed may not be issued to the holder of a certificate of sale unless: (1) the property taxes and special assessments that first became due and payable after the date of sale; and (2) the penalties on those property taxes and special assessments that are not otherwise removed from the tax duplicate; are paid in full. Repeals most of the tax sale surplus disclosure statute, retaining only the provision prohibiting a county auditor from endorsing a document of conveyance for property sold during the tax sale redemption period unless the purchaser has redeemed the property. Makes technical changes.

Effective: July 1, 2019.

# Engleman

January 15, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.



#### First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## **HOUSE BILL No. 1435**

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning taxation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1	SECTION 1. IC 0-1.1-24-3.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.247-2013,
2	SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3	JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 5.1. (a) This section applies to the following:
4	(1) A business association that:
5	(A) has not obtained a certificate of existence or authority
6	from, or registered with, the secretary of state in accordance
7	with the procedures described in IC 23, as applicable; or
8	(B) has obtained a certificate of existence or authority from
9	or registered with, the secretary of state in accordance with the
10	procedures described in IC 23, as applicable, but is not in good
11	standing in Indiana as determined by the secretary of state.
12	(2) A person who is an agent of a person described in this
13	subsection.
14	(b) A person subject to this section may not purchase a tract offered
15	for sale under section 5 or 6.1 of this chapter. However, this section
16	does not prohibit a person from bidding on a tract that is owned by the
17	person and offered for sale under section 5 of this chapter.



1	(c) If a person purchases a tract that the person was not eligible to
2	purchase under this section, the sale of the property is subject to
3	forfeiture. If the county treasurer determines or is notified not more
4	than six (6) months after the date of the sale that the sale of the
5	property should be forfeited under this section, the county treasurer
6	shall:
7	(1) notify the person in writing that the sale is subject to forfeiture
8	within thirty (30) days after the notice if:
9	(A) the person does not obtain a certificate of existence or
10	authority, or register with, the secretary of state in accordance
11	with the procedures described in IC 23, as applicable; or
12	(B) the person does not otherwise cure the noncompliance that
13	is the basis of the person's failure to be in good standing in
14	Indiana as determined by the secretary of state;
15	(2) if the person does not meet the conditions described in
16	subdivision (1) within thirty (30) days after the notice, refund the
17	surplus amount of the person's bid to the person; and
18	(3) notify the county auditor that the sale has been forfeited.
19	Upon being notified that a sale has been forfeited, the county auditor
20	shall issue a certificate to the county executive under section 6 of this
21	chapter.
22	(d) A county treasurer may decline to forfeit a sale under this
23	section because of inadvertence or mistake, lack of actual knowledge
24	by the bidder, substantial harm to other parties with interests in the
25	tract or item of real property, or other substantial reasons. If the
26	treasurer declines to forfeit a sale, the treasurer shall:
27	(1) prepare a written statement explaining the reasons for
28	declining to forfeit the sale; and
29	(2) retain the written statement as an official record.
30	(e) If a sale is forfeited under this section and the tract or item of
31	real property is redeemed from the sale, the county auditor shall deposit
32	the amount of the redemption into the county general fund and notify
33	the county executive of the redemption. Upon being notified of the
34	redemption, the county executive shall surrender the certificate to the
35	county auditor.
36	(f) A business entity that seeks to register to bid at a tax sale must
37	provide a certificate of good standing existence, a certificate of
38	authority, or proof of registration in accordance with IC 5-23 IC 23
39	from the secretary of state to the county treasurer.
40	SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-24-7.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.187-2016,
41	SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42	JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 7.5. (a) As used in this section, "property owner"



