## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: RCS 04/20/2009

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

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 55.204, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

55.204 Duration and continuation of judgment lien; destruction of records.-

(1) Except as provided in this section, a judgment lien acquired under s. 55.202 lapses and becomes invalid 5 years after the date of filing the judgment lien certificate.

1

2 3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24 25

26 27

28 29

30

31 32

33

34 35

36

37

38

39



- (2) Liens securing the payment of child support or tax obligations as set forth in s. 95.091(1)(b) shall not lapse until 20 years after the date of the original filing of the warrant or other document required by law to establish a lien. Liens securing the payment of unemployment tax obligations lapse 10 years after the date of the original filing of the notice of lien. A No second lien based on the original filing may not be obtained.
- (3) At any time within 6 months before or 6 months after the scheduled lapse of a judgment lien under subsection (1), the judgment creditor may acquire a second judgment lien by filing a new judgment lien certificate. The effective date of the second judgment lien is the date and time on which the judgment lien certificate is filed. The second judgment lien is a new judgment lien and not a continuation of the original judgment lien. The second judgment lien permanently lapses and becomes invalid 5 years after its filing date, and no additional liens based on the original judgment or any judgment based on the original judgment may be acquired.
- (4) A judgment lien continues only as to itemized property for an additional 90 days after lapse of the lien. Such judgment lien will continue only if:
- (a) The property had been itemized and its location described with sufficient particularity in the instructions for levy to permit the sheriff to act;
- (b) The instructions for the levy had been delivered to the sheriff prior to the date of lapse of the lien; and
- (c) The property was located in the county in which the sheriff has jurisdiction at the time of delivery of the

42

43

44 45

46

47

48 49

50

51

52

53 54

55

56 57

58 59

60

61

62

63 64

65

66

67

68

69



instruction for levy. Subsequent removal of the property does not defeat the lien. A court may order continuation of the lien beyond the 90-day period on a showing that extraordinary circumstances have prevented levy.

- (5) The date of lapse of a judgment lien whose enforceability has been temporarily stayed or enjoined as a result of any legal or equitable proceeding is tolled until 30 days after the stay or injunction is terminated.
- (6) If a no second judgment lien is not filed, the Department of State shall maintain each judgment lien file and all information contained therein for a minimum of 1 year after the judgment lien lapses in accordance with this section. If a second judgment lien is filed, the department shall maintain both files and all information contained in such files for a minimum of 1 year after the second judgment lien lapses.
- (7) Nothing in This section does not shall be construed to extend the life of a judgment lien beyond the time that the underlying judgment, order, decree, or warrant otherwise expires or becomes invalid pursuant to law.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2009, section 72.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 72.011 Jurisdiction of circuit courts in specific tax matters; administrative hearings and appeals; time for commencing action; parties; deposits.-
- (1) (a) A taxpayer may contest the legality of any assessment or denial of refund of tax, fee, surcharge, permit, interest, or penalty provided for under s. 125.0104, s. 125.0108, chapter 198, chapter 199, chapter 201, chapter 202, chapter 203, chapter 206, chapter 207, chapter 210, chapter 211,

71 72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80 81

82 83

84 85

86

87

88 89

90

91

92

93

94

95 96

97

98



chapter 212, chapter 213, chapter 220, chapter 221, s. 379.362(3), chapter 376, s. 403.717, s. 403.718, s. 403.7185, s. 538.09, s. 538.25, chapter 550, chapter 561, chapter 562, chapter 563, chapter 564, chapter 565, chapter 624, or s. 681.117 by filing an action in circuit court; or, alternatively, the taxpayer may file a petition under the applicable provisions of chapter 120. However, once an action has been initiated under s. 120.56, s. 120.565, s. 120.569, s. 120.57, or s. 120.80(14)(b), no action relating to the same subject matter may be filed by the taxpayer in circuit court, and judicial review shall be exclusively limited to appellate review pursuant to s. 120.68; and once an action has been initiated in circuit court, no action may be brought under chapter 120.

- (b) A taxpayer may not file an action under paragraph (a) to contest an assessment or a denial of refund of any tax, fee, surcharge, permit, interest, or penalty relating to the statutes listed in paragraph (a) until the taxpayer complies with the applicable registration requirements contained in those statutes which apply to the tax for which the action is filed.
- (2) (a) An action may not be brought to contest an assessment of any tax, interest, or penalty assessed under a section or chapter specified in subsection (1) if the petition is postmarked or the action is filed more than 60 days after the date the assessment becomes final. An action may not be brought to contest a denial of refund of any tax, interest, or penalty paid under a section or chapter specified in subsection (1) if the petition is postmarked or the action is filed more than 60 days after the date the denial becomes final.
  - (b) The date on which an assessment or a denial of refund

100

101 102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111 112

113

114

115

116 117

118 119

120

121

122

123

124 125

126

127



becomes final and procedures by which a taxpayer must be notified of the assessment or of the denial of refund must be established:

- 1. By rule adopted by the Department of Revenue;
- 2. With respect to assessments or refund denials under chapter 207, by rule adopted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
- 3. With respect to assessments or refund denials under chapters 210, 550, 561, 562, 563, 564, and 565, by rule adopted by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; or
- 4. With respect to taxes that a county collects or enforces under s. 125.0104(10) or s. 212.0305(5), by an ordinance that may additionally provide for informal dispute resolution procedures in accordance with s. 213.21.
- (c) The applicable department or county need not file or docket an assessment or a refund denial with the agency clerk or county official designated by ordinance in order for the assessment or refund denial to become final for purposes of an action initiated under this chapter or chapter 120.
- (3) In any action filed in circuit court contesting the legality of any tax, interest, or penalty assessed under a section or chapter specified in subsection (1), the plaintiff must:
- (a) Pay to the applicable department or county the amount of the tax, penalty, and accrued interest assessed by the department or county which is not being contested by the taxpayer; and either
- (b) 1. Tender into the registry of the court with the complaint the amount of the contested assessment complained of,



including penalties and accrued interest, unless this requirement is waived in writing by the executive director of the applicable department or by the county official designated by ordinance; or

2. File with the complaint a cash bond or a surety bond for the amount of the contested assessment endorsed by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, or by any other security arrangement as may be approved by the court, and conditioned upon payment in full of the judgment, including the taxes, costs, penalties, and interest, unless this requirement is waived in writing by the executive director of the applicable department or by the county official designated by ordinance.

139 140 141

142

143

144

145

146 147

148

149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

The Department of Revenue, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, or the Department of Business and Professional Regulation may adopt rules that govern the manner and form in which a plaintiff may request a waiver from the respective agency. Failure to pay the uncontested amount as required in paragraph (a) shall result in the dismissal of the action and imposition of an additional penalty in the amount of 25 percent of the tax assessed. Provided, However, that if, at any point in the action, it is determined or discovered that a plaintiff, due to a good faith de minimis error, failed to comply with any of the requirements of paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), the plaintiff shall be given a reasonable time within which to comply before the action is dismissed. For purposes of this subsection, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that if the error involves an amount equal to or less than 5 percent of the total assessment the error is de minimis and that if the error

158

159

160

161 162

163

164

165

166 167

168

169

170

171

172 173

174

175

176

177

178 179

180 181

182

183

184

185



is more than 5 percent of the total assessment the error is not de minimis.

- (4)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), an action initiated in circuit court pursuant to subsection (1) shall be filed in the Second Judicial Circuit Court in and for Leon County or in the circuit court in the county where the taxpayer resides, maintains its principal commercial domicile in this state, or, in the ordinary course of business, regularly maintains its books and records in this state.
- (b) Venue in an action initiated in circuit court pursuant to subsection (1) by a taxpayer that is not a resident of this state or that does not maintain a commercial domicile in this state shall be in Leon County. Venue in an action contesting the legality of an assessment or refund denial arising under chapter 198 shall be in the circuit court having jurisdiction over the administration of the estate.
- (5) The requirements of subsections (1), (2), and (3) are jurisdictional.
- (6) Any action brought under this chapter is not subject to the provisions of chapter 45 as amended by chapter 87-249, Laws of Florida, relating to offers of settlement.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 95.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 95.091 Limitation on actions to collect taxes.-
- (1) (a) Except in the case of taxes for which certificates have been sold, taxes enumerated in ss. 72.011 and 443.141 s. 72.011, or tax liens issued under s. 196.161, any tax lien granted by law to the state or any of its political subdivisions, any municipality, any public corporation or body

187

188

189

190

191

192

193 194

195

196

197

198 199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209 210

211

212

213 214



politic, or any other entity having authority to levy and collect taxes shall expire 5 years after the date the tax is assessed or becomes delinquent, whichever is later. No action may be begun to collect any tax after the expiration of the lien securing the payment of the tax.

(b) Any tax lien granted by law to the state or any of its political subdivisions for any tax enumerated in s. 72.011 or any tax lien imposed under s. 196.161 shall expire 20 years after the last date the tax may be assessed, after the tax becomes delinquent, or after the filing of a tax warrant, whichever is later. An action to collect any tax enumerated in s. 72.011 may not be commenced after the expiration of the lien securing the payment of the tax.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 202.125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

202.125 Sales of communications services; specified exemptions.-

(1) The separately stated sales price of communications services sold to residential households is exempt from the tax imposed by s. 202.12. This exemption shall not apply to any residence that constitutes all or part of a transient public lodging establishment as defined in chapter 509, any mobile communications service, any cable service, or any direct-to-home satellite service.

Section 5. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 212.07, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212.07 Sales, storage, use tax; tax added to purchase price; dealer not to absorb; liability of purchasers who cannot prove payment of the tax; penalties; general exemptions.-

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229 230

231

232 233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242 243



(1) (a) The privilege tax herein levied measured by retail sales shall be collected by the dealers from the purchaser or consumer.

(b) A resale must be in strict compliance with s. 212.18 and the rules and regulations, and any dealer who makes a sale for resale which is not in strict compliance with s. 212.18 and the rules and regulations shall himself or herself be liable for and pay the tax. Any dealer who makes a sale for resale shall document the exempt nature of the transaction, as established by rules promulgated by the department, by retaining a copy of the purchaser's resale certificate. In lieu of maintaining a copy of the certificate, a dealer may document, prior to the time of sale, an authorization number provided telephonically or electronically by the department, or by such other means established by rule of the department. The dealer may rely on a resale certificate issued pursuant to s. 212.18(3)(d) s. 212.18(3)(c), valid at the time of receipt from the purchaser, without seeking annual verification of the resale certificate if the dealer makes recurring sales to a purchaser in the normal course of business on a continual basis. For purposes of this paragraph, "recurring sales to a purchaser in the normal course of business" refers to a sale in which the dealer extends credit to the purchaser and records the debt as an account receivable, or in which the dealer sells to a purchaser who has an established cash or C.O.D. account, similar to an open credit account. For purposes of this paragraph, purchases are made from a selling dealer on a continual basis if the selling dealer makes, in the normal course of business, sales to the purchaser no less frequently than once in every 12-month period. A dealer

245

246 247

248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

257

258

259

260

261

262

263 264

265

266

2.67

268

269 270

271

272



may, through the informal protest provided for in s. 213.21 and the rules of the Department of Revenue, provide the department with evidence of the exempt status of a sale. Consumer certificates of exemption executed by those exempt entities that were registered with the department at the time of sale, resale certificates provided by purchasers who were active dealers at the time of sale, and verification by the department of a purchaser's active dealer status at the time of sale in lieu of a resale certificate shall be accepted by the department when submitted during the protest period, but may not be accepted in any proceeding under chapter 120 or any circuit court action instituted under chapter 72.

