By Senator Garcia

40-01002-11 2011880

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to value adjustment boards; requiring a petitioner challenging ad valorem taxes before the value adjustment board to pay a specified percentage of the taxes by a certain date; requiring the board to deny the petition if the required amount of taxes is not timely paid; amending s. 197.162, F.S.; deleting a provision providing for a discount for ad valorem taxes paid within 30 days after the mailing of a tax notice resulting from the action of the value adjustment board; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. <u>Partial payment of ad valorem taxes; proceedings</u> before value adjustment board.—

- (1) A petitioner before the value adjustment board who challenges an assessment of property or the denial of a classification or an exemption must pay all of the non-ad valorem assessments and make a partial payment of at least 75 percent of the ad valorem taxes before April 1 of the year in which the payment is due, less the applicable discount under s. 197.162, Florida Statutes. The value adjustment board must deny the petition if the required payment is not made by that date.
- (2) If the value adjustment board determines that the petitioner owes ad valorem taxes in excess of the amounts paid, the unpaid amount accrues interest at the rate of 12 percent per year from April 1.

Section 2. Section 197.162, Florida Statutes, is amended to

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197.162 Discounts; amount and time.—On all taxes assessed on the county tax rolls and collected by the county tax collector, discounts for early payment thereof shall be at the rate of 4 percent in the month of November or at any time within 30 days after the mailing of the original tax notice; 3 percent in the month of December; 2 percent in the following month of January; 1 percent in the following month of February; and zero percent in the following month of March or within 30 days prior to the date of delinquency if the date of delinquency is after April 1. When a taxpayer makes a request to have the original tax notice corrected, the discount rate for early payment applicable at the time the request for correction is made shall apply for 30 days after the mailing of the corrected tax notice. A discount shall apply at the rate of 4 percent for 30 days after the mailing of a tax notice resulting from the action of a value adjustment board. Thereafter, the regular discount periods shall apply. For the purposes of this section, when a discount period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the discount period shall be extended to the next working day, if payment is delivered to a designated collection office of the tax collector.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.