

By Senator Horne

6-614-00

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to tax deeds; amending s.
3 197.502, F.S.; authorizing the tax collector to
4 contract with a title or abstract company to
5 provide information concerning property
6 described in a tax certificate; authorizing the
7 tax collector to pay a reasonable fee for this
8 information; providing that the amount of any
9 fee paid for this information must be added to
10 the opening bid for a tax deed for the
11 property; providing an effective date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
15 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 197.502, Florida
16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 197.502 Application for obtaining tax deed by holder
18 of tax sale certificate; fees.--

19 (5)(a) The tax collector may contract with a title
20 company or an abstract company at a reasonable fee to provide
21 the minimum information required in subsection (4), consistent
22 with rules adopted by the department. If additional
23 information is required, the tax collector must make a written
24 request to the title or abstract company stating the
25 additional requirements. The tax collector may select any
26 title or abstract company, regardless of its location, as long
27 as the fee is reasonable, the minimum information is
28 submitted, and the title or abstract company is authorized to
29 do business in this state. The tax collector may advertise and
30 accept bids for the title or abstract company if he or she
31 considers it appropriate to do so.

1 1. The ownership and encumbrance report must be
2 printed or typed on stationery or other paper showing a
3 letterhead of the person, firm, or company that makes the
4 search, and the signature of the person who makes the search
5 or of an officer of the firm must be attached. The tax
6 collector is not liable for payment to the firm unless these
7 requirements are met.

8 2. The tax collector may not accept or pay for any
9 title search or abstract if no financial responsibility is
10 assumed for the search. However, reasonable restrictions as to
11 the liability or responsibility of the title or abstract
12 company are acceptable.

13 3. In order to establish uniform prices for ownership
14 and encumbrance reports within the county, the tax collector
15 shall ensure that the contract for ownership and encumbrance
16 reports include all requests for title searches or abstracts
17 for a given period of time.

18 (b) Any fee paid for any title search or abstract must
19 be collected at the time of application under section (1), and
20 the amount of the fee must be added to the opening bid.

21 (c) The clerk shall advertise and administer the sale
22 and receive such fees for the issuance of the deed and sale of
23 the property as are provided in s. 28.24.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

25
26 *****

27 SENATE SUMMARY

28 Authorizes the tax collector to contract with a title
29 company or an abstract company to provide information
30 concerning property described in a tax certificate.
31 Authorizes the tax collector to pay a reasonable fee for
 this information. Provides that the amount of any fee
 paid for this information must be added to the opening
 bid for a tax deed for the property.