1	refers to the owner of record of real property at the time the real
2	property was certified for sale under this chapter and before issuance
3	of the tax deed.
4	(b) If a property owner person enters into an agreement with a
5	property owner on or after May 1, 2010, that has the primary purpose
6	of paying compensation to locate, deliver, recover, or assist in the
7	recovery of money deposited in the tax sale surplus fund under section
8	7(a)(3) of this chapter with respect to real property as a result of a tax
9	sale, the agreement is valid only if the agreement:
10	(1) requires payment of compensation of not more than ten
11	percent (10%) of the amount collected from the tax sale surplus
12	fund, including attorney's fees and other expenses, with respect
13	to the real property, unless the amount collected is fifty dollars
14	(\$50) or less;
15	(2) is in writing;
16	(3) is signed by the property owner; and
17	(4) clearly sets forth:
18	(A) the amount deposited in the tax sale surplus fund under
19	section $7(a)(3)$ of this chapter with respect to the real property;
20	and
21	(B) the value of the property owner's share of the amount
22	collected from the tax sale surplus fund with respect to the real
23	property after the compensation is deducted.
24	(c) The attorney general and the attorney general's homeowner
25	protection unit established under IC 4-6-12 shall enforce this section.
26	(d) The attorney general may maintain an action in a court with
27	jurisdiction to enforce this section. A court in which an action is
28	brought to enforce this section may do the following:
29	(1) Issue an injunction.
30	(2) Order restitution to an owner aggrieved by a violation of this
31	section.
32	(3) Order a person that violates this section to reimburse the state
33	for the reasonable costs of the attorney general's investigation and
34	prosecution of the violation.
35	(4) Impose a civil penalty, in an amount determined by the court,
36	on a person that violates this section.
37	SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-25-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.187-2016,
38	SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
39	JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 1. (a) Any person may redeem the tract or real
40	property:
41	(1) sold; or

(2) for which the certificate of sale is sold under IC 6-1.1-24;



42

under IC 6-1.1-24 at any time before the expiration of the period of
redemption specified in section 4 of this chapter by paying to the
county treasurer the amount required for redemption under section 2 o
this chapter.
(b) If a tract or real property to which subsection (a) applies is
conveyed to a person before the expiration of the period of redemption
and the person wishes to redeem the tract or real property, the person
shall:
(1) redeem the tract or real property in accordance with section 2
of this chapter; and
(2) satisfy the requirements of IC 32-21-8-7.
SECTION 4. IC 6-1.1-25-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.251-2015
SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 4. (a) There is no right to redeem real property
under this chapter after its sale under IC 6-1.1-24, if the real property
is on the vacant and abandoned property list prepared by the county
auditor under IC 6-1.1-24-1.5. The period for redemption of any other
real property sold under IC 6-1.1-24 is:
(1) one (1) year after the date of sale; or
(2) one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of sale to a
purchasing agency qualified under IC 36-7-17 or IC 36-7-17.1.
(b) Subject to subsection (k) (l) and IC 6-1.1-24-9(d), the period for
redemption of real property:
(1) on which the county executive acquires a lien under
IC 6-1.1-24-6; and
(2) for which the certificate of sale is not sold under
IC 6-1.1-24-6.1;
is one hundred twenty (120) days after the date the county executive
acquires the lien under IC 6-1.1-24-6.
(c) The period for redemption of real property:
(1) on which the county executive acquires a lien under
IC 6-1.1-24-6; and

- (2) for which the certificate of sale is sold under IC 6-1.1-24; is one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of sale of the certificate of sale under IC 6-1.1-24.
- (d) When a deed for real property is executed under this chapter, the county auditor shall cancel the certificate of sale and file the canceled certificate in the office of the county auditor.
- (e) When a deed is issued to a county executive or other political subdivision under this chapter, the taxes and special assessments for which the real property was offered for sale, and all subsequent taxes, special assessments, interest, penalties, and cost of sale shall be



removed	from	the	tax	duplica	ite in	the	same	manner	that	taxes	are
removed	by ce	rtific	ate	of error							

