

Reprinted March 31, 2021

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 275

DIGEST OF SB 275 (Updated March 30, 2021 5:41 pm - DI 125)

Citations Affected: IC 6-1.1.

Synopsis: Property tax matters and waiver of penalties and interest. Provides that a taxpayer, upon appealing the assessment of certain commercial real property, must provide information concerning the actual construction costs for the commercial real property. Provides that if a taxpayer does not provide information concerning the actual (Continued next page)

Effective: Upon passage; January 1, 2022.

Melton, Holdman, Niemeyer, Raatz, Randolph Lonnie M, Qaddoura, Yoder, Kruse (HOUSE SPONSORS - BROWN T, PORTER, PRYOR, HATCHER)

January 11, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. January 28, 2021, reported favorably — Do Pass. February 4, 2021, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed. February 5, 2021, engrossed. February 8, 2021, read third time, passed. Yeas 48, nays 0. HOUSE ACTION HOUSE ACTION March 2, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means. March 25, 2021, amended, reported — Do Pass. March 30, 2021, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.



Digest Continued

construction costs for the commercial real property before the hearing scheduled by the county property tax assessment board of appeals (board of appeals) regarding the assessment of the commercial real property, the appeal may not be reviewed until all the information is provided. Provides that if a taxpayer has not provided all relevant and reasonably available information concerning the actual construction costs of the commercial real property under appeal within 10 days before the scheduled hearing by the board of appeals, the appeal is deemed void for that assessment year and may not be refiled or appealed. Provides that a county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance to provide that the county assessor be reimbursed for legal costs (in addition to other specified costs under current law) incurred by the county assessor in defending an appeal that is uncommon and infrequent in the normal course of defending appeals. Provides that the fiscal body of a county may adopt an ordinance to establish a property tax amnesty program and require a waiver of interest and penelties added before January 1, 2021, on delinquent taxes and special assessments on real property in the county if: (1) all of the delinquent taxes and special assessments on the real property were first due and payable before January 1, 2021; and (2) before November 1, 2022, the taxpayer has paid all of these delinquent taxes and special assessments and has also paid all of the taxes and special assessments that are first due and payable after December 31, 2020. Requires the waiver of interest and penalties in these circumstances, notwithstanding any payment arrangement entered into by the county treasurer and the taxpayer. Provides that the waiver of interest and penalties under a program shall not apply to interest and penalties added to delinquent property tax installments or special assessments on real property that was purchased or sold in any prior tax sale.



Reprinted March 31, 2021

First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

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 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 275

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 6-1.1-4-43.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2	CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3	[EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022]: Sec. 43.5. (a) This section applies
4	to a real property assessment of commercial real property used for
5	retail purposes:
6	(1) for the 2022 assessment date and assessment dates
7	thereafter; and
8	(2) if the commercial real property is occupied by the original
9	owner or by a tenant for which the improvement was built.
10	(b) This section does not apply to real property described in
11	subsection (a) if the real property is sold:
12	(1) by the original owner for which the improvement was
13	built; and
14	(2) to a subsequent purchaser in an arms length transaction.
15	(c) This subsection applies to a taxpayer that files a notice under
16	IC 6-1.1-15 after December 31, 2021, requesting a review of the
17	assessment of the taxpayer's real property that is subject to this



1 section. A taxpayer must provide to the appropriate county or 2 township assessing official information concerning the actual 3 construction costs for the real property. Notwithstanding 4 IC 6-1.1-15, if a taxpayer does not provide all relevant and 5 reasonably available information concerning the actual 6 construction costs for the real property before the hearing 7 scheduled by the county property tax assessment board of appeals 8 regarding the assessment of the real property, the appeal may not 9 be reviewed until all the information is provided. If a taxpayer has 10 not provided all relevant and reasonably available information concerning the actual construction costs of the property under 11 12 appeal within ten (10) days prior to the scheduled hearing by the 13 county property tax assessment board of appeals, the appeal is 14 deemed void for that assessment year and may not be refiled or 15 appealed.

