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2 An act relating to ad valorem tax
3 administration; amending s. 197.222, F.S.;
4 providing that the tax collector may accept a
5 late payment of the first installment of ad
6 valorem taxes prepaid by the installment
7 method; providing a penalty; providing for
8 distribution of penalty revenue; providing an
9 effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and
14 subsection (4) of section 197.222, Florida Statutes, 1996
15 Supplement, as amended by chapter 96-288, Laws of Florida, are
16 amended to read:

17 197.222 Prepayment of estimated tax by installment
18 method.--

19 (1) Ad valorem taxes on any real property with more
20 than \$100 of estimated taxes due may be prepaid in
21 installments as provided in this section. A taxpayer who
22 elects to prepay taxes shall make payments based upon an
23 estimated tax equal to the actual taxes levied upon the
24 subject property in the prior year. Such taxpayer shall
25 complete and file an application for each parcel to prepay
26 such taxes by installment with the tax collector prior to May
27 1 of the year in which the taxpayer elects to prepay taxes in
28 installments pursuant to this section. The application shall
29 be made on forms supplied by the department and provided to
30 the taxpayer by the tax collector. After submission of an
31 initial application, a taxpayer shall not be required to

1 submit additional annual applications as long as he or she
2 continues to elect to prepay taxes in installments pursuant to
3 this section. However, if in any year the taxpayer does not so
4 elect, reapplication shall be required for a subsequent
5 election to do so. Installment payments shall be made
6 according to the following schedule:

7 (a) The first payment of one-quarter of the total
8 amount of estimated taxes due shall be made not later than
9 June 30 of the year in which the taxes are assessed. A
10 6-percent discount applied against the amount of the
11 installment shall be granted for such payment. The tax
12 collector may accept a late payment of the first installment
13 under this paragraph within 30 days after June 30; such late
14 payment must be accompanied by a penalty of 5 percent of the
15 amount of the installment due.

16 (4) The moneys collected under this section shall be
17 placed in an interest-earning escrow account. The taxes and
18 penalties collected shall be distributed as provided in s.
19 197.383. The interest earned on this account shall be
20 distributed as provided in s. 197.383 or, at the option of the
21 tax collector, as provided in s. 219.075(2).

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 1998.
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