- (f) A tax deed executed under this chapter vests in the grantee an estate in fee simple absolute, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances created or suffered before or after the tax sale except those liens granted priority under federal law and the lien of the state or a political subdivision for taxes and special assessments which accrue subsequent to the sale and which are not removed under subsection (e). However, subject to subsection (g), the estate is subject to:
  - (1) all easements, covenants, declarations, and other deed restrictions shown by public records;
  - (2) laws, ordinances, and regulations concerning governmental police powers, including zoning, building, land use, improvements on the land, land division, and environmental protection; and
  - (3) liens and encumbrances created or suffered by the grantee.
- (g) A tax deed executed under this chapter for real property sold in a tax sale:
  - (1) does not operate to extinguish an easement recorded before the date of the tax sale in the office of the recorder of the county in which the real property is located, regardless of whether the easement was taxed under this article separately from the real property; and
  - (2) conveys title subject to all easements recorded before the date of the tax sale in the office of the recorder of the county in which the real property is located.
- (h) A tax deed executed under this chapter is prima facie evidence of:
  - (1) the regularity of the sale of the real property described in the deed;
  - (2) the regularity of all proper proceedings; and
  - (3) valid title in fee simple in the grantee of the deed.
- (i) A county auditor is not required to execute a deed to the county executive under this chapter if the county executive determines that the property involved contains hazardous waste or another environmental hazard for which the cost of abatement or alleviation will exceed the fair market value of the property. The county executive may enter the property to conduct environmental investigations.
- (j) When a deed is issued to a purchaser of a certificate of sale sold under IC 6-1.1-24-6.1, the county auditor shall, in the same manner that taxes are removed by certificate of error, remove from the tax duplicate



1	the taxes, special assessments, interest, penalties, and costs remaining
2	due as the difference between:
3	(1) the amount of:
4	(A) the last minimum bid under IC 6-1.1-24-5; plus
5	(B) any penalty associated with a delinquency that was not due
6	until after the date of the sale under IC 6-1.1-24-5 but is due
7	before the issuance of the certificate of sale, with respect to
8	taxes included in the minimum bid that were not due at the
9	time of the sale under IC 6-1.1-24-5; and
10	(2) the amount paid for the certificate of sale.
11	(k) A tax deed may not be issued to a holder of a certificate of
12	sale sold under IC 6-1.1-24-5 or IC 6-1.1-24-6.1 for a tract or item
13	of real property unless:
14	(1) the property taxes and special assessments that first
15	became due and payable on the tract or item of real property
16	after the date on which the certificate of sale was sold under
17	IC 6-1.1-24-5 or IC 6-1.1-24-6.1; and
18	(2) the penalties for delinquent property taxes and special
19	assessments described in subdivision (1);
20	that are not removed under subsection (j) have been paid in full.
21	(k) (l) If a tract or item of real property did not sell at a tax sale or
22	a sale conducted under IC 6-1.1-24-6.1 and the county treasurer and the
23	owner of real property agree before the expiration of the period for
24	redemption under subsection (b) to a mutually satisfactory arrangement
25	for the payment of the entire amount required for redemption under
26	section 2 of this chapter before the expiration of a period for
27	redemption extended under this subsection:
28	(1) the county treasurer may extend the period for redemption;
29	and
30	(2) except as provided in subsection (1), (m), the extended period
31	for redemption expires one (1) year after the date of the
32	agreement.
33	(1) (m) If the owner of real property fails to meet the terms of an
34	agreement entered into with the county treasurer under subsection (k),
35	(I), the county treasurer may terminate the agreement after providing
36	thirty (30) days written notice to the owner. If the county treasurer
37	gives notice under this subsection, the extended period for redemption
38	established under subsection (k) (l) expires thirty (30) days after the
39	date of the notice.
40	(m) (n) The period of redemption for a property, which was not
41	offered for sale under IC 6-1.1-24-4.7(j), is one hundred twenty (120)
42	days after the conclusion of the tax sale at which the property was not



offered.

SECTION 5. IC 6-1.1-25-4.6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.32-2017, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 4.6. (a) After the expiration of the redemption period specified in section 4 of this chapter but not later than three (3) months after the expiration of the period of redemption:

- (1) the purchaser, the purchaser's assignee, the county executive, the county executive's assignee, or the purchaser of the certificate of sale under IC 6-1.1-24-6.1 may; or
- (2) in a county where the county auditor and county treasurer have an agreement under section 4.7 of this chapter, the county auditor shall, upon the request of the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee;

file a verified petition in accordance with subsection (b) in the same court in which the judgment of sale was entered asking the court to direct the county auditor to issue a tax deed if the real property is not redeemed from the sale. Notice of the filing of this petition shall be given to the same parties as provided in section 4.5 of this chapter, except that, if notice is given by publication, only one (1) publication is required. The notice required by this section is considered sufficient if the notice is sent to the address required by section 4.5(d) of this chapter. Any person owning or having an interest in the tract or item of real property may file a written objection to the petition with the court not later than thirty (30) days after the date the petition was filed. If a written objection is timely filed, the court shall conduct a hearing on the objection. If there is not a written objection that is timely filed, the court may consider the petition without conducting a hearing.