16 SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-15-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.180-2016, 17 SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE 18 JANUARY 1, 2022]: Sec. 10.7. (a) The county fiscal body may adopt 19 an ordinance to provide that the county assessor be reimbursed for 20 certain costs incurred by the county assessor in defending an appeal 21 under this chapter that is uncommon and infrequent in the normal 22 course of defending appeals under this chapter. Costs include appraisal, 23 legal, and expert witness fees incurred in defending an appeal.

(b) The ordinance must specify:

(1) the appeal or appeals and why they are uncommon and infrequent;

27 (2) a detailed list of expenses incurred by fund and by parcel28 number; and

(3) that the county auditor will deduct the expenses listed in the
ordinance from property tax receipts collected in the taxing
district in which the parcel is located before apportioning receipts
to taxing units for the next semiannual settlement under
IC 6-1.1-27.
(c) Property tax receipts that are collected under this section must

(c) Property tax receipts that are collected under this section must be deposited in the county fund that incurred the initial expense.

36 (d) Expenses for an appeal that are deducted from a civil taxing
37 unit's property tax revenue under this section are not considered to be
38 part of a payment of a refund resulting from an appeal for purposes of
39 a maximum permissible property tax levy appeal under
40 IC 6-1.1-18.5-16.

41 SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-24-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.251-2015,
42 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

ES 275-LS 6861/DI 138



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1 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 2. (a) This section does not apply to vacant or 2 abandoned real property that is on the list prepared by the county 3 auditor under section 1.5 of this chapter. 4 (b) In addition to the delinquency list required under section 1 of 5 this chapter, each county auditor shall prepare a notice. The notice shall 6 contain the following: 7 (1) A list of tracts or real property eligible for sale under this 8 chapter. 9 (2) A statement that the tracts or real property will not be sold for 10 will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, subject to the 11 right of redemption. 12 (3) A statement that the tracts or real property will not be sold for 13 an amount which is less than the sum of: 14 (A) the delinquent taxes and special assessments on each tract 15 or item of real property; 16 (B) the taxes and special assessments on each tract or item of 17 real property that are due and payable in the year of the sale, 18 whether or not they are delinquencies; 20 (D) an amount prescribed by the county auditor that equals the 21 sum of: </th <th></th> <th></th>		
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42 purchase price exceeds the minimum bid; and		
	42	purchase price exceeds the minimum bid; and



1	(D) all taxes and special assessments on the tract or item of
2	real property paid by the purchaser after the tax sale plus
3	interest at the rate of five percent (5%) per annum, on the
4	amount of taxes and special assessments paid by the purchaser
5	on the redeemed property.
6	(5) A statement for informational purposes only, of the location
7	of each tract or item of real property by key number, if any, and
8	street address, if any, or a common description of the property
9	other than a legal description. The township assessor, or the
10	county assessor if there is no township assessor for the township,
11	upon written request from the county auditor, shall provide the
12	information to be in the notice required by this subsection. A
12	misstatement in the key number or street address does not
13	invalidate an otherwise valid sale.
15	(6) A statement that the county does not warrant the accuracy of
16	the street address or common description of the property.
10	(7) A statement indicating:
17	(A) the name of the owner of each tract or item of real
19	property with a single owner; or
20	
20 21	(B) the name of at least one (1) of the owners of each tract or
	item of real property with multiple owners.
22	(8) A statement of the procedure to be followed for obtaining or
23	objecting to a judgment and order of sale, that must include the
24	following:
25	(A) A statement:
26	(i) that the county auditor and county treasurer will apply on
27	or after a date designated in the notice for a court judgment
28	against the tracts or real property for an amount that is not
29	less than the amount set under subdivision (3), and for an
30	order to sell the tracts or real property at public auction to
31	the highest bidder, subject to the right of redemption; and
32	(ii) indicating the date when the period of redemption
33	specified in IC 6-1.1-25-4 will expire.
34	(B) A statement that any defense to the application for
35	judgment must be:
36	(i) filed with the court; and
37	(ii) served on the county auditor and the county treasurer;
38	before the date designated as the earliest date on which the
39	application for judgment may be filed.
40	(C) A statement that the county auditor and the county
41	treasurer are entitled to receive all pleadings, motions,
42	petitions, and other filings related to the defense to the



