## ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 133–ASSEMBLYMEMBER GURR

## Prefiled January 28, 2025

#### Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing public financial administration. (BDR 20-537)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: No.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets fomitted material; is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public financial administration; requiring certain money from the sale of property for delinquent taxes to be accounted for separately in a county general fund and used to pay for the acquisition and improvement of technology used in the office of the county treasurer; revising the contents of a notice of delinquent taxes; revising provisions relating to certain property held in trust by a county treasurer; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

### **Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law requires the tax receiver of a county to mail notice of delinquent taxes to certain persons. The notice of delinquency must state certain information, including that if the amount of delinquent taxes is not paid, the tax receiver will, at 5 p.m. on the first Monday in June of the current year, issue a certificate authorizing the county treasurer to hold the property. (NRS 361.5648) Section 2 of this bill provides instead that the notice of delinquency must state that if the amount of delinquent taxes is not paid, the tax receiver will, at the close of business of the tax receiver of the county on the first Monday in June of the current year, issue a certificate authorizing the county treasurer to hold the property.

Existing law requires the tax receiver to make out a trustee's certificate that describes each property on which delinquent taxes, penalties, interest and costs have not been paid. The trustee's certificate authorizes the county treasurer to hold each property for a certain period of time. (NRS 361.570) When the time allowed by law for the redemption of a property described in the certificate has expired and no redemption has been made, the tax receiver who issued the certificate is required to execute and deliver to the county treasurer a deed of the property. Upon obtaining such a deed, the county treasurer is required to hold the property in trust until it is sold or otherwise disposed of. Existing law provides that during certain periods or not later than 5 p.m. on the third business day before the day of the sale





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by a county treasurer, certain persons are entitled to have the property reconveyed upon the receipt by the county treasurer of payment of the delinquent taxes and certain costs. (NRS 361.585) **Section 3** of this bill provides instead that during certain periods or not later than the close of business of the county treasurer on the third business day before the day of the sale by a county treasurer, certain persons are entitled to have the property reconveyed upon the receipt by the county treasurer of payment of the delinquent taxes and certain costs.

Existing law authorizes, under certain circumstances, the county treasurer to sell property held in trust because of delinquent taxes. Upon payment, the county treasurer is required, with certain exceptions, to issue a quitclaim deed to the purchaser. Existing law provides an exception to this requirement to issue a quitclaim deed under certain circumstances, if, not later than 5 p.m. on the third business day immediately preceding the day of the sale by the county treasurer, a municipality provides the county treasurer with an affidavit that meets certain requirements. (NRS 361.595) **Section 4** of this bill provides instead that, under certain circumstances, the county treasurer may not issue the quitclaim deed if, not later than the close of business of the county treasurer on the third business day immediately preceding the day of the sale by the county treasurer, a municipality provides the county treasurer with an affidavit that meets certain requirements.

Under existing law, if the county treasurer sells property held in trust because of delinquent taxes, the county treasurer is required to pay certain costs and taxes from the excess proceeds from the sale and then pay into the county general fund: (1) the first \$300 of the excess proceeds; (2) 10 percent of the next \$10,000 of the excess proceeds; and (3) the amount remaining to be held separately for a certain period of time, and if not claimed by certain persons who had a secured interest in the property, then into the county general fund. (NRS 361.610) Section 5 of this bill provides that after the payment of certain costs and taxes, 5 percent of the excess proceeds must be accounted for separately in the county general fund pursuant to section 1 of this bill. The money in the account is only authorized to be used to acquire technology or improve technology used in the office of the county treasurer. Section 1 also requires the county treasurer to submit an annual report to the board of county commissioners by July 1 setting forth the projected expenditure of money in the account for the following fiscal year.

Existing law sets forth certain procedures allowing a person to make a claim for the excess proceeds from the sale by the county treasurer of property held in trust because of delinquent taxes, including, without limitation, requiring certain indeterminable claims to be submitted to mediation, and if mediation is unsuccessful, then requiring the county treasurer to conduct a hearing or file an action for interpleader. (NRS 361.610) Section 5 eliminates conducting a hearing as a method for determining certain indeterminable claims, instead requiring the county treasurer to file an action for interpleader following any unsuccessful mediation. Existing law authorizes a person to enter into an agreement to locate, deliver, recover or assist in the recovery of excess proceeds by certain persons. However, if the agreement is entered into by a natural person who occupied the property as his or her primary residence at the time of the sale, any such agreement must not provide for a fee of more than 10 percent of the remaining excess proceeds due that person. (NRS 361.610) Section 5 removes the limitation that the property must have been occupied by a natural person as his or her primary residence at the time of sale and instead applies the 10 percent cap to the fee of: (1) any natural person; and (2) certain persons who are otherwise authorized by power of attorney, assignment or any other legal instrument by another person to file a claim with and collect from the county treasurer any property owed to the person.



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# THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- **Section 1.** Chapter 249 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 1. Any money received by the county treasurer pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3 of NRS 361.610 must be accounted for separately in the county general fund.
  - 2. Money in the account:

- (a) May only be used to acquire technology for or improve the technology used in the office of the county treasurer, including, without limitation, the payment of any costs associated with acquiring or improving technology for converting or archiving records, purchasing hardware or software, maintaining the technology, training employees in the operation of the technology and contracting for professional services relating to the technology; and
- (b) Must not be used to replace or supplant any money available from other sources to acquire technology for or improve technology used in the office of the county treasurer.
- 3. Any money remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year does not revert to the county general fund, and the balance in the account must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.
- 4. The money in the account must be invested as other county funds are invested. All interest earned on the deposit or investment of the money in the account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account. Claims against the account must be paid as other claims against the county are paid.
- 5. On or before July 1 of each year, the county treasurer shall submit a report to the board of county commissioners setting forth the projected expenditure of money in the account for the following fiscal year.
  - Sec. 2. NRS 361.5648 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 361.5648 1. Within 30 days after the first Monday in March of each year, with respect to each property on which the tax is delinquent, the tax receiver of the county shall mail notice of the delinquency by first-class mail to:
  - (a) The owner or owners of the property;
- (b) The person or persons listed as the taxpayer or taxpayers on the tax rolls, at their last known addresses, if the names and addresses are known;
- (c) Each holder of a recorded security interest if the holder has made a request in writing to the tax receiver for the notice, which identifies the secured property by the parcel number assigned to it in accordance with the provisions of NRS 361.189; and