- (c) Unless the purchaser of tangible personal property that is incorporated into tangible personal property manufactured, produced, compounded, processed, or fabricated for one's own use and subject to the tax imposed under s. 212.06(1)(b) or is purchased for export under s. 212.06(5)(a)1. extends a certificate in compliance with the rules of the department, the dealer shall himself or herself be liable for and pay the tax.
- (3)(a) A Any dealer who fails, neglects, or refuses to collect the tax or fees imposed under this chapter herein provided, either by himself or herself or through the dealer's agents or employees, is, in addition to the penalty of being liable for and paying the tax himself or herself, commits quilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) A dealer who willfully fails to collect a tax or fees after the department provides notice of the duty to collect the tax or fees is liable for a specific penalty of 100 percent of

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

2.81

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289 290

291

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

301



the uncollected tax or fees. This penalty is in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed by law. A dealer who willfully fails to collect taxes or fees totaling:

- 1. Less than \$300:
- a. For a first offense commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- b. For the second offense commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- c. For the third and subsequent offenses commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 2. Three hundred dollars or more, but less than \$20,000, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 3. Twenty thousand dollars or more, but less than \$100,000, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 4. One hundred thousand dollars or more, commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (c) As used in this subsection, the term "willful" means a voluntary and intentional violation of a known legal duty.
- (d) The department shall give written notice of the duty to collect taxes or fees to the dealer by personal service; by sending notice to the dealer's last known address by registered mail; or by both personal service and mail.
- Section 6. Subsection (1) and paragraph (q) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

303

304 305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316 317

318

319 320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329



- 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions. - The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.
  - (1) EXEMPTIONS; GENERAL GROCERIES.—
- (a) Food products for human consumption are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.
- (b) For the purpose of this chapter, as used in this subsection, the term "food products" means edible commodities, whether processed, cooked, raw, canned, or in any other form, which are generally regarded as food. This includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
- 1. Cereals and cereal products, baked goods, oleomargarine, meat and meat products, fish and seafood products, frozen foods and dinners, poultry, eggs and egg products, vegetables and vegetable products, fruit and fruit products, spices, salt, sugar and sugar products, milk and dairy products, and products intended to be mixed with milk.
- 2. Natural fruit or vegetable juices or their concentrates or reconstituted natural concentrated fruit or vegetable juices, whether frozen or unfrozen, dehydrated, powdered, granulated, sweetened or unsweetened, seasoned with salt or spice, or unseasoned; coffee, coffee substitutes, or cocoa; and tea, unless it is sold in a liquid form.
- 3. Bakery products sold by bakeries, pastry shops, or like establishments that do not have eating facilities.
  - (c) The exemption provided by this subsection does not



331 apply:

332

333 334

335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343 344

345

346

347

348 349

350

351

352

353

354

355

356

357

358

- 1. When the food products are sold as meals for consumption on or off the premises of the dealer.
- 2. When the food products are furnished, prepared, or served for consumption at tables, chairs, or counters or from trays, glasses, dishes, or other tableware, whether provided by the dealer or by a person with whom the dealer contracts to furnish, prepare, or serve food products to others.
- 3. When the food products are ordinarily sold for immediate consumption on the seller's premises or near a location at which parking facilities are provided primarily for the use of patrons in consuming the products purchased at the location, even though such products are sold on a "take out" or "to go" order and are actually packaged or wrapped and taken from the premises of the dealer.
- 4. To sandwiches sold ready for immediate consumption on or off the seller's premises.
- 5. When the food products are sold ready for immediate consumption within a place, the entrance to which is subject to an admission charge.
- 6. When the food products are sold as hot prepared food products.
- 7. To soft drinks, which include, but are not limited to, any nonalcoholic beverage, any preparation or beverage commonly referred to as a "soft drink," or any noncarbonated drink made from milk derivatives or tea, when sold in cans or similar containers.
- 8. To ice cream, frozen yogurt, and similar frozen dairy or nondairy products in cones, small cups, or pints, popsicles,

361

362 363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

377

378

379

380

381

382

383 384

385

386

387

388



frozen fruit bars, or other novelty items, whether or not sold separately.

- 9. To food prepared, whether on or off the premises, and sold for immediate consumption. This does not apply to food prepared off the premises and sold in the original sealed container, or the slicing of products into smaller portions.
- 10. When the food products are sold through a vending machine, pushcart, motor vehicle, or any other form of vehicle.
- 11. To candy and any similar product regarded as candy or confection, based on its normal use, as indicated on the label or advertising thereof.
- 12. To bakery products sold by bakeries, pastry shops, or like establishments that have eating facilities, except when sold for consumption off the seller's premises.
- 13. When food products are served, prepared, or sold in or by restaurants, lunch counters, cafeterias, hotels, taverns, or other like places of business.
  - (d) As used in this subsection, the term:
- 1. "For consumption off the seller's premises" means that the food or drink is intended by the customer to be consumed at a place away from the dealer's premises.
- 2. "For consumption on the seller's premises" means that the food or drink sold may be immediately consumed on the premises where the dealer conducts his or her business. In determining whether an item of food is sold for immediate consumption, there shall be considered the customary consumption practices prevailing at the selling facility.
- 3. "Premises" shall be construed broadly, and means, but is not limited to, the lobby, aisle, or auditorium of a theater;

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400

401 402

403

404

405

406 407

408

409

410

411

412 413

414

415

416 417



the seating, aisle, or parking area of an arena, rink, or stadium; or the parking area of a drive-in or outdoor theater. The premises of a caterer with respect to catered meals or beverages shall be the place where such meals or beverages are served.

- 4. "Hot prepared food products" means those products, items, or components which have been prepared for sale in a heated condition and which are sold at any temperature that is higher than the air temperature of the room or place where they are sold. "Hot prepared food products," for the purposes of this subsection, includes a combination of hot and cold food items or components where a single price has been established for the combination and the food products are sold in such combination, such as a hot meal, a hot specialty dish or serving, or a hot sandwich or hot pizza, including cold components or side items.
- (e) 1. Food or drinks not exempt under paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) shall be exempt, notwithstanding those paragraphs, when purchased with food coupons or Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children vouchers issued under authority of federal law.
- 2. This paragraph is effective only while federal law prohibits a state's participation in the federal food coupon program or Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children if there is an official determination that state or local sales taxes are collected within that state on purchases of food or drinks with such coupons.
- 3. This paragraph shall not apply to any food or drinks on which federal law shall permit sales taxes without penalty, such as termination of the state's participation.

419 420

421

422

423

424

425

426

427

428

429

430

431

432

433

434

435 436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443

444

445



- (f) The application of the tax on a package that contains exempt food products and taxable nonfood products depends upon the essential character of the complete package.
- 1. If the taxable items represent more than 25 percent of the cost of the complete package and a single charge is made, the entire sales price of the package is taxable. If the taxable items are separately stated, the separate charge for the taxable items is subject to tax.
- 2. If the taxable items represent 25 percent or less of the cost of the complete package and a single charge is made, the entire sales price of the package is exempt from tax. The person preparing the package is liable for the tax on the cost of the taxable items going into the complete package. If the taxable items are separately stated, the separate charge is subject to tax.
  - (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.-
- (q) Building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone.-
- 1. Building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the items have been used for the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., this exemption inures to the owner, lessee, or lessor at the time of the rehabilitated real property is rehabilitated, but located in an enterprise zone only through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive a refund pursuant to this paragraph, the owner, lessee, or lessor of the rehabilitated real property <del>located in</del>

448

449

450

451

452

453

454

455

456

457

458

459

460

461

462 463

464

465

466

467

468

469

470

471

472 473

474 475



an enterprise zone must file an application under oath with the governing body or enterprise zone development agency having jurisdiction over the enterprise zone where the business is located, as applicable. A single application for a refund may be submitted for multiple, contiguous parcels that were part of a single parcel that was divided as part of the rehabilitation of the property. All other requirements of this paragraph apply to each parcel on an individual basis. The application must include, which includes:

- a. The name and address of the person claiming the refund.
- b. An address and assessment roll parcel number of the rehabilitated real property in an enterprise zone for which a refund of previously paid taxes is being sought.
- c. A description of the improvements made to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property.
- d. A copy of a valid the building permit issued by the county or municipal building department for the rehabilitation of the real property.
- e. A sworn statement, under the penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the applicant contracted to make the improvements necessary to rehabilitate accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property, which statement lists the building materials used to rehabilitate in the rehabilitation of the real property, the actual cost of the building materials, and the amount of sales tax paid in this state on the building materials. If In the event that a general contractor has not been used, the applicant shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under the penalty of perjury. Copies of the invoices which evidence the

477

478 479

480

481

482

483 484

485

486

487

488

489

490 491

492

493 494

495

496

497

498

499

500

501

502

503 504



purchase of the building materials used in the such rehabilitation and the payment of sales tax on the building materials shall be attached to the sworn statement provided by the general contractor or by the applicant. Unless the actual cost of building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property and the payment of sales taxes due thereon is documented by a general contractor or by the applicant in this manner, the cost of the such building materials shall be an amount equal to 40 percent of the increase in assessed value for ad valorem tax purposes.

- f. The identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the rehabilitated real property is located.
- g. A certification by the local building code inspector that the improvements necessary to rehabilitate accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property are substantially completed.
- h. A statement of whether the business is a small business as defined by s. 288.703(1).
- i. If applicable, the name and address of each permanent employee of the business, including, for each employee who is a resident of an enterprise zone, the identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the employee resides.
- 2. This exemption inures to a municipality city, county, other governmental unit or agency, or nonprofit community-based organization through a refund of previously paid taxes if the building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone are paid for from the funds of a community development block grant, State Housing Initiatives

506

507

508

509

510

511 512

513

514

515

516

517

518

519 520

521

522

523

524

525

526

527

528

529

530

531

532 533



Partnership Program, or similar grant or loan program. To receive a refund pursuant to this paragraph, a municipality city, county, other governmental unit or agency, or nonprofit community-based organization must file an application that which includes the same information required to be provided in subparagraph 1. by an owner, lessee, or lessor of rehabilitated real property. In addition, the application must include a sworn statement signed by the chief executive officer of the municipality city, county, other governmental unit or agency, or nonprofit community-based organization seeking a refund which states that the building materials for which a refund is sought were funded by paid for from the funds of a community development block grant, State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, or similar grant or loan program.

