

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: WD 04/20/2009

The Committee on Finance and Tax (Altman) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 371 - 443 and insert:

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(6) A person or entity that owns property assessed pursuant to this section must notify the property appraiser promptly if the property becomes ineligible for assessment under this section. If any property owner fails to so notify the property appraiser and the property appraiser determines that for any year within the preceding 10 years the property was not eligible 12

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for assessment under this section, the owner of the property is subject to taxes avoided as a result of such failure plus 15 percent interest per annum and a penalty of 50 percent of the taxes avoided. The property appraiser making such determination has a duty to record in the public records of the county a notice of tax lien against any property owned by that person or entity in the county, and such property must be identified in the notice of tax lien. The property is subject to a lien in the amount of the unpaid taxes and penalties. The lien when filed shall attach to any property, identified in the notice of tax lien, owned by the person or entity that was improperly assessed. If such person or entity no longer owns property in that county, but owns property in some other county or counties of this state, the property appraiser has a duty to record a notice of tax lien in such other county or counties, identifying the property owned by such person or entity.

(7) The governing board of any public agency in this state or the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or a charitable corporation or trust which holds title to a development right pursuant to this section may not convey that development right to anyone other than the governing board of another public agency in this state or a charitable corporation or trust, as described in s. 704.06(4) s. 704.06(3), or the record owner of the fee interest in the land to which the development right attaches. The conveyance from the governing board of a public agency or the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to the owner of the fee shall be made only after a determination by the board that such conveyance would not adversely affect the interest of the

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public. Section 125.35 does not apply to such sales, but any public agency accepting any instrument conveying a development right pursuant to this section shall forthwith adopt appropriate regulations and procedures governing the disposition of same. These regulations and procedures must provide in part that the board may not convey a development right to the owner of the fee without first holding a public hearing and unless notice of the proposed conveyance and the time and place at which the public hearing is to be held is published once a week for at least 2 weeks in some newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is located before involved prior to the hearing.

- (6) The following terms whenever used as referred to in this section have the following meanings unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context:
- (a) "Board" is the governing board of any city, county, other public agency of the state or the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- (b) "Conservation restriction" means a limitation on a right to the use of land for purposes of conserving or preserving land or water areas predominantly in their natural, scenic, open, agricultural, or wooded condition. The limitation on rights to the use of land may involve or pertain to any of the activities enumerated in s. 704.06(1).
- (c) "Conservation easement" means that property right described in s. 704.06.
  - (d) "Covenant" is a covenant running with the land.
- (e) "Deferred tax liability" means an amount equal to the difference between the total amount of taxes that would have

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been due in March in each of the previous years in which the conveyance or covenant was in effect if the property had been assessed under the provisions of s. 193.011 and the total amount of taxes actually paid in those years when the property was assessed under the provisions of this section, plus interest on that difference computed as provided in s. 212.12(3).

- (f) "Development right" is the right of the owner of the fee interest in the land to change the use of the land.
- (g) "Outdoor recreational or park purposes" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, boating, golfing, camping, swimming, horseback riding, and archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites and applies only to land which is open to the general public.
- (h) "Present use" is the manner in which the land is utilized on January 1 of the year in which the assessment is made.
- (i) "Qualified as environmentally endangered" means land that has unique ecological characteristics, rare or limited combinations of geological formations, or features of a rare or limited nature constituting habitat suitable for fish, plants, or wildlife, and which, if subject to a development moratorium or one or more conservation easements or development restrictions appropriate to retaining such land or water areas predominantly in their natural state, would be consistent with the conservation, recreation and open space, and, if applicable, coastal protection elements of the comprehensive plan adopted by formal action of the local governing body pursuant to s. 163.3161, the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act; or surface waters and wetlands, as



99 determined by the methodology ratified in s. 373.4211. 100  $(8)\frac{(7)}{(a)}$  (a) The property appraiser shall report to the 101 102 ======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========== 103 And the title is amended as follows: Delete line 45 104 105 and insert: 106 107 includes certain statements by a landowner; requiring 108 a property owner to notify the property appraiser if 109 land assessed as land used for conservation purposes 110 becomes ineligible for the assessment benefit; imposing penalties for failing to notify the property 111 112 appraiser of the loss of eligibility for the 113 assessment benefit; requiring the property appraiser

to record tax liens for the amount of the unpaid taxes

and penalties; requiring

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