

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1492  
(Representatives Monson, Froelich, D. Johnson, Nelson)  
(Senators Nichols, Trenbeath)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-28 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to filing of tax delinquencies in the central notice system; and to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 54-09-09 and section 57-28-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to bidders at annual sales of land acquired by tax deeds and tax delinquency filings in the central notice system.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 54-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The secretary of state shall maintain a computerized central indexing system that contains the information filed with the office of the secretary of state or with any of the offices of the recorder in this state pursuant to sections 35-13-02, 35-17-04, 35-20-16, 35-30-02, 35-31-02, 35-34-04, 35-34-06, 41-09-72, section 3 of this Act, 57-38-49, 57-39.2-13, 57-40.2-16, 57-40.3-07.1, 57-43.1-17.4, 57-43.2-16.3, and 57-51-11. The system must connect each recorder's office to the secretary of state's office through the information technology department. The system must allow access to financing statement information by equipment that conforms to requirements determined by the information technology department. The system must have safeguards to allow access to information that is in the system relating to security interests or liens and to prevent unauthorized alteration or deletion of that information and to allow access to other information in the system as prescribed by the secretary of state.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-28-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**57-28-15. Annual sale at auction - Sale price - Terms of payment.** The annual sale must be conducted in the following manner:

1. Each parcel of land must be sold at auction to the highest qualified bidder for no less than the minimum sale price as fixed before the sale. The sale may be made either for cash or one-fourth of the purchase price in cash, and the balance in equal annual installments over a period of not more than ten years. The purchaser may pay any or all annual installments with interest before the agreed due date of the installments.
2. If the sale is for cash, the purchaser shall promptly pay the amount bid to the county treasurer.
3. If the purchase price is to be paid in installments, the purchaser shall pay the first installment to the county treasurer and be given a contract for deed setting forth the terms of the sale. The contract for deed must be executed by the purchaser, the chairman of the board of county commissioners, and the county auditor. The contract must be in a form prescribed by the state tax commissioner. The contract must give the county the right to cancel the contract by resolution and due notice upon default by the purchaser.
4. The original contract for deed must be filed with the county treasurer, who shall record upon it all payments made by the purchaser. The interest rate for the contract must be established by the board of county commissioners at no more than twelve percent.

5. Upon completion of a cash sale or payments under a contract for deed, the county auditor shall execute and deliver a deed conveying to the purchaser the entire interest of the county in the property.
6. Upon the execution and delivery of the deed or contract for deed, the property becomes taxable to the purchaser.
7. A person is unqualified to be the highest bidder for property if the person owes delinquent taxes to any county.

**SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 57-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Notice of tax delinquency - Central indexing system.** The secretary of state shall prescribe a form to be used by county officials when notices of delinquent taxes owed to a county are entered in the central indexing system.

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1492.

House Vote:      Yeas    86      Nays    4      Absent    4

Senate Vote:    Yeas    45      Nays    0      Absent    2

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State