3. Within 10 working days after receipt of an application, the governing body or enterprise zone development agency shall review the application to determine if it contains all the information required under pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and meets the criteria set out in this paragraph. The governing body or agency shall certify all applications that contain the required information required pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and are meet the criteria set out in this paragraph as eligible to receive a refund. If applicable, the governing body or agency shall also certify if 20 percent of the employees of the business are residents of an enterprise zone, excluding temporary and parttime employees. The certification must shall be in writing, and a copy of the certification shall be transmitted to the executive director of the Department of Revenue. The applicant

535

536

537

538

539

540

541

542

543

544

545

546 547

548

549 550

551

552

553

554

555

556

557

558

559

560

561 562



is <del>shall be</del> responsible for forwarding a certified application to the department within the time specified in subparagraph 4.

- 4. An application for a refund pursuant to this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the rehabilitation of the property is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building code inspector or by November 1 September 1 after the rehabilitated property is first subject to assessment.
- 5. Only Not more than one exemption through a refund of previously paid taxes for the rehabilitation of real property is shall be permitted for any single parcel of property unless there is a change in ownership, a new lessor, or a new lessee of the real property. A No refund may not shall be granted pursuant to this paragraph unless the amount to be refunded exceeds \$500. A No refund may not granted pursuant to this paragraph shall exceed the lesser of 97 percent of the Florida sales or use tax paid on the cost of the building materials used in the rehabilitation of the real property as determined pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.e. or \$5,000, or, if no less than 20 percent of the employees of the business are residents of an enterprise zone, excluding temporary and part-time employees, the amount of refund may granted pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed the lesser of 97 percent of the sales tax paid on the cost of the such building materials or \$10,000. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after of formal approval by the department of the application for the refund. This subparagraph shall apply retroactively to July 1, <del>2005.</del>
  - 6. The department shall adopt rules governing the manner

564

565

566

567

568 569

570

571

572

573

574

575

576

577

578

579

580 581

582 583

584

585

586

587

588

589

590 591



and form of refund applications and may establish guidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of qualification for exemption under this paragraph.

- 7. The department shall deduct an amount equal to 10 percent of each refund granted under the provisions of this paragraph from the amount transferred into the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 212.20 for the county area in which the rehabilitated real property is located and shall transfer that amount to the General Revenue Fund.
- 8. For the purposes of the exemption provided in this paragraph, the term:
- a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property which becomes a component part of improvements to real property.
- b. "Real property" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.001(12).
- c. "Rehabilitation of real property" means the reconstruction, renovation, restoration, rehabilitation, construction, or expansion of improvements to real property.
- d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).
- 9. This paragraph expires on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
- Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 212.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 212.12 Dealer's credit for collecting tax; penalties for noncompliance; powers of Department of Revenue in dealing with delinquents; brackets applicable to taxable transactions; records required.-



592 (2)

593

594

595

596

597

598 599

600 601

602

603

604

605

606

607

608

609

610

611

612

613

614

615

616

617

618

619

- (d) A Any person who makes a false or fraudulent return with a willful intent to evade payment of any tax or fee imposed under this chapter is; any person who, after the department's delivery of a written notice to the person's last known address specifically alerting the person of the requirement to register the person's business as a dealer, intentionally fails to register the business; and any person who, after the department's delivery of a written notice to the person's last known address specifically alerting the person of the requirement to collect tax on specific transactions, intentionally fails to collect such tax, shall, in addition to the other penalties provided by law, be liable for a specific penalty of 100 percent of any unreported or any uncollected tax or fee. This penalty is in addition to any other penalty provided by law. A person who makes a false or fraudulent return with a willful intent to evade payment of taxes or fees totaling:
  - 1. Less than \$300:
- a. For a first offense commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- b. For the second offense commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- c. For the third and subsequent offenses commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 2. Three hundred dollars or more, but less than \$20,000, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in

622

623 624

625 626

627

628 629

630 631

632

633

634

635

636

637

638 639

640

641

642 643

644

645

646

647 648

649



s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- 3. Twenty thousand dollars or more, but less than \$100,000, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 4. One hundred thousand dollars or more, commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. and, upon conviction, for fine and punishment as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. Delivery of written notice may be made by certified mail, or by the use of such other method as is documented as being necessary and reasonable under the circumstances. The civil and criminal penalties imposed herein for failure to comply with a written notice alerting the person of the requirement to register the person's business as a dealer or to collect tax on specific transactions shall not apply if the person timely files a written challenge to such notice in accordance with procedures established by the department by rule or the notice fails to clearly advise that failure to comply with or timely challenge the notice will result in the imposition of the civil and criminal penalties imposed herein.
- 1. If the total amount of unreported or uncollected taxes or fees is less than \$300, the first offense resulting in conviction is a misdemeanor of the second degree, the second offense resulting in conviction is a misdemeanor of the first degree, and the third and all subsequent offenses resulting in conviction is a misdemeanor of the first degree, and the third and all subsequent offenses resulting in conviction are felonies of the third degree.
  - 2. If the total amount of unreported or uncollected taxes

651

652

653

654

655

656

657

658

659

660

661

662

663

664

665

666

667

668

669

670

671

672

673

674

675

676

677 678



fees is \$300 or more but less than \$20,000, the felony of the third degree.

- 3. If the total amount of unreported or uncollected taxes or fees is \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000, the offense is a felony of the second degree.
- 4. If the total amount of unreported or uncollected taxes or fees is \$100,000 or more, the offense is a felony of the first degree.
- Section 8. Subsection (3) of section 212.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 212.18 Administration of law; registration of dealers; rules.-
- (3) (a) Every person desiring to engage in or conduct business in this state as a dealer, as defined in this chapter, or to lease, rent, or let or grant licenses in living quarters or sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, roominghouses, or tourist or trailer camps that are subject to tax under s. 212.03, or to lease, rent, or let or grant licenses in real property, as defined in this chapter, and every person who sells or receives anything of value by way of admissions, must file with the department an application for a certificate of registration for each place of business. The application must include, showing the names of the persons who have interests in the such business and their residences, the address of the business, and such other data reasonably required by as the department may reasonably require. However, owners and operators of vending machines or newspaper rack machines are required to obtain only one certificate of registration for each county in which such machines are located. The department, by

680

681

682

683

684

685

686

687

688

689

690

691

692

693

694

695

696

697

698

699

700

701

702

703

704 705

706 707



rule, may authorize a dealer that uses independent sellers to sell its merchandise to remit tax on the retail sales price charged to the ultimate consumer in lieu of having the independent seller register as a dealer and remit the tax. The department may appoint the county tax collector as the department's agent to accept applications for registrations. The application must be made to the department before the person, firm, copartnership, or corporation may engage in such business, and it must be accompanied by a registration fee of \$5. However, a registration fee is not required to accompany an application to engage in or conduct business to make mail order sales. The department may waive the registration fee for applications submitted through the department's Internet registration process.

(b) The department, upon receipt of such application, shall will grant to the applicant a separate certificate of registration for each place of business, which certificate may be canceled by the department or its designated assistants for any failure by the certificateholder to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter. The certificate is not assignable and is valid only for the person, firm, copartnership, or corporation to which issued. The certificate must be placed in a conspicuous place in the business or businesses for which it is issued and must be displayed at all times. Except as provided in this subsection, a <del>no</del> person may not <del>shall</del> engage in business as a dealer or in leasing, renting, or letting of or granting licenses in living quarters or sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, roominghouses, tourist or trailer camps, or real property or as hereinbefore

709 710

711

712

713

714

715

716

717

718

719

720

721

722

723

724

725

726

727

728

729

730

731

732

733

734

735

736



defined, nor shall any person sell or receive anything of value by way of admissions, without a valid first having obtained such a certificate. A or after such certificate has been canceled; no person may not shall receive a any license from any authority within the state to engage in any such business without a valid first having obtained such a certificate or after such certificate has been canceled. A person may not engage The engaging in the business of selling or leasing tangible personal property or services or as a dealer; engage, as defined in this chapter, or the engaging in leasing, renting, or letting of or granting licenses in living quarters or sleeping or housekeeping accommodations in hotels, apartment houses, roominghouses, or tourist or trailer camps that are taxable under this chapter, or real property; r or engage the engaging in the business of selling or receiving anything of value by way of admissions, without a valid such certificate first being obtained or after such certificate has been canceled by the department, is prohibited.

(c) 1. A The failure or refusal of any person who engages in acts requiring registration under this subsection and who fails or refuses to register, commits, firm, copartnership, or corporation to so qualify when required hereunder is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Such acts are, or subject to injunctive proceedings as provided by law. A person who engages in acts requiring registration and who fails or refuses to register is also subject Such failure or refusal also subjects the offender to a \$100 initial registration fee in lieu of the \$5 registration fee required by authorized in paragraph (a).

738

739

740

741

742

743

744

745

746

747

748

749

750

751

752

753

754

755

756

757

758

759

760

761

762

763

764

765



However, the department may waive the increase in the registration fee if it finds is determined by the department that the failure to register was due to reasonable cause and not to willful negligence, willful neglect, or fraud.

- 2. A person who willfully fails to register after the department provides notice of the duty to register as a dealer commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- a. As used in this subsection, the term "willfully" means a voluntary, intentional violation of a known legal duty.
- b. The department shall give written notice of the duty to register to the person by personal service, by sending notice by registered mail to the person's last known address, or by personal service and mail.
- (d) (c) In addition to the certificate of registration, the department shall provide to each newly registered dealer an initial resale certificate that will be valid for the remainder of the period of issuance. The department shall provide each active dealer with an annual resale certificate. For purposes of this section, "active dealer" means a person who is currently registered with the department and who is required to file at least once during each applicable reporting period.
- (e) (d) The department may revoke a any dealer's certificate of registration if when the dealer fails to comply with this chapter. Prior to revocation of a dealer's certificate of registration, the department must schedule an informal conference at which the dealer may present evidence regarding the department's intended revocation or enter into a compliance agreement with the department. The department must notify the

767

768

769

770

771

772

773

774

775

776 777

778

779

780

781

782

783

784

785

786

787

788

789

790

791

792

793

794



dealer of its intended action and the time, place, and date of the scheduled informal conference by written notification sent by United States mail to the dealer's last known address of record furnished by the dealer on a form prescribed by the department. The dealer is required to attend the informal conference and present evidence refuting the department's intended revocation or enter into a compliance agreement with the department which resolves the dealer's failure to comply with this chapter. The department shall issue an administrative complaint under s. 120.60 if the dealer fails to attend the department's informal conference, fails to enter into a compliance agreement with the department resolving the dealer's noncompliance with this chapter, or fails to comply with the executed compliance agreement.

- (f) (e) As used in this paragraph, the term "exhibitor" means a person who enters into an agreement authorizing the display of tangible personal property or services at a convention or a trade show. The following provisions apply to the registration of exhibitors as dealers under this chapter:
- 1. An exhibitor whose agreement prohibits the sale of tangible personal property or services subject to the tax imposed in this chapter is not required to register as a dealer.
- 2. An exhibitor whose agreement provides for the sale at wholesale only of tangible personal property or services subject to the tax imposed in this chapter must obtain a resale certificate from the purchasing dealer but is not required to register as a dealer.
- 3. An exhibitor whose agreement authorizes the retail sale of tangible personal property or services subject to the tax



imposed in this chapter must register as a dealer and collect the tax imposed under this chapter on such sales.