1	application for judgment.
2	(D) A statement that the court will set a date for a hearing at
3	least seven (7) days before the advertised date and that the
4	court will determine any defenses to the application for
5	judgment at the hearing.
6	(9) A statement that the sale will be conducted at a place
7	designated in the notice and that the sale will continue until all
8	tracts and real property have been offered for sale.
9	(10) A statement that the sale will take place at the times and
10	dates designated in the notice. Whenever the public auction is to
11	be conducted as an electronic sale, the notice must include a
12	statement indicating that the public auction will be conducted as
13	an electronic sale and a description of the procedures that must be
14	followed to participate in the electronic sale.
15	(11) A statement that a person redeeming each tract or item after
16	the sale must pay the costs described in IC 6-1.1-25-2(e).
17	(12) If a county auditor and county treasurer have entered into an
18	agreement under IC 6-1.1-25-4.7, a statement that the county
19	auditor will perform the duties of the notification and title search
20	under IC 6-1.1-25-4.5 and the notification and petition to the
21	court for the tax deed under IC 6-1.1-25-4.6.
22	(13) A statement that, if the tract or item of real property is sold
23	for an amount more than the minimum bid and the property is not
24	redeemed, the owner of record of the tract or item of real property
25	who is divested of ownership at the time the tax deed is issued
26	may have a right to the tax sale surplus.
27	(14) If a determination has been made under subsection (e), a
28	statement that tracts or items will be sold together.
29	(15) With respect to a tract or an item of real property that is
30	subject to sale under this chapter after October 31, 2021, and
31	before November 1, 2022, a statement declaring whether an
32	ordinance adopted under IC 6-1.1-37-16 is in effect in the
33	county and, if applicable, an explanation of the circumstances
34	in which interest and penalties on the delinquent taxes and
35	special assessments will be waived.
36	(c) If within sixty (60) days before the date of the tax sale the county
37	incurs costs set under subsection $(b)(3)(D)$ and those costs are not paid,
38	the county auditor shall enter the amount of costs that remain unpaid
39	upon the tax duplicate of the property for which the costs were set. The
40	county treasurer shall mail notice of unpaid costs entered upon a tax
41	duplicate under this subsection to the owner of the property identified
40	

42 in the tax duplicate.



(d) The amount of unpaid costs entered upon a tax duplicate under subsection (c) must be paid no later than the date upon which the next installment of real estate taxes for the property is due. Unpaid costs entered upon a tax duplicate under subsection (c) are a lien against the property described in the tax duplicate, and amounts remaining unpaid on the date the next installment of real estate taxes is due may be collected in the same manner that delinquent property taxes are collected.

(e) The county auditor and county treasurer may establish the condition that a tract or item will be sold and may be redeemed under this chapter only if the tract or item is sold or redeemed together with one (1) or more other tracts or items. Property may be sold together only if the tract or item is owned by the same person.

SECTION 4. IC 6-1.1-24-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.251-2015, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 4. (a) This section does not apply to vacant or abandoned real property that is on the list prepared by the county auditor under section 1.5 of this chapter.

(b) Not less than twenty-one (21) days before the earliest date on
which the application for judgment and order for sale of real property
eligible for sale may be made, the county auditor shall send a notice of
the sale by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by first class
mail to:

(1) the owner of record of real property with a single owner; or

(2) at least one (1) of the owners, as of the date of certification, of real property with multiple owners;

27 at the last address of the owner for the property as indicated in the 28 transfer book records of the county auditor under IC 6-1.1-5-4 on the 29 date that the tax sale list is certified. If both notices are returned, the 30 county auditor shall take an additional reasonable step to notify the 31 property owner, if the county auditor determines that an additional 32 reasonable step to notify the property owner is practical. The county 33 auditor shall prepare the notice in the form prescribed by the state board of accounts. The notice must set forth the key number, if any, of 34 35 the real property and a street address, if any, or other common description of the property other than a legal description. The notice 36 37 must include the statement set forth in section 2(b)(4) of this chapter. 38 With respect to a tract or an item of real property that is subject 39 to sale under this chapter after October 31, 2021, and before 40 November 1, 2022, the notice must include a statement declaring 41 whether an ordinance adopted under IC 6-1.1-37-16 is in effect in 42 the county and, if applicable, an explanation of the circumstances