- (b) Unless the county auditor and the county treasurer have entered into an agreement under section 4.7 of this chapter, a verified petition filed under subsection (a) may include the following:
  - (1) Copies of all notices sent under section 4.5 of this chapter.
  - (2) Copies of all notices sent under this section.
  - (3) Copies of all certified mail mailing receipts, return receipts, and returned mailing envelopes for notices sent under section 4.5 of this chapter.
  - (4) Copies of all certified mail mailing receipts, return receipts, and returned mailing envelopes for notices sent under this section.
  - (5) Copies or descriptions of the evidence used by the petitioner or the petitioner's assignor to identify the owner and other persons with a substantial property interest of public record in the real property.
  - (c) If the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee includes the



documents described in subsection (b), the issuance of a tax deed
constitutes prima facie evidence of the sale referenced in subsection
(k).

- (d) If a verified petition is brought by the county auditor under an agreement provided for under section 4.7 of this chapter, a tax deed constitutes prima facie evidence of the validity of the sale referenced in subsection (k) upon timely production by the county of all documents described in subsection (b) in response to a challenge to a tax deed.
- (e) If the issuance of a tax deed does not constitute prima facie evidence of the validity of the sale due to the failure to comply with this section, the purchaser or the purchaser's successor has the burden of proving the validity of the sale by a preponderance of the evidence in any subsequent challenge to the sale.
- (f) Not later than sixty-one (61) days after the petition is filed under subsection (a), the court shall enter an order directing the county auditor (on the production of the certificate of sale and a copy of the order) to issue to the petitioner a tax deed if the court finds that the following conditions exist:
  - (1) The time of redemption has expired.
  - (2) The tract or item of real property has not been redeemed from the sale before the expiration of the period of redemption specified in section 4 of this chapter.
  - (3) Except with respect to a petition for the issuance of a tax deed under a sale of the certificate of sale on the property under IC 6-1.1-24-6.1 or IC 6-1.1-24-6.8, or with respect to penalties described in section 4(j) of this chapter, all taxes and special assessments, penalties, and costs have been paid, **including the property taxes**, special assessments, and penalties described in section 4(k) of this chapter.
  - (4) The notices required by this section and section 4.5 of this chapter have been given.
  - (5) The petitioner has complied with all the provisions of law entitling the petitioner to a deed.

The county auditor shall execute deeds issued under this subsection in the name of the state under the county auditor's name. If a certificate of sale is lost before the execution of a deed, the county auditor shall issue a replacement certificate if the county auditor is satisfied that the original certificate existed.

(g) Upon application by the grantee of a valid tax deed in the same court in which the judgment of sale was entered, the court shall enter an order to place the grantee of a valid tax deed in possession of the



real estate. The court may enter any orders and grant any relief that is necessary or desirable to place or maintain the grantee of a valid tax deed in possession of the real estate.

- (h) Except as provided in subsections (i) and (j), if:
  - (1) the verified petition referred to in subsection (a) is timely filed; and
  - (2) the court refuses to enter an order directing the county auditor to execute and deliver the tax deed because of the failure of the petitioner under subsection (a) to fulfill the notice requirement of subsection (a);

the court shall order the return of the amount, if any, by which the purchase price exceeds the minimum bid on the property under IC 6-1.1-24-5 minus a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of that excess. The petitioner is prohibited from participating in any manner in the next succeeding tax sale in the county under IC 6-1.1-24. The county auditor shall deposit penalties paid under this subsection in the county general fund.