4. Any exhibitor who makes a mail order sale pursuant to s. 212.0596 must register as a dealer.

798 799

800

801

802

803

804

805

806

807

808

809

810

811

812

813

795

796

797

Any person who conducts a convention or a trade show must make their exhibitor's agreements available to the department for inspection and copying.

Section 9. Effective upon this act becoming a law and operating retroactively to July 1, 2008, paragraph (y) of subsection (8) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.-
- (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:
- (y) Information relative to ss. 212.08(7)(ccc) and 220.192 to the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection for use in the conduct of its official business.

814 815

816

817

818

819

820

821

822

823

Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 10. Effective July 1, 2009, subsection (5) and paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of section 213.053, Florida

825

826

827

828

829 830

831

832

833

834 835

836

837

838

839

840

841

842

843

844

845

846

847

848

849

850

851

852



Statutes, are amended, paragraph (z) is added to subsection (8) of that section, and subsection (19) is added to that section, to read:

- 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.-
- (5) This section does not prohibit Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the department from:
- (a) Publishing statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of particular accounts, reports, declarations, or returns; or
- (b) Using telephones, electronic mail, facsimile machines, or other electronic means to:
- 1. Distribute information relating to changes in law, tax rates, or interest rates, or other information that is not specific to a particular taxpayer;
  - 2. Remind taxpayers of due dates;
- 3. Respond to a taxpayer by electronic mail to an electronic mail address that does not support encryption if the use of that address is authorized by the taxpayer; or
- 4. Notify taxpayers to contact the department. Disclosing to the Chief Financial Officer the names and addresses of those taxpayers who have claimed an exemption pursuant to former s. 199.185(1)(i) or a deduction pursuant to s. 220.63(5).
- (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:
- (d) Names, addresses, and sales tax registration information, and information relating to s. 213.50 to the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation in the conduct of its official duties.



(z) Taxpayer names and identification numbers for the purposes of information-sharing agreements with financial institutions pursuant to s. 213.0532.

855 856 857

858

859

860

861

862

863

864

865

866

867

868

869

870

871

872

873

874

875

876 877

878

879

880

881

853

854

Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

- (19) (a) The department may publish a list of taxpayers against whom it has filed a warrant or judgment lien certificate. The list includes the name and address of each taxpayer; the amounts and types of delinquent taxes, fees or surcharges, penalties, or interest; and the employer identification number or other taxpayer identification number.
- (b) The department shall update the list at least monthly to reflect payments for resolution of deficiencies and to otherwise add or remove taxpayers from the list.
- (c) The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

Section 11. Effective July 1, 2009, section 213.0532, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 213.0532 Agreements with financial institutions.-
- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Account" means a demand deposit account, checking or negotiable withdrawal order account, savings account, time deposit account, or money-market mutual fund account.



882 (b) "Department" means the Department of Revenue. 883 (c) "Financial institution" means: 1. A depository institution as defined in 12 U.S.C. s. 884 885 1813(c); 886 2. An institution-affiliated party as defined in 12 U.S.C. 887 s. 1813(u); 888 3. A federal credit union or state credit union as defined 889 in 12 U.S.C. s. 1752, including an institution-affiliated party 890 of such a credit union as defined in 12 U.S.C s. 1786(r); or 891 4. A benefit association, insurance company, safe-deposit company, money-market mutual fund, or similar entity authorized 892 893 to do business in this state. 894 (d) "Obligor" means a person against whose property the 895 department has filed a warrant or judgment lien certificate. 896 (e) "Person" has the same meaning as in s. 212.02. 897 (2) The department shall request information and assistance 898 from a financial institution as necessary to enforce the tax 899 laws of the state. Pursuant to this subsection, financial 900 institutions doing business in the state shall enter into 901 agreements with the department to develop and operate a data 902 match system, using an automated data exchange to the maximum 903 extent feasible, in which the financial institution must provide 904 for each calendar quarter the name, record address, social 905 security number or other taxpayer identification number, average 906 daily account balance, and other identifying information for: 907 (a) Each obligor who maintains an account at the financial 908 institution as identified to the institution by the department

by name and social security number or other taxpayer

identification number; or

909

912

913 914

915

916

917

918

919 920

921

922

923

924

925

926

927

928

929

930

931

932

933

934

935

936

937

938



- (b) At the financial institution's option, each person who maintains an account at the institution.
- (3) The department may use the information received pursuant to this section only for the purpose of enforcing the collection of taxes and fees administered by the department.
- (4) The department shall, to the extent possible and in compliance with state and federal law, administer this section in conjunction with s. 409.25657 in order to avoid duplication and reduce the burden on financial institutions.
- (5) The department shall pay a reasonable fee to the financial institution for conducting the data match provided for in this section, which may not exceed actual costs incurred by the financial institution.
- (6) A financial institution is not required to provide notice to its customers and is not liable to any person for:
- (a) Disclosing to the department any information required under this section.
- (b) Encumbering or surrendering any assets held by the financial institution in response to a notice of lien, freeze, or levy issued by the department.
- (c) Disclosing any information in connection with a data match.
- (d) Taking any other action in good faith to comply with the requirements of this section.
- (7) Any financial records obtained pursuant to this section may be disclosed only for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary, to administer and enforce the tax laws of this state.
- (8) The department may adopt rules to establish the procedures and requirements for conducting automated data

941

942 943

944

945

946

947 948

949

950

951

952

953

954

955

956

957

958

959 960

961

962

963

964

965

966

967

968



matches with financial institutions pursuant to this section.

Section 12. Effective July 1, 2009, section 213.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

213.25 Refunds; credits; right of setoff.—If In any instance that a taxpayer has a tax refund or tax credit is due to a taxpayer for an overpayment of taxes assessed under any of the chapters specified in s. 72.011(1), the department may reduce the such refund or credit to the extent of any billings not subject to protest under s. 213.21 or chapter 443 for the same or any other tax owed by the same taxpayer.

Section 13. Effective July 1, 2009, section 213.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 213.50 Failure to comply; revocation of corporate charter or hotel or restaurant license; refusal to reinstate charter or hotel or restaurant license.-
- (1) Any corporation of this state which has an outstanding tax warrant that has existed for more than 3 consecutive months is subject to the revocation of its charter as provided in s. 607.1420.
- (2) A request for reinstatement of a corporate charter may not be granted by the Division of Corporations of the Department of State if an outstanding tax warrant has existed for that corporation for more than 3 consecutive months.
- (3) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation may revoke the hotel or restaurant license of a licenseholder if a tax warrant has been outstanding against the licenseholder for more than 3 months.
- (4) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation may deny an application to renew the hotel or restaurant license

970

971

972

973

974

975 976

977

978

979

980

981

982

983

984

985

986

987

988

989

990

991

992

993

994

995

996

997



of a licenseholder if a tax warrant has been outstanding against the licenseholder for more than 3 months.

Section 14. Effective July 1, 2009, subsection (8) of section 213.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

213.67 Garnishment.-

(8) An action may not be brought to contest a notice of intent to levy under chapter 120 or in circuit court if the petition is postmarked or the action is filed more, later than 21 days after the date of receipt of the notice of intent to levy.

Section 15. Section 213.758, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 213.758 Transfer of tax liabilities.-
- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Involuntary transfer" means a transfer of a business or stock of goods made without the consent of the transferor, including, but not limited to, a:
- 1. Transfer that occurs due to the foreclosure of a security interest issued to a person who is not an insider as defined by s. 726.102;
- 2. Transfer that results from eminent domain and condemnation actions;
- 3. Transfer pursuant to chapter 61, chapter 702, or the United States Bankruptcy Code;
- 4. Transfer to a financial institution, as defined in s. 655.005, if the transfer is made to satisfy the transferor's debt to the financial institution; or
- 5. Transfer to a third party to the extent that the proceeds are used to satisfy the transferor's indebtedness to a

999

1000

1001

1002

1003

1004 1005

1006

1007

1008

1009

1010

1011

1012

1013

1014

1015

1016

1017

1018

1019

1020

1021

1022

1023 1024

1025

1026



financial institution as defined in s. 655.005. If the third party receives assets worth more than the indebtedness, the transfer of the excess may not be deemed an involuntary transfer.

- (b) "Transfer" means every mode, direct or indirect, with or without consideration, of disposing of or parting with a business or stock of goods, and includes, but is not limited to, assigning, conveying, demising, gifting, granting, or selling.
- (2) A taxpayer who is liable for any tax, interest, penalty, surcharge, or fee administered by the department in accordance with chapter 443 or s. 72.011(1), excluding corporate income tax, and who quits a business without the benefit of a purchaser, successor, or assignee, or without transferring the business or stock of goods to a transferee, must file a final return and make full payment within 15 days after quitting the business. A taxpayer who fails to file a final return and make payment may not engage in any business in the state until the final return has been filed and the all tax, interest, or penalties due have been paid. The Department of Legal Affairs may seek an injunction at the request of the department to prevent further business activity until such tax, interest, or penalties are paid. A temporary injunction enjoining further business activity may be granted by a court without notice.
- (3) A taxpayer who is liable for taxes, interest, or penalties levied under chapter 443 or any of the chapters specified in s. 213.05, excluding corporate income tax, who transfers the taxpayer's business or stock of goods, must file a final return and make full payment within 15 days after the date of transfer.

1028

1029 1030

1031

1032

1033 1034

1035

1036

1037

1038

1039

1040

1041

1042

1043 1044

1045

1046

1047

1048 1049

1050

1051

1052

1053

1054

1055



- (4)(a) A transferee, or a group of transferees acting in concert, of more than 50 percent of a business or stock of goods is liable for any tax, interest, or penalties owed by the transferor unless:
- 1. The transferor provides a receipt or certificate from the department to the transferee showing that the transferor is not liable for taxes, interest, or penalties from the operation of the business; and
- 2. The department finds that the transferor is not liable for taxes, interest, or penalties after an audit of the transferor's books and records. The audit may be requested by the transferee or the transferor. The department may charge a fee for the cost of the audit if it has not issued a notice of intent to audit by the time the request for the audit is received.
- (b) A transferee may withhold a portion of the consideration for a business or stock of goods to pay the taxes, interest, or penalties owed to the state from the operation of the business. The transferee shall pay the withheld consideration to the state within 30 days after the date of the transfer. If the consideration withheld is less than the transferor's liability, the transferor remains liable for the deficiency.
- (c) A transferee who acquires the business or stock of goods and fails to pay the taxes, interest, or penalties due, may not engage in any business in the state until the taxes, interest, or penalties are paid. The Department of Legal Affairs may seek an injunction at the request of the department to prevent further business activity until such tax, interest, or

1057

1058

1059

1060

1061

1062

1063

1064

1065

1066

1067

1068 1069

1070

1071

1072

1073

1074

1075

1076

1077

1078

1079 1080

1081

1082

1083

1084



penalties are paid. A temporary injunction enjoining further business activity may be granted by a court without notice.

- (5) The transferee, or transferees acting in concert, of more than 50 percent of a business or stock of goods are jointly and severally liable with the transferor for the payment of the taxes, interest, or penalties owed to the state from the operation of the business by the transferor.
- (6) The maximum liability of a transferee pursuant to this section is equal to the fair market value of the property transferred or the total purchase price, whichever is greater.
- (7) After notice by the department of transferee liability under this section, the transferee shall have 60 days within which to file an action to contest the determination of transferee liability pursuant to chapter 72.
- (8) This section does not impose liability on a transferee of a business or stock of goods pursuant to an involuntary transfer.
- (9) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer and enforce this section.