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1 in which interest and penalties on the delinquent taxes and special 2 assessments will be waived. The county auditor must present proof of 3 this mailing to the court along with the application for judgment and 4 order for sale. Failure by an owner to receive or accept the notice 5 required by this section does not affect the validity of the judgment and 6 order. The owner of real property shall notify the county auditor of the 7 owner's correct address. The notice required under this section is 8 considered sufficient if the notice is mailed to the address or addresses 9 required by this section. 10 (c) On or before the day of sale, the county auditor shall list, on the 11 tax sale record required by IC 6-1.1-25-8, all properties that will be 12 offered for sale. 13 SECTION 5. IC 6-1.1-24-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.251-2015, 14 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE 15 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 5. (a) When a tract or an item of real property 16 is subject to sale under this chapter, it must be sold in compliance with 17 this section. 18 (b) The sale must be held at the times and place stated in the notice 19 of sale. 20 (c) A tract or an item of real property may not be sold under this 21 chapter to collect: 22 (1) delinquent personal property taxes; or 23 (2) taxes or special assessments which are chargeable to other real 24 property. 25 (d) A tract or an item of real property may not be sold under this 26 chapter if all the delinquent taxes, penalties, and special assessments 27 on the tract or an item of real property and the amount prescribed by 28 section 1.5 or 2(b)(3)(D) of this chapter, whichever applies, reflecting 29 the costs incurred by the county due to the sale, are paid before the time 30 of sale. 31 (e) The county treasurer shall sell the tract or item of real property, 32 subject to the right of redemption, to the highest bidder at public 33 auction. The right of redemption after a sale does not apply to an item of real property that is on the vacant and abandoned property list 34 35 prepared by the county auditor under section 1.5 of this chapter. Except 36 as provided in section 1.5 of this chapter, a tract or an item of real 37 property may not be sold for an amount which is less than the sum of: 38 (1) the delinquent taxes and special assessments on each tract or 39 item of real property; 40 (2) the taxes and special assessments on each tract or item of real 41 property that are due and payable in the year of the sale, 42 regardless of whether the taxes and special assessments are

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1 delinquent;

2 (3) all penalties which are due on the delinquencies;

3 (4) the amount prescribed by section 2(b)(3)(D) of this chapter

4 reflecting the costs incurred by the county due to the sale;

5 (5) any unpaid costs which are due under section 2(c) of this 6 chapter from a prior tax sale; and

(6) other reasonable expenses of collection, including title search
expenses, uniform commercial code expenses, and reasonable
attorney's fees incurred by the date of the sale.

The amount of penalties due on the delinquencies under
subdivision (3) must be adjusted in accordance with IC 6-1.1-37-16,
if applicable.

(f) For purposes of the sale, it is not necessary for the county
treasurer to first attempt to collect the real property taxes or special
assessments out of the personal property of the owner of the tract or
real property.

(g) The county auditor shall serve as the clerk of the sale.

(h) Real property certified to the county auditor under section 1.5 of
this chapter must be offered for sale in a different phase of the tax sale
or on a different day of the tax sale than the phase or day during which
other real property is offered for sale.

22 (i) The public auction required under subsection (e) may be conducted by electronic means, at the option of the county treasurer. 23 24 The electronic sale must comply with the other statutory requirements 25 of this section. If an electronic sale is conducted under this subsection, 26 the county treasurer shall provide access to the electronic sale by 27 providing computer terminals open to the public at a designated 28 location. A county treasurer who elects to conduct an electronic sale 29 may receive electronic payments and establish rules necessary to 30 secure the payments in a timely fashion. The county treasurer may not 31 add an additional cost of sale charge to a parcel for the purpose of 32 conducting the electronic sale.

33 SECTION 6. IC 6-1.1-37-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE 34 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE 35 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 16. (a) The fiscal body of a county may, before November 1, 2021, adopt an ordinance to have this section 36 37 apply throughout the county. If the fiscal body of a county adopts 38 an ordinance under this subsection, the ordinance applies after 39 October 31, 2021, and before November 1, 2022. The fiscal body 40 shall deliver a copy of the ordinance to the county treasurer and 41 the county auditor.

