

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1316

LCO No. **4465**

Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by: (PD)

AN ACT REDUCING INTEREST DUE ON CERTAIN DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 12-195h of the general statutes is repealed and the
 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Any municipality, by resolution of its legislative body, as defined
in section 1-1, may assign, for consideration, any and all liens filed by
the tax collector to secure unpaid taxes on real property as provided
under the provisions of this chapter. The consideration received by the
municipality shall be negotiated between the municipality and the
assignee.

9 (b) The assignee or assignees of such liens shall have and possess the 10 same powers and rights at law or in equity that such municipality and 11 municipality's tax collector would have had if the lien had not been 12 assigned with regard to the precedence and priority of such lien, the 13 accrual of interest and the fees and expenses of collection and of 14 preparing and recording the assignment, except that (1)15 notwithstanding the provisions of section 12-146, for assignments

16 executed on and after July 1, 2026, commencing on the date of 17 assignment, interest shall accrue on the delinquent portion of the 18 principal of the assigned tax obligation at the rate of twelve per cent per 19 <u>annum, and (2)</u> any such assignee [(1)] (A) shall not be insulated from 20 liability for its conduct by virtue of the provisions of section 42-110c, and 21 [(2)] (B) shall be obligated to provide a payoff statement, as defined in 22 section 49-8a, in the same manner as a mortgagee in accordance with the 23 requirements of section 49-10a. The assignee shall have the same rights 24 to enforce such liens as any private party holding a lien on real property 25 including, but not limited to, foreclosure and a suit on the debt.

26 (c) No such assignment executed on or after July 1, 2022, shall be valid 27 or enforceable unless memorialized in a contract executed by the 28 municipality and the assignee that is in writing and provides: (1) The 29 manner in which the assignee will provide to the owner of the real 30 property that is the subject of the assignment one or more addresses and 31 telephone numbers that may be used for correspondence with the 32 assignee about the debt and payment thereof; (2) the earliest and latest 33 dates by which the assignee shall commence any foreclosure or suit on 34 the debt or the manner for determining such dates, except as may be 35 impacted by any payment arrangement, bankruptcy petition or other 36 circumstance, provided in no event shall the assignee commence a 37 foreclosure suit before one year has elapsed since the assignee's 38 purchase of the lien; (3) the structure and rates of attorney's fees that the 39 assignee may claim against the owner or owners of such real property 40 in any foreclosure, suit on the debt or otherwise, and a prohibition from 41 using as foreclosure counsel any attorney or law office that is owned by, 42 employs or contracts with any person having an interest in such 43 assignee; (4) confirmation that the owner of the real property for which 44 the lien has been filed shall be a third-party beneficiary entitled to 45 enforce the covenants and responsibilities of the assignee as contained 46 in the contract; (5) a prohibition on the assignee assigning the lien 47 without the municipality's prior written consent; (6) the detail and 48 frequency of reports provided to the municipality's tax collector

49 regarding the status of the assigned liens; (7) confirmation that the 50 assignee is not ineligible, pursuant to section 31-57b, to be assigned the 51 lien because of occupational safety and health law violations; (8) 52 disclosure of (A) all resolved and pending arbitrations and litigation 53 matters in which the assignee or any of its principals have been involved 54 within the last ten years, except foreclosure actions involving liens 55 purchased from or assigned by governmental entities, (B) all criminal 56 proceedings that the assignee or any of its principals has ever been the 57 subject, (C) any interest in the subject property held by the assignee or 58 any of its principals, officers or agents, and (D) each instance in which 59 the assignee or any of its principals was found to have violated any state 60 or local ethics law, regulation, ordinance, code, policy or standard, or to 61 have committed any other offense arising out of the submission of proposals or bids or the performance of work on public contract; and (9) 62 63 such additional terms to which the municipality and the assignee 64 mutually agree, consistent with applicable law.

65 (d) The assignee, or any subsequent assignee, shall provide written 66 notice of an assignment, not later than sixty days after the date of such 67 assignment, to the owner and any holder of a mortgage, on the real property that is the subject of the assignment, provided such owner or 68 69 holder is of record as of the date of such assignment. Such notice shall 70 include information sufficient to identify (1) the property that is subject 71 to the lien and in which the holder has an interest, (2) the name and 72 addresses of the assignee, and (3) the amount of unpaid taxes, interest 73 and fees being assigned relative to the subject property as of the date of 74 the assignment.

(e) Not less than sixty days prior to commencing an action to foreclose a lien under this section, the assignee shall provide a written notice, by first-class mail, to the holders of all first or second security interests on the property subject to the lien that were recorded before the date the assessment the lien sought to be enforced became delinquent. Such notice shall set forth: (1) The amount of unpaid debt owed to the assignee as of the date of the notice; (2) the amount of any attorney's fees

82 and costs incurred by the assignee in the enforcement of the lien as of 83 the date of the notice; (3) a statement of the assignee's intention to foreclose the lien if the amounts set forth pursuant to subdivisions (1) 84 85 and (2) of this subsection are not paid to the assignee on or before sixty 86 days after the date the notice is provided; (4) the assignee's contact 87 information, including, but not limited to, the assignee's name, mailing 88 address, telephone number and electronic mail address, if any; and (5) 89 instructions concerning the acceptable means of making a payment on 90 the amounts owed to the assignee as set forth pursuant to subdivisions 91 (1) and (2) of this subsection. Any notice required under this subsection 92 shall be effective upon the date such notice is provided.

(f) When providing the written notice required under subsection (e)
of this section, the assignee may rely on the last recorded security
interest of record in identifying the name and mailing address of the
holder of such interest, unless the holder of such interest is the plaintiff
in an action pending in Superior Court to enforce such interest, in which
case the assignee shall provide the written notice to the attorney
appearing on behalf of the plaintiff.

(g) Each aspect of a foreclosure, sale or other disposition under this
section, including, but not limited to, the costs, attorney fees, method,
advertising, time, date, place and terms, shall be commercially
reasonable.

This act shall sections:	l take effect as follows	and shall amend the following
Section 1	October 1, 2025	12-195h

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce from eighteen per cent to twelve per cent the interest due on unpaid taxes on real property if a lien placed on such property by a municipal tax collector to secure payment of such lien is assigned to a third party. [Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]