Section 16. Effective upon this act becoming a law and operating retroactively to July 1, 2008, subsections (4) and (5) of section 220.192, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

220.192 Renewable energy technologies investment tax credit.-

(4) TAXPAYER APPLICATION PROCESS.—To claim a credit under this section, each taxpayer must apply to the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection for an allocation of each type of annual credit by the date established by the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of

1086 1087

1088 1089

1090

1091

1092

1093

1094

1095

1096

1097

1098

1099

1100 1101

1102

1103

1104

1105

1106

1107

1108

1109

1110

1111

1112

1113



Environmental Protection. The application form may be established by the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. The form must Department of Environmental Protection and shall include an affidavit from each taxpayer certifying that all information contained in the application, including all records of eligible costs claimed as the basis for the tax credit, are true and correct. Approval of the credits under this section shall be accomplished on a first-come, first-served basis, based upon the date complete applications are received by the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection. A taxpayer shall submit only one complete application based upon eligible costs incurred within a particular state fiscal year. Incomplete placeholder applications will not be accepted and will not secure a place in the first-come, first-served application line. If a taxpayer does not receive a tax credit allocation due to the exhaustion of the annual tax credit authorizations, then such taxpayer may reapply in the following year for those eligible costs and will have priority over other applicants for the allocation of credits.

- (5) ADMINISTRATION; AUDIT AUTHORITY; RECAPTURE OF CREDITS.-
- (a) In addition to its existing audit and investigation authority, the Department of Revenue may perform any additional financial and technical audits and investigations, including examining the accounts, books, and records of the tax credit applicant, which that are necessary to verify the eligible costs included in the tax credit return and to ensure compliance with this section. The Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection shall provide technical

1116

1117

1118

1119 1120

1121

1122

1123

1124

1125

1126

1127

1128

1129

1130 1131

1132

1133

1134

1135

1136

1137

1138

1139

1140

1141

1142



assistance when requested by the Department of Revenue on any technical audits or examinations performed pursuant to this section.

- (b) It is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits if the Department of Revenue determines, as a result of either an audit or examination or from information received from the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection, that a taxpayer received tax credits pursuant to this section to which the taxpayer was not entitled. The taxpayer is responsible for returning forfeited tax credits to the Department of Revenue, and such funds shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of the state.
- (c) The Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection may revoke or modify any written decision granting eligibility for tax credits under this section if it is discovered that the tax credit applicant submitted any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed in an attempt to receive tax credits under this section. The Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection shall immediately notify the Department of Revenue of any revoked or modified orders affecting previously granted tax credits. Additionally, the taxpayer must notify the Department of Revenue of any change in its tax credit claimed.
- (d) The taxpayer shall file with the Department of Revenue an amended return or such other report as the Department of Revenue prescribes by rule and shall pay any required tax and interest within 60 days after the taxpayer receives notification from the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of

1144 1145

1146 1147

1148 1149

1150 1151

1152

1153

1154

1155

1156

1157

1158

1159

1160 1161

1162

1163

1164

1165 1166

1167

1168

1169

1170

1171



Environmental Protection that previously approved tax credits have been revoked or modified. If the revocation or modification order is contested, the taxpayer shall file an amended return or other report as provided in this paragraph within 60 days after a final order is issued following proceedings.

(e) A notice of deficiency may be issued by the Department of Revenue at any time within 3 years after the taxpayer receives formal notification from the Florida Energy and Climate Commission Department of Environmental Protection that previously approved tax credits have been revoked or modified. If a taxpayer fails to notify the Department of Revenue of any changes to its tax credit claimed, a notice of deficiency may be issued at any time.

Section 17. Effective July 1, 2009, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 336.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

336.021 County transportation system; levy of ninth-cent fuel tax on motor fuel and diesel fuel.-

(1)

- (c) Local option taxes collected on sales or use of diesel fuel in this state shall be distributed in the following manner:
- 1. The fiscal year of July 1, 1995, through June 30, 1996, shall be the base year for all distributions.
- 2. Each year the tax collected, less the service and administrative charges enumerated in s. 215.20 and the allowances allowed under s. 206.91, on the number of gallons reported, up to the total number of gallons reported in the base year, shall be distributed to each county using the distribution percentage calculated for the base year.

1173 1174

1175

1176

1177

1178

1179

1180

1181

1182

1183

1184 1185

1186

1187

1188

1189 1190

1191

1192

1193

1194

1195

1196

1197

1198

1199

1200



3. After the distribution of taxes pursuant to subparagraph 4. 2., additional taxes available for distribution shall first be distributed pursuant to this subparagraph. A distribution shall be made to each county in which a qualified new retail station is located. A qualified new retail station is a retail station that began operation after June 30, 1996, and that has sales of diesel fuel exceeding 50 percent of the sales of diesel fuel reported in the county in which it is located during the 1995-1996 state fiscal year. The determination of whether a new retail station is qualified shall be based on the total gallons of diesel fuel sold at the station during each full month of operation during the 12-month period ending January 31, divided by the number of full months of operation during those 12 months, and the result multiplied by 12. The amount distributed pursuant to this subparagraph to each county in which a qualified new retail station is located shall equal the local option taxes due on the gallons of diesel fuel sold by the new retail station during the year ending January 31, less the service charges enumerated in s. 215.20 and the dealer allowance provided for by s. 206.91. Gallons of diesel fuel sold at the qualified new retail station shall be certified to the department by the county requesting the additional distribution by June 15, 1997, and by March 1 in each subsequent year. The certification shall include the beginning inventory, fuel purchases and sales, and the ending inventory for the new retail station for each month of operation during the year, the original purchase invoices for the period, and any other information the department deems reasonable and necessary to establish the certified gallons. The department may review and

1202

1203

1204

1205

1206

1207

1208

1209

1210

1211

1212

1213

1214

1215

1216

1217

1218 1219

1220

1221

1222

1223

1224

1225

1226

1227

1228

1229



audit the retail dealer's records provided to a county to establish the gallons sold by the new retail station. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subparagraph, when more than one county qualifies for a distribution pursuant to this subparagraph and the requested distributions exceed the total taxes available for distribution, each county shall receive a prorated share of the moneys available for distribution.

4. After the distribution of taxes pursuant to subparagraph 2. 3., all additional taxes available for distribution, except the taxes described in subparagraph 3., shall be distributed based on vehicular diesel fuel storage capacities in each county pursuant to this subparagraph. The total vehicular diesel fuel storage capacity shall be established for each fiscal year based on the registration of facilities with the Department of Environmental Protection as required by s. 376.303 for the following facility types: retail stations, fuel user/nonretail, state government, local government, and county government. Each county shall receive a share of the total taxes available for distribution pursuant to this subparagraph equal to a fraction, the numerator of which is the storage capacity located within the county for vehicular diesel fuel in the facility types listed in this subparagraph and the denominator of which is the total statewide storage capacity for vehicular diesel fuel in those facility types. The vehicular diesel fuel storage capacity for each county and facility type shall be that established by the Department of Environmental Protection by June 1, 1997, for the 1996-1997 fiscal year, and by January 31 for each succeeding fiscal year. The storage capacities so established shall be final. The storage capacity for any new retail station for which

1231

1232

1233

1234

1235

1236

1237

1238

1239

1240

1241

1242

1243

1244

1245

1246

1247 1248

1249

1250

1251

1252

1253

1254

1255

1256

1257

1258



a county receives a distribution pursuant to subparagraph 3. shall not be included in the calculations pursuant to this subparagraph.

Section 18. Subsection (20) of section 443.036, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.036 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (20) "Employing unit" means an individual or type of organization, including a partnership, limited liability company, association, trust, estate, joint-stock company, insurance company, or corporation, whether domestic or foreign; the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trustee, or successor of any of the foregoing; or the legal representative of a deceased person, which has or had in its employ one or more individuals performing services for it within this state.
- (a) Each individual employed to perform or to assist in performing the work of any agent or employee of an employing unit is deemed to be employed by the employing unit for the purposes of this chapter, regardless of whether the individual was hired or paid directly by the employing unit or by an agent or employee of the employing unit, if the employing unit had actual or constructive knowledge of the work.
- (b) Each individual performing services in this state for an employing unit maintaining at least two separate establishments in this state is deemed to be performing services for a single employing unit for the purposes of this chapter.
- (c) A person who is an officer of a corporation, or a member of a limited liability company classified as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, and who performs services for the corporation or limited liability company in



this state, regardless of whether those services are continuous, is deemed an employee of the corporation or the limited liability company during all of each week of his or her tenure of office, regardless of whether he or she is compensated for those services. Services are presumed to be rendered for the corporation in cases in which the officer is compensated by means other than dividends upon shares of stock of the corporation owned by him or her.

(d) A limited liability company shall be treated as having the same status as it is classified for federal income tax purposes. However, a single-member limited liability company shall be treated as the employer.

Section 19. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 443.1215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.1215 Employers.-

1274 (2)

1259

1260

1261

1262

1263

1264

1265

1266

1267

1268

1269

1270

1271

1272

1273

1275

1276

1277

1278

1279

1280

1281

1282

1283

1284

1285

1286 1287

(b) In determining whether an employing unit for which service, other than agricultural labor, is also performed is an employer under paragraph (1)(a), paragraph (1)(b), paragraph (1)(c), or subparagraph (1)(d)2., the wages earned or the employment of an employee performing service in agricultural labor may not be taken into account. If an employing unit is determined to be an employer of agricultural labor, the employing unit is considered an employer for purposes of paragraph (1)(a) subsection (1).

Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 443.1316, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.1316 Unemployment tax collection services; interagency agreement.-

1289

1290

1291

1292

1293

1294

1295

1296

1297

1298

1299

1300

1301

1302

1303

1304

1305

1306

1307

1308

1309

1310 1311

1312

1313

1314

1315

1316



- (2) (a) The Department of Revenue is considered to be administering a revenue law of this state when the department implements this chapter, or otherwise provides unemployment tax collection services, under contract with the Agency for Workforce Innovation through the interagency agreement.
- (b) Sections 213.015(1)-(3), (5)-(7), (9)-(19), and (21); 213.018; 213.025; 213.051; 213.053; 213.0532; 213.0535; 213.055; 213.071; 213.10; 213.21(4); 213.2201; 213.23; 213.24; 213.25; 213.27; 213.28; 213.285; 213.34(1), (3), and (4); 213.37; 213.50; 213.67; 213.69; 213.691; 213.692; 213.73; 213.733; 213.74; and 213.757; and 213.758 apply to the collection of unemployment contributions and reimbursements by the Department of Revenue unless prohibited by federal law.