- (i) Notwithstanding subsection (h), in all cases in which:
  - (1) the verified petition referred to in subsection (a) is timely filed;
  - (2) the petitioner under subsection (a) has made a bona fide attempt to comply with the statutory requirements under subsection (f) for the issuance of the tax deed but has failed to comply with these requirements;
  - (3) the court refuses to enter an order directing the county auditor to execute and deliver the tax deed because of the failure to comply with these requirements; and
  - (4) the purchaser, the purchaser's successors or assignees, or the purchaser of the certificate of sale under IC 6-1.1-24 files a claim with the county auditor for refund not later than thirty (30) days after the entry of the order of the court refusing to direct the county auditor to execute and deliver the tax deed;

the county auditor shall not execute the deed but shall refund the purchase money minus a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the purchase money from the county treasury to the purchaser, the purchaser's successors or assignees, or the purchaser of the certificate of sale under IC 6-1.1-24. The county auditor shall deposit penalties paid under this subsection in the county general fund. All the delinquent taxes and special assessments shall then be reinstated and recharged to the tax duplicate and collected in the same manner as if the property had not been offered for sale. The tract or item of real property, if it is then eligible for sale under IC 6-1.1-24, shall be placed



1	on the delinquent list as an initial offering under IC 6-1.1-24.
2	(j) Notwithstanding subsections (h) and (i), the court shall not order
3	the return of the purchase price or any part of the purchase price if:
4	(1) the purchaser or the purchaser of the certificate of sale under
5	
	IC 6-1.1-24 has failed to provide notice or has provided
6	insufficient notice as required by section 4.5 of this chapter; and
7	(2) the sale is otherwise valid.
8	(k) A tax deed executed under this section vests in the grantee an
9	estate in fee simple absolute, free and clear of all liens and
10	encumbrances created or suffered before or after the tax sale except
11	those liens granted priority under federal law, and the lien of the state
12	or a political subdivision for taxes and special assessments that accrue
13	subsequent to the sale. However, the estate is subject to all easements,
14	covenants, declarations, and other deed restrictions and laws governing
15	land use, including all zoning restrictions and liens and encumbrances
16	created or suffered by the purchaser at the tax sale. Except as provided
17	in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), the deed is prima facie evidence of:
18	(1) the regularity of the sale of the real property described in the
19	deed;
20	(2) the regularity of all proper proceedings; and
21	(3) valid title in fee simple in the grantee of the deed.
22	(1) A tax deed issued under this section is incontestable except by
23	appeal from the order of the court directing the county auditor to issue
24	the tax deed filed not later than sixty (60) days after the date of the
25	court's order.
26	SECTION 6. IC 32-21-8-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
27	2019]. Sec. 2. A taxpayer must file a tax sale surplus fund disclosure
28	form in duplicate with the county auditor before the taxpayer may
29	transfer title to property if:
30	(1) the taxpayer owes delinquent taxes on the property;
31	(2) the property was sold at a tax sale under IC 6-1.1-24; and
32	(3) a part of the tax sale purchaser's bid on the property was
33	deposited into the tax sale surplus fund under IC 6-1.1-24-7.
34	SECTION 7. IC 32-21-8-3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
35	2019]. Sec. 3. A tax sale surplus fund disclosure form must contain the
36	following information:
37	(1) The name and address of the taxpayer transferring the
38	property.
39	(2) The name and address of the person acquiring the property.
40	(3) The proposed date of transfer.
41	(4) The purchase price for the transfer.
42	(5) The date the property was sold at a tax sale under IC 6-1.1-24.
. –	(5) The date the property was sold at a tax safe ander 10 0 1.1 21.



1	(6) The amount of the tax sale purchaser's bid that was deposited
2	into the tax sale surplus fund under IC 6-1.1-24-7.
3	(7) Proof from the county treasurer that the person acquiring the
4	property has paid to the county treasurer the amount required
5	under IC 6-1.1-25 for redemption of the property.
6	SECTION 8. IC 32-21-8-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
7	2019]. Sec. 4. The tax sale surplus fund disclosure form must be signed
8	by the taxpayer transferring the property and acknowledged before an
9	officer authorized to take acknowledgments of deeds.
10	SECTION 9. IC 32-21-8-5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
11	2019]. Sec. 5. The county auditor shall:
12	(1) stamp the tax sale surplus fund disclosure form to indicate the
13	county auditor's receipt of the form; and
14	(2) remit the duplicate to the taxpayer.
15	SECTION 10. IC 32-21-8-6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
16	2019]. Sec. 6. The state board of accounts shall prescribe the tax sale
17	surplus fund disclosure form required by this chapter.