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(b) Subject to subsection (d), the county treasurer of a county to



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1	which this section applies shall waive all interest and penalties
2	added before January 1, 2021, to a delinquent property tax
3	installment or special assessment on a tract or an item of real
4	property if:
5	(1) all of the delinquent taxes and special assessments on the
6	tract or item of real property were first due and payable
7	before January 1, 2021; and
8	(2) before November 1, 2022, the taxpayer has paid:
9	(A) all of the delinquent taxes and special assessments
10	described in subdivision (1); and
11	(B) all of the taxes and special assessments that are first
12	due and payable on the tract or item of real property after
13	December 31, 2020, and before November 1, 2022 (and any
14	interest and penalties on these taxes and special
15	assessments).
16	(c) Subject to subsection (d), the county treasurer of a county to
17	which this section applies shall waive interest and penalties as
18	provided in subsection (b) if the conditions of subsection (b) are
19	satisfied, notwithstanding any payment arrangement entered into
20	by the county treasurer and the taxpayer under IC 6-1.1-24-1.2 or
21	under any other law.
22	(d) This section shall not apply to interest and penalties added
23	to delinquent property tax installments or special assessments on
24	a tract or item of real property that was purchased or sold in any
25	prior tax sale.
23 26	SECTION 7. An emergency is declared for this act.
20	SECTION 7. All entergency is declared for this act.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 275, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to SB 275 as introduced.)

HOLDMAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0

SENATE MOTION

Madam President: I move that Senate Bill 275 be amended to read as follows:

Page 4, line 16, delete "May" and insert "November". Page 5, line 24, delete "May" and insert "November". Page 7, line 24, delete "May" and insert "November". Page 7, line 35, delete "May" and insert "November". Page 7, line 40, delete "May" and insert "November".

(Reference is to SB 275 as printed January 29, 2021.)

MELTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred Senate Bill 275, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-4-43.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022]: Sec. 43.5. This section applies to a taxpayer that files a notice under IC 6-1.1-15 after December 31, 2021, requesting a review of the assessment of the taxpayer's real



property that is subject to this section. A taxpayer must provide to the appropriate county or township assessing official information concerning the actual construction costs for the real property. Notwithstanding IC 6-1.1-15, if a taxpayer does not provide all relevant and reasonably available information concerning the actual construction costs for the real property before the hearing scheduled by the county property tax assessment board of appeals regarding the assessment of the real property, the appeal may not be reviewed until all the information is provided. If a taxpayer has not provided all relevant and reasonably available information concerning the actual construction costs of the property under appeal within ten (10) days prior to the scheduled hearing by the county property tax assessment year and may not be refiled or appealed.

SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-15-10.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.180-2016, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022]: Sec. 10.7. (a) The county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance to provide that the county assessor be reimbursed for certain costs incurred by the county assessor in defending an appeal under this chapter that is uncommon and infrequent in the normal course of defending appeals under this chapter. Costs include appraisal, **legal,** and expert witness fees incurred in defending an appeal.

(b) The ordinance must specify:

(1) the appeal or appeals and why they are uncommon and infrequent;

(2) a detailed list of expenses incurred by fund and by parcel number; and

(3) that the county auditor will deduct the expenses listed in the ordinance from property tax receipts collected in the taxing district in which the parcel is located before apportioning receipts to taxing units for the next semiannual settlement under IC 6-1.1-27.

(c) Property tax receipts that are collected under this section must be deposited in the county fund that incurred the initial expense.

(d) Expenses for an appeal that are deducted from a civil taxing unit's property tax revenue under this section are not considered to be part of a payment of a refund resulting from an appeal for purposes of a maximum permissible property tax levy appeal under IC 6-1.1-18.5-16.".

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.



(Reference is to SB 275 as reprinted February 5, 2021.)

BROWN T

Committee Vote: yeas 18, nays 4.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Engrossed Senate Bill 275 be amended to read as follows:

Page 1, line 3, delete "This section" and insert "(a) This section applies to a real property assessment of commercial real property used for retail purposes:

(1) for the 2022 assessment date and assessment dates thereafter; and

(2) if the commercial real property is occupied by the original owner or by a tenant for which the improvement was built.

(b) This section does not apply to real property described in subsection (a) if the real property is sold:

(1) by the original owner for which the improvement was built; and

(2) to a subsequent purchaser in an arms length transaction.(c) This subsection".

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to ESB 275 as printed March 25, 2021.)

THOMPSON