Section 21. Section 443.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.141 Collection of contributions and reimbursements.-

- (1) PAST DUE CONTRIBUTIONS AND REIMBURSEMENTS; DELINQUENT, ERRONEOUS, INCOMPLETE, OR INSUFFICIENT REPORTS.-
- (a) Interest.—Contributions or reimbursements unpaid on the date due shall bear interest at the rate of 1 percent per month from and after that date until payment plus accrued interest is received by the tax collection service provider, unless the service provider finds that the employing unit has or had good reason for failure to pay the contributions or reimbursements when due. Interest collected under this subsection must be paid into the Special Employment Security Administration Trust Fund.
- (b) Penalty for delinquent, erroneous, incomplete, or insufficient reports.-
  - 1. An employing unit that fails to file any report required

1318 1319

1320

1321

1322

1323

1324

1325

1326

1327

1328

1329

1330

1331

1332 1333

1334

1335

1336

1337

1338

1339

1340 1341

1342

1343

1344

1345



by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or its tax collection service provider, in accordance with rules for administering this chapter, shall pay to the tax collection service provider for each delinquent report the sum of \$25 for each 30 days or fraction thereof that the employing unit is delinquent, unless the agency or its service provider, whichever required the report, finds that the employing unit has or had good reason for failure to file the report. The agency or its service provider may assess penalties only through the date of the issuance of the final assessment notice. However, additional penalties accrue if the delinquent report is subsequently filed.

- 2.a. An employing unit that files an erroneous, incomplete, or insufficient report with the Agency for Workforce Innovation or its tax collection service provider, shall pay a penalty. The amount of the penalty is \$50 or 10 percent of any tax due, whichever is greater, but no more than \$300 per report. The penalty shall be added to any tax, penalty, or interest otherwise due.
- b. The agency or its tax collection service provider shall waive the penalty if the employing unit files an accurate, complete, and sufficient report within 30 days after a penalty notice is issued to the employing unit. The penalty may not be waived more than one time during a 12-month period.
- c. As used in this subsection, the term "erroneous, incomplete, or insufficient report" means a report so lacking in information, completeness, or arrangement that the report cannot be readily understood, verified, or reviewed. Such reports include, but are not limited to, reports having missing wage or employee information, missing or incorrect social security

1347 1348

1349

1350

1351

1352

1353

1354 1355

1356

1357

1358

1359

1360

1361

1362

1363

1364

1365

1366

1367

1368 1369

1370

1371

1372

1373

1374



numbers, or illegible entries; reports submitted in a format that is not approved by the agency or its tax collection service provider; and reports showing gross wages that do not equal the total of the wages of each employee. However, the term does not include a report that merely contains inaccurate data that was supplied to the employer by the employee, if the employer was unaware of the inaccuracy.

- 3.2. Sums collected as Penalties imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall under subparagraph 1. must be deposited in the Special Employment Security Administration Trust Fund.
- 4.3. The penalty and interest for a delinquent, erroneous, incomplete, or insufficient report may be waived if when the penalty or interest is inequitable. The provisions of s. 213.24(1) apply to any penalty or interest that is imposed under this section.
- 5. The Agency for Workforce Innovation and the state agency providing unemployment tax collection services may adopt rules to administer this subsection.
- (c) Application of partial payments.—If When a delinquency exists in the employment record of an employer not in bankruptcy, a partial payment less than the total delinquency amount shall be applied to the employment record as the payor directs. In the absence of specific direction, the partial payment shall be applied to the payor's employment record as prescribed in the rules of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or the state agency providing tax collection services.
  - (2) REPORTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, APPEALS.-
- (a) Failure to make reports and pay contributions.-If an employing unit determined by the tax collection service provider

1376

1377

1378

1379

1380

1381

1382 1383

1384

1385

1386

1387

1388

1389

1390

1391

1392 1393

1394

1395

1396

1397

1398

1399

1400

1401

1402

1403



to be an employer subject to this chapter fails to make and file any report as and when required by this chapter or by any rule of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or the state agency providing tax collection services, for the purpose of determining the amount of contributions due by the employer under this chapter, or if any filed report is found by the service provider to be incorrect or insufficient, and the employer, after being notified in writing by the service provider to file the report, or a corrected or sufficient report, as applicable, fails to file the report within 15 days after the date of the mailing of the notice, the tax collection service provider may:

- 1. Determine the amount of contributions due from the employer based on the information readily available to it, which determination is deemed to be prima facie correct;
- 2. Assess the employer the amount of contributions determined to be due; and
- 3. Immediately notify the employer by mail of the determination and assessment including penalties as provided in this chapter, if any, added and assessed, and demand payment together with interest on the amount of contributions from the date that amount was due and payable.
- (b) Hearings.—The determination and assessment are final 15 days after the date the assessment is mailed unless the employer files with the tax collection service provider within the 15 days a written protest and petition for hearing specifying the objections thereto. The tax collection service provider shall promptly review each petition and may reconsider its determination and assessment in order to resolve the

1405

1406

1407

1408

1409

1410

1411

1412

1413

1414

1415

1416 1417

1418

1419

1420

1421

1422

1423

1424

1425

1426

1427

1428

1429

1430

1431

1432



petitioner's objections. The tax collection service provider shall forward each petition remaining unresolved to the Agency for Workforce Innovation for a hearing on the objections. Upon receipt of a petition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall schedule a hearing and notify the petitioner of the time and place of the hearing. The Agency for Workforce Innovation may appoint special deputies to conduct hearings and to submit their findings together with a transcript of the proceedings before them and their recommendations to the agency for its final order. Special deputies are subject to the prohibition against ex parte communications in s. 120.66. At any hearing conducted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or its special deputy, evidence may be offered to support the determination and assessment or to prove it is incorrect. In order to prevail, however, the petitioner must either prove that the determination and assessment are incorrect or file full and complete corrected reports. Evidence may also be submitted at the hearing to rebut the determination by the tax collection service provider that the petitioner is an employer under this chapter. Upon evidence taken before it or upon the transcript submitted to it with the findings and recommendation of its special deputy, the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall either set aside the tax collection service provider's determination that the petitioner is an employer under this chapter or reaffirm the determination. The amounts assessed under the final order, together with interest and penalties, must be paid within 15 days after notice of the final order is mailed to the employer, unless judicial review is instituted in a case of status determination. Amounts due when the status of the employer is in dispute are payable

1434 1435

1436

1437

1438

1439

1440 1441

1442

1443

1444

1445

1446

1447

1448

1449

1450 1451

1452

1453

1454

1455

1456

1457

1458

1459

1460

1461



within 15 days after the entry of an order by the court affirming the determination. However, any determination that an employing unit is not an employer under this chapter does not affect the benefit rights of any individual as determined by an appeals referee or the commission unless:

- 1. The individual is made a party to the proceedings before the special deputy; or
- 2. The decision of the appeals referee or the commission has not become final or the employing unit and the Agency for Workforce Innovation were not made parties to the proceedings before the appeals referee or the commission.
- (c) Appeals.—The Agency for Workforce Innovation and the state agency providing unemployment tax collection services shall adopt rules prescribing the procedures for an employing unit determined to be an employer to file an appeal and be afforded an opportunity for a hearing on the determination. Pending a hearing, the employing unit must file reports and pay contributions in accordance with s. 443.131.
  - (3) COLLECTION PROCEEDINGS.-
  - (a) Lien for payment of contributions or reimbursements.-
- 1. There is created A lien exists in favor of the tax collection service provider upon all the property, both real and personal, of any employer liable for payment of any contribution or reimbursement levied and imposed under this chapter for the amount of the contributions or reimbursements due, together with any interest, costs, and penalties. If any contribution or reimbursement imposed under this chapter or any portion of that contribution, reimbursement, interest, or penalty is not paid within 60 days after becoming delinquent, the tax collection

1463

1464

1465 1466

1467

1468

1469

1470

1471

1472

1473

1474

1475

1476

1477

1478

1479 1480

1481

1482

1483

1484

1485

1486

1487

1488

1489

1490



service provider may file subsequently issue a notice of lien that may be filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of any county in which the delinquent employer owns property or has conducted business. The notice of lien must include the periods for which the contributions, reimbursements, interest, or penalties are demanded and the amounts due. A copy of the notice of lien must be mailed to the employer at the employer's her or his last known address. The notice of lien may not be filed issued and recorded until 15 days after the date the assessment becomes final under subsection (2). Upon filing presentation of the notice of lien, the clerk of the circuit court shall record the notice of lien it in a book maintained for that purpose, and the amount of the notice of lien, together with the cost of recording and interest accruing upon the amount of the contribution or reimbursement, becomes a lien upon the title to and interest, whether legal or equitable, in any real property, chattels real, or personal property of the employer against whom the notice of lien is issued, in the same manner as a judgment of the circuit court docketed in the office of the circuit court clerk, with execution issued to the sheriff for levy. This lien is prior, preferred, and superior to all mortgages or other liens filed, recorded, or acquired after the notice of lien is filed. Upon the payment of the amounts due, or upon determination by the tax collection service provider that the notice of lien was erroneously issued, the lien is satisfied when the service provider acknowledges in writing that the lien is fully satisfied. A lien's satisfaction does not need to be acknowledged before any notary or other public officer, and the signature of the director of the tax collection service provider

1492 1493

1494

1495

1496

1497

1498 1499

1500

1501

1502

1503

1504

1505

1506

1507

1508 1509

1510

1511

1512

1513

1514

1515

1516

1517

1518

1519



or his or her designee is conclusive evidence of the satisfaction of the lien, which satisfaction shall be recorded by the clerk of the circuit court who receives the fees for those services.

- 2. The tax collection service provider may subsequently issue a warrant directed to any sheriff in this state, commanding him or her to levy upon and sell any real or personal property of the employer liable for any amount under this chapter within his or her jurisdiction, for payment, with the added penalties and interest and the costs of executing the warrant, together with the costs of the clerk of the circuit court in recording and docketing the notice of lien, and to return the warrant to the service provider with payment. The warrant may only be issued and enforced for all amounts due to the tax collection service provider on the date the warrant is issued, together with interest accruing on the contribution or reimbursement due from the employer to the date of payment at the rate provided in this section. In the event of sale of any assets of the employer, however, priorities under the warrant shall be determined in accordance with the priority established by any notices of lien filed by the tax collection service provider and recorded by the clerk of the circuit court. The sheriff shall execute the warrant in the same manner prescribed by law for executions issued by the clerk of the circuit court for judgments of the circuit court. The sheriff is entitled to the same fees for executing the warrant as for a writ of execution out of the circuit court, and these fees must be collected in the same manner.
  - 3. The lien expires 10 years after the filing of a notice

1521 1522

1523

1524

1525

1526

1527

1528

1529

1530

1531

1532

1533

1534

1535

1536

1537

1538

1539

1540

1541

1542

1543

1544

1545

1546

1547 1548



of lien with the clerk of court. An action to collect amounts due under this chapter may not be commenced after the expiration of the lien securing the payment of the amounts owed.