- (d) Each assignee of a tax lien on the property, if the assignee has made a request in writing to the tax receiver for the notice described in paragraph (c).
  - 2. The notice of delinquency must state:

- (a) The name of the owner of the property, if known.
- (b) The description of the property on which the taxes are a lien.
- (c) The amount of the taxes due on the property and the penalties and costs as provided by law.
- (d) That if the amount is not paid by or on behalf of the taxpayer or his or her successor in interest, the tax receiver will, at [5 p.m.] the close of business of the tax receiver of the county on the first Monday in June of the current year, issue to the county treasurer, as trustee for the State and county, a certificate authorizing the county treasurer to hold the property, subject to redemption within 2 years, or within 1 year if the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to NRS 361.567, after the date of the issuance of the certificate, by payment of the taxes and accruing taxes, penalties and costs, together with interest on the taxes at the rate of 10 percent per annum, assessed monthly, from the date due until paid as provided by law, except as otherwise provided in NRS 360.232 and 360.320, and that redemption may be made in accordance with the provisions of chapter 21 of NRS in regard to real property sold under execution.
- 3. Within 30 days after mailing the original notice of delinquency, the tax receiver shall issue his or her personal affidavit to the board of county commissioners affirming that due notice has been mailed with respect to each parcel. The affidavit must recite the number of letters mailed, the number of letters returned and the number of letters finally determined to be undeliverable. Until the period of redemption has expired, the tax receiver shall maintain detailed records which contain such information as the Department may prescribe in support of the affidavit.
- 4. A second copy of the notice of delinquency must be sent by certified mail, not less than 60 days before the expiration of the period of redemption as stated in the notice.
- 5. The cost of each mailing must be charged to the delinquent taxpayer.
- 6. A county and its officers and employees are not liable for any damages resulting from failure to provide actual notice pursuant to this section if the county, officer or employee, in determining the names and addresses of persons with an interest in the property, relies upon a preliminary title search from a company authorized to provide title insurance in this State.





- **Sec. 3.** NRS 361.585 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 361.585 1. When the time allowed by law for the redemption of a property described in a certificate has expired and no redemption has been made, the tax receiver who issued the certificate, or his or her successor in office, shall execute and deliver to the county treasurer a deed of the property in trust for the use and benefit of the State and county and any officers having fees due them.
- 2. The county treasurer and his or her successors in office, upon obtaining a deed of any property in trust under the provisions of this chapter, shall hold that property in trust until it is sold or otherwise disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
- 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 361.595 or 361.603, at any time during the 90-day period specified in NRS 361.603, or not later than [5 p.m.] the close of business of the county treasurer on the third business day before the day of the sale by a county treasurer, as specified in the notice required by NRS 361.595, of any property held in trust by him or her by virtue of any deed made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, any person specified in subsection 4 is entitled to have the property reconveyed upon the receipt by the county treasurer of payment by or on behalf of that person of an amount equal to the taxes accrued, together with any costs, penalties and interest legally chargeable against the property. A reconveyance may not be made after expiration of the 90-day period specified in NRS 361.603.
- 4. Property may be reconveyed pursuant to subsection 3 to one or more of the persons specified in the following categories, or to one or more persons within a particular category, as their interests may appear of record:
  - (a) The owner.

- (b) The beneficiary under a note and deed of trust.
- (c) The mortgagee under a mortgage.
- (d) The creditor under a judgment.
- (e) The person to whom the property was assessed.
- (f) The person holding a contract to purchase the property before its conveyance to the county treasurer.
- (g) The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services if the owner has received or is receiving any benefits from Medicaid.
- (h) The successor in interest of any person specified in this subsection.
  - (i) A municipality that holds a lien against the property.
- 5. The provisions of this section apply to land held in trust by a county treasurer on or after April 17, 1971.





- **Sec. 4.** NRS 361.595 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 361.595 1. Any property held in trust by any county treasurer by virtue of any deed made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter may be sold and conveyed in the manner prescribed in this section and in NRS 361.603 or conveyed without sale as provided in NRS 361.604.
- 2. If the property is to be sold, the board of county commissioners may make an order, to be entered on the record of its proceedings, directing the county treasurer to sell the property particularly described therein, after giving notice of sale, for a total amount not less than the amount of the taxes, costs, penalties and interest legally chargeable against the property as stated in the order.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, notice of the sale must specify the day, time and place of the sale and be:
- (a) Posted in at least three public places in the county, including one at the courthouse and one on the property, not less than 20 days before the day of sale or, in lieu of such a posting, by publication of the notice at least once a week for 4 consecutive weeks by four weekly insertions in some newspaper published within the county, the first publication being at least 22 days before the day of the sale, if the board of county commissioners so directs.
- (b) Mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, not less than 90 days before the day of the sale, to the owner of the parcel as shown on the tax roll and to any person or governmental entity that appears in the records of the county to have a lien or other interest in the property. If the receipt is returned unsigned, the county treasurer must make a reasonable attempt to locate and notify the owner or other person or governmental entity before the sale.
- 4. If, pursuant to NRS