- (b) Injunctive procedures to contest warrants after issuance. - An injunction or restraining order to stay the execution of a warrant may not be issued until a motion is filed; reasonable notice of a hearing on the motion for the injunction is served on the tax collection service provider; and the party seeking the injunction either pays into the custody of the court the full amount of contributions, reimbursements, interests, costs, and penalties claimed in the warrant or enters into and files with the court a bond with two or more good and sufficient sureties approved by the court in a sum at least twice the amount of the contributions, reimbursements, interests, costs, and penalties, payable to the tax collection service provider. The bond must also be conditioned to pay the amount of the warrant, interest, and any damages resulting from the wrongful issuing of the injunction, if the injunction is dissolved, or the motion for the injunction is dismissed. Only one surety is required when the bond is executed by a lawfully authorized surety company.
- (c) Attachment and garnishment. Upon the filing of notice of lien as provided in subparagraph (a)1., the tax collection service provider is entitled to remedy by attachment or garnishment as provided in chapters 76 and 77, as for a debt due. Upon application by the tax collection service provider, these writs shall be issued by the clerk of the circuit court as upon a judgment of the circuit court duly docketed and recorded. These writs shall be returnable to the circuit court. A bond may

1550

1551

1552

1553

1554

1555

1556

1557

1558

1559

1560

1561

1562

1563

1564

1565

1566 1567

1568

1569

1570

1571

1572

1573

1574

1575

1576

1577



not be required of the tax collection service provider as a condition required for the issuance of these writs of attachment or garnishment. Issues raised under proceedings by attachment or garnishment shall be tried by the circuit court in the same manner as a judgment under chapters 76 and 77. Further, the notice of lien filed by the tax collection service provider is valid for purposes of all remedies under this chapter until satisfied under this chapter, and revival by scire facias or other proceedings are not necessary before pursuing any remedy authorized by law. Proceedings authorized upon a judgment of the circuit court do not make the lien a judgment of the circuit court upon a debt for any purpose other than as are specifically provided by law as procedural remedies.

- (d) Third-party claims. Upon any levy made by the sheriff under a writ of attachment or garnishment as provided in paragraph (c), the circuit court shall try third-party claims to property involved as upon a judgment thereof and all proceedings authorized on third-party claims in ss. 56.16, 56.20, 76.21, and 77.16 shall apply.
- (e) Proceedings supplementary to execution.—At any time after a warrant provided for in subparagraph (a) 2. is returned unsatisfied by any sheriff of this state, the tax collection service provider may file an affidavit in the circuit court affirming the warrant was returned unsatisfied and remains valid and outstanding. The affidavit must also state the residence of the party or parties against whom the warrant is issued. The tax collection service provider is subsequently entitled to have other and further proceedings in the circuit court as upon a judgment thereof as provided in s. 56.29.

1579

1580

1581

1582

1583

1584

1585

1586

1587

1588

1589

1590

1591

1592

1593

1594

1595

1596

1597

1598

1599

1600

1601

1602 1603

1604

1605

1606



- (f) Reproductions.—In any proceedings in any court under this chapter, reproductions of the original records of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, its tax collection service provider, the former Department of Labor and Employment Security, or the commission, including, but not limited to, photocopies or microfilm, are primary evidence in lieu of the original records or of the documents that were transcribed into those records.
- (q) Jeopardy assessment and warrant.-If the tax collection service provider reasonably believes that the collection of contributions or reimbursements from an employer will be jeopardized by delay, the service provider may assess the contributions or reimbursements immediately, together with interest or penalties when due, regardless of whether the contributions or reimbursements accrued are due, and may immediately issue a notice of lien and jeopardy warrant upon which proceedings may be conducted as provided in this section for notice of lien and warrant of the service provider. Within 15 days after mailing the notice of lien by registered mail, the employer may protest the issuance of the lien in the same manner provided in paragraph (2)(a). The protest does not operate as a supersedeas or stay of enforcement unless the employer files with the sheriff seeking to enforce the warrant a good and sufficient surety bond in twice the amount demanded by the notice of lien or warrant. The bond must be conditioned upon payment of the amount subsequently found to be due from the employer to the tax collection service provider in the final order of the Agency for Workforce Innovation upon protest of assessment. The jeopardy warrant and notice of lien are

1608 1609

1610

1611

1612

1613

1614

1615

1616

1617

1618

1619

1620

1621

1622 1623

1624

1625

1626

1627

1628

1629

1630

1631

1632

1633

1634

1635



satisfied in the manner provided in this section upon payment of the amount finally determined to be due from the employer. If enforcement of the jeopardy warrant is not superseded as provided in this section, the employer is entitled to a refund from the fund of all amounts paid as contributions or reimbursements in excess of the amount finally determined to be due by the employer upon application being made as provided in this chapter.

- (4) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS FOR COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND REIMBURSEMENTS.-
- (a) In addition to all other remedies and proceedings authorized by this chapter for the collection of contributions and reimbursements, a right of action by suit in the name of the tax collection service provider is created. A suit may be brought, and all proceedings taken, to the same effect and extent as for the enforcement of a right of action for debt or assumpsit, and all remedies available in such actions, including attachment and garnishment, are available to the tax collection service provider for the collection of any contribution or reimbursement. The tax collection service provider is not, however, required to post bond in any such action or proceedings. In addition, this section does not make these contributions or reimbursements a debt or demand unenforceable against homestead property as provided by Art. X of the State Constitution, and these remedies are solely procedural.
- (b) An employer who fails to make return or pay the contributions or reimbursements levied under this chapter, and who remains an employer as provided in s. 443.121, may be enjoined from employing individuals in employment as defined in

1637

1638

1639

1640

1641

1642

1643

1644

1645

1646

1647

1648

1649

1650

1651

1652

1653

1654

1655

1656

1657

1658

1659

1660

1661

1662

1663

1664



this chapter upon the complaint of the tax collection service provider in the circuit court of the county in which the employer does business. An employer who fails to make return or pay contributions or reimbursements shall be enjoined from employing individuals in employment until the return is made and the contributions or reimbursements are paid to the tax collection service provider.

- (c) Any agent or employee designated by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or its tax collection service provider may administer an oath to any person for any return or report required by this chapter or by the rules of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or the state agency providing unemployment tax collection services, and an oath made before the agency or its service provider or any authorized agent or employee has the same effect as an oath made before any judicial officer or notary public of the state.
- (d) Civil actions brought under this chapter to collect contributions, reimbursements, or interest, or any proceeding conducted for the collection of contributions or reimbursements from an employer, shall be heard by the court having jurisdiction at the earliest possible date and are entitled to preference upon the calendar of the court over all other civil actions except petitions for judicial review of claims for benefits arising under this chapter and cases arising under the Workers' Compensation Law of this state.
- (e) The tax collection service provider may commence an action in any other state to collect unemployment compensation contributions, reimbursements, penalties, and interest legally due this state. The officials of other states that extend a like

1666

1667

1668

1669

1670

1671

1672

1673

1674

1675

1676

1677

1678

1679 1680

1681 1682

1683

1684

1685

1686

1687

1688

1689

1690

1691

1692

1693



comity to this state may sue for the collection of contributions, reimbursements, interest, and penalties in the courts of this state. The courts of this state shall recognize and enforce liability for contributions, reimbursements, interest, and penalties imposed by other states that extend a like comity to this state.

- (f) The collection of any contribution, reimbursement, interest, or penalty due under this chapter is not enforceable by civil action, warrant, claim, or other means unless the notice of lien is filed with the clerk of the circuit court as described in subsection (3) within 5 years after the date the contribution, reimbursement, interest, and penalty were due.
- (5) PRIORITIES UNDER LEGAL DISSOLUTION OR DISTRIBUTIONS.-In the event of any distribution of any employer's assets pursuant to an order of any court under the laws of this state, including any receivership, assignment for the benefit of creditors, adjudicated insolvency, composition, administration of estates of decedents, or other similar proceeding, contributions or reimbursements then or subsequently due must be paid in full before all other claims except claims for wages of \$250 or less to each claimant, earned within 6 months after the commencement of the proceeding, and on a parity with all other tax claims wherever those tax claims are given priority. In the administration of the estate of any decedent, the filing of notice of lien is a proceeding required upon protest of the claim filed by the tax collection service provider for contributions or reimbursements due under this chapter, and the claim must be allowed by the circuit judge. The personal representative of the decedent, however, may by petition to the

1695

1696

1697

1698

1699

1700

1701

1702

1703

1704

1705

1706

1707

1708

1709 1710

1711

1712

1713

1714

1715

1716

1717

1718

1719

1720

1721

1722



circuit court object to the validity of the tax collection service provider's claim, and proceedings shall be conducted in the circuit court for the determination of the validity of the service provider's claim. Further, the bond of the personal representative may not be discharged until the claim is finally determined by the circuit court. When a bond is not given by the personal representative, the assets of the estate may not be distributed until the final determination by the circuit court. Upon distribution of the assets of the estate of any decedent, the tax collection service provider's claim has a class 8 priority established in s. 733.707(1)(h), subject to the above limitations with reference to wages. In the event of any employer's adjudication in bankruptcy, judicially confirmed extension proposal, or composition, under the Federal Bankruptcy Act of 1898, as amended, contributions or reimbursements then or subsequently due are entitled to priority as is provided in s. 64B of that act (U.S.C. Title II, s. 104(b), as amended).

- (6) REFUNDS.—
- (a) Within 4 years after payment of any amount as contributions, reimbursements, interest, or penalties, an employing unit may apply for an adjustment of its subsequent payments of contributions or reimbursements, or for a refund if the adjustment cannot be made.
- (b) If the tax collection service provider determines that any contributions, reimbursements, interest, or penalties were erroneously collected, the employing unit may adjust its subsequent payment of contributions or reimbursements by the amount erroneously collected. If an adjustment cannot be made, the tax collection service provider shall refund the amount

1724

1725

1726

1727

1728

1729

1730 1731

1732

1733

1734

1735 1736

1737

1738

1739

1740 1741

1742

1743

1744

1745 1746

1747

1748

1749

1750 1751



erroneously collected from the fund.

- (c) Within the time limit provided in paragraph (a), the tax collection service provider may on its own initiative adjust or refund the amount erroneously collected.
- (d) This chapter does not authorize a refund of contributions or reimbursements properly paid in accordance with this chapter when the payment was made, except as required by s. 443.1216(13)(e).
- (e) An employing unit entitled to a refund or adjustment for erroneously collected contributions, reimbursements, interest, or penalties is not entitled to interest on that erroneously collected amount.
- (f) Refunds under this subsection and under s. 443.1216(13)(e) may be paid from the clearing account or the benefit account of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and from the Special Employment Security Administration Trust Fund for interest or penalties previously paid into the fund, notwithstanding s. 443.191(2).

Section 22. Effective July 1, 2009, subsection (2) of section 443.163, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 443.163 Electronic reporting and remitting of contributions and reimbursements.-
- (2) (a) An employer who is required by law to file an Employers Quarterly Report (UCT-6) by approved electronic means, but who files the report by a means other than approved electronic means, is liable for a penalty of \$50 \$10 for that report and \$1 for each employee. This penalty, which is in addition to any other applicable penalty provided by this chapter. However, unless the penalty does not apply if employer

1753

1754

1755

1756 1757

1758

1759

1760

1761

1762

1763

1764

1765

1766 1767

1768

1769 1770

1771

1772

1773

1774

1775

1776

1777

1778

1779

1780



first obtains a waiver of this requirement from the tax collection service provider waives the electronic filing requirement in advance. An employer who fails to remit contributions or reimbursements by approved electronic means as required by law is liable for a penalty of \$50 \$10 for each remittance submitted by a means other than approved electronic means. This penalty, which is in addition to any other applicable penalty provided by this chapter.

(b) A person who prepared and reported for 100 or more employers in any quarter during the preceding state fiscal year, but who fails to file an Employers Quarterly Report (UCT-6) for each calendar quarter in the current calendar year by approved electronic means as required by law, is liable for a penalty of \$50 \$10 for that report and \$1 for each employee. This penalty, which is in addition to any other applicable penalty provided by this chapter. However, unless the penalty does not apply if person first obtains a waiver of this requirement from the tax collection service provider waives the electronic filing requirement in advance.

Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 443.163, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.163 Electronic reporting and remitting of contributions and reimbursements.-

- (3) The tax collection service provider may waive the requirement to file an Employers Quarterly Report (UCT-6) by electronic means for employers that are unable to comply despite good faith efforts or due to circumstances beyond the employer's reasonable control.
  - (a) As prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or

1782 1783

1784

1785

1786

1787

1788

1789

1790

1791

1792

1793

1794

1795

1796

1797

1798

1799

1800

1801

1802

1803

1804

1805

1806

1807

1808 1809



its tax collection service provider, grounds for approving the waiver include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which the employer does not:

- 1. Currently file information or data electronically with any business or government agency; or
- 2. Have a compatible computer that meets or exceeds the standards prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or its tax collection service provider.
- (b) The tax collection service provider shall accept other reasons for requesting a waiver from the requirement to submit the Employers Quarterly Report (UCT-6) by electronic means, including, but not limited to:
- 1. That the employer needs additional time to program his or her computer;
- 2. That complying with this requirement causes the employer financial hardship; or
- 3. That complying with this requirement conflicts with the employer's business procedures.
- (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation or the state agency providing unemployment tax collection services may establish by rule the length of time a waiver is valid and may determine whether subsequent waivers will be authorized, based on this subsection; however, the tax collection service provider may only grant a waiver from electronic reporting if the employer timely files the Employers Quarterly Report (UCT-6) by telefile, unless the employer wage detail exceeds the service provider's telefile system capabilities.

Section 24. Effective July 1, 2009, section 213.691, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1811 1812

1813

1814

1815

1816 1817

1818

1819

1820

1821 1822

1823

1824

1825

1826

1827

1828

1829

1830

1831

1832

1833

1834

1835

1836

1837 1838



213.691 Integrated warrants and judgment lien certificates.—The department may file a single integrated warrant or a single integrated judgment lien certificate for a taxpayer's total liability for all taxes, fees, or surcharges administered by the department. Such warrants and judgment lien certificates may be filed in lieu of or to replace individual warrants, notices of liens, and judgment lien certificates. Each integrated warrant or integrated judgment lien certificate must itemize the amount due for each tax, fee, or surcharge and any related interest and penalty.

Section 25. Effective July 1, 2009, section 213.692, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 213.692 Integrated enforcement authority.
- (1) If the department has filed a warrant, notice of lien, or judgment lien certificate against the property of a taxpayer, the department may also revoke all certificates of registration, permits, or licenses issued by the department to that taxpayer.
- (a) Before the department may revoke the certificates of registration, permits, or licenses, the department must schedule an informal conference that the taxpayer is required to attend. At the conference, the taxpayer may present evidence regarding the department's intended action or enter into a compliance agreement. The department must provide written notice to the taxpayer of the department's intended action and the time, date, place of the conference. The department shall issue an administrative complaint to revoke the certificates of registration, permits, or licenses if the taxpayer does not attend the conference, enter into a compliance agreement, or comply with a compliance agreement.

1843

1844

1845

1846

1847

1848

1849

1850

1851

1852 1853

1854

1855

1856

1857

1858

1859

1860

1861

1862

1863

1864

1867



- 1839 (b) The department may not issue a certificate of registration, permit, or license to a taxpayer whose certificate 1840 1841 of registration, permit, or license has been revoked unless:
  - 1. The outstanding liabilities of the taxpayer have been satisfied; or
  - 2. The department enters into a written agreement with the taxpayer regarding any outstanding liabilities and, as part of such agreement, agrees to issue a certificate of registration, permit, or license.
  - (c) The department shall require a cash deposit, bond, or other security as a condition of issuing a new certificate of registration pursuant to the requirements of s. 212.14(4).
  - (2) If the department files a warrant or a judgment lien certificate in connection with a jeopardy assessment, the department must comply with the procedures in s. 213.732 before or in conjunction with those provided in this section.
  - (3) The department may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 26. Effective July 1, 2009, the Department of Revenue is authorized to adopt emergency rules to administer s. 213.692, Florida Statutes. The emergency rules shall remain in effect for 6 months after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to adopt rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules.

- Section 27. Effective July 1, 2009, section 195.095, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
- Section 28. Effective July 1, 2009, section 213.054, 1865 1866 Florida Statutes, is repealed.
  - Section 29. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this



act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

1868 1869

1872

1873

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

1885 1886

1887

1888

1889

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1870 ======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ======

1871 And the title is amended as follows:

> Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

1874 A bill to be entitled

> An act relating to the Department of Revenue; amending s. 55.204, F.S.; providing for the duration of certain judgment liens; amending s. 72.011, F.S.; clarifying the date by which an action to contest any tax, interest, or penalties must be filed; conforming cross-references; authorizing the Department of Revenue, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to adopt rules for the waiver of the requirement for the payment of uncontested amounts and the deposit of security in actions to contest the legality of any tax, interest, or penalty; amending s. 95.091, F.S.; providing that the duration of a tax lien relating to certain unemployment compensation taxes expires 10 years following a certain date; amending s. 202.125, F.S.; clarifying that an exemption from the communications services tax does not apply to a residence that is all or part of a transient public lodging establishment; amending s. 212.07, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; imposing criminal penalties on a dealer who willfully fails to collect certain taxes or fees after notice of a duty

1898 1899

1900

1901

1902

1903

1904

1905

1906

1907

1908

1909

1910

1911 1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

1917

1918

1919

1920

1921

1922

1923

1924

1925



to collect the taxes or fees by the Department of Revenue; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; providing criteria to determine the tax on a package that contains taxable nonfood products and exempt food products; clarifying that the sales tax exemption for building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone applies only during the rehabilitation of the real property; authorizing a single application for a tax refund for certain contiguous parcels of real property; revising information that must be included in the application for the tax refund; providing that the tax exemption for building materials used in an enterprise zone may inure to a unit of government; amending s. 212.12, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to criminal penalties for failing to register as a dealer or to collect tax after notice from the Department of Revenue; amending s. 212.18, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for willfully failing to register as a dealer after notice from the Department of Revenue; requiring the department to send written notice of the duty to register by personal service, registered mail, or both; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; providing that the Department of Revenue may share certain information with the Florida Energy and Climate Commission; providing that the Department of Revenue may share taxpayer names and identification numbers for purposes of information-sharing agreements with financial institutions; providing that provisions restricting

1927

1928

1929

1930

1931

1932

1933

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939

1940

1941

1942

1943

1944

1945

1946

1947

1948

1949

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954



the disclosure of confidential information do not apply to certain methods of electronic communication for certain purposes; providing that the Department of Revenue may release information relating to outstanding tax warrants to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; authorizing the Department of Revenue to publish a list of taxpayers against whom it has filed a warrant or judgment lien certificate; requiring the department to update the list at least monthly; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; creating s. 213.0532, F.S.; defining terms; requiring the Department of Revenue to enter into information-sharing agreements with financial institutions to collect information relating to taxpayers; requiring financial institutions to provide to the department certain information each calendar quarter; requiring the department to pay a reasonable fee to a financial institution for certain costs; providing that financial institutions do not need to provide notice of information-sharing agreements to accountholders; providing that financial institutions are not liable for certain acts taken in connection with information-sharing agreements; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; amending s. 213.25, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to reduce a tax refund or a tax credit to the extent of liability for unemployment compensation taxes; amending s. 213.50, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to

1956

1957

1958

1959

1960

1961 1962

1963

1964

1965

1966

1967

1968

1969

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983



revoke the hotel or restaurant license of a licenseholder having an outstanding tax warrant for a certain period; authorizing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to deny an application to renew the hotel or restaurant license of a licenseholder having an outstanding tax warrant for a certain period; amending s. 213.67, F.S.; clarifying the date by which an action to contest a notice of intent to levy must be filed; creating s. 213.758, F.S.; defining terms; providing for the transfer of tax liabilities to the transferee of a business or a stock of goods under certain circumstances; providing exceptions; requiring a taxpayer who quits a business to file a final tax return; authorizing the Department of Legal Affairs to seek injunctions to prevent business activities until taxes are paid; requiring the transferor of a business or stock of goods to file a final tax return and make a full tax payment after a transfer; authorizing a transferee of a business or stock of goods to withhold a portion of the consideration for the transfer for the payment of certain taxes; authorizing the Department of Legal Affairs to seek an injunction to prevent business activities by a transferee until the taxes are paid; providing that the transferees are jointly and severally liable with the transferor for the payment of taxes, interest, or penalties under certain circumstances; limiting the transferee's liability to the value or purchase price of the transferred

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012



property; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; amending s. 220.192, F.S.; providing for the administration of certain portions of the renewable energy technologies tax credit program by the Florida Energy and Climate Commission; providing for retroactive application; amending s. 336.021, F.S.; revising the distribution of the ninth-cent fuel tax on motor fuel and diesel fuel; amending s. 443.036, F.S.; providing for the treatment of a single-member limited liability company as the employer; amending s. 443.1215, F.S.; correcting a cross-reference; amending s. 443.1316, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 443.141, F.S.; providing penalties for erroneous, incomplete, or insufficient reports; authorizing a waiver of the penalty under certain circumstances; defining a term; authorizing the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the state agency providing unemployment compensation tax collection services to adopt rules; providing an expiration date for liens for contributions and reimbursements; amending s. 443.163, F.S.; increasing penalties for failing to file Employers Quarterly Reports by means other than approved electronic means; creating s. 213.691, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to file an integrated warrant or judgment lien for a taxpayer's total liability for taxes, fees, or surcharges; requiring the integrated warrant or judgment lien certificate to itemize amounts due for each tax, fee, or surcharge; creating s. 213.692,

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

2031

2032

2033

2034

2035

2036



F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to revoke all certificates of registration, permits, or licenses issued to a taxpayer against whose property the department has filed a warrant or tax lien; requiring the scheduling of an informal conference before revocation of the certificates of registration, permits, or licenses; prohibiting the Department of Revenue from issuing a certificate of registration, permit, or license to a taxpayer whose certificate of registration, permit, or license has been revoked; providing exceptions; requiring security as a condition of issuing a new certificate of registration to a person whose certificate of registration, permit, or license has been revoked after the filing of a warrant or tax lien certificate; authorizing the department to adopt rules; repealing s. 195.095, F.S., relating to the authority of the Department of Revenue to develop lists of bidders that are approved to contract with property appraisers, tax collectors, or county commissions for assessment or collection services; repealing s. 213.054, F.S., relating to monitoring and reporting on the use of a tax deduction claimed by international banking institutions; providing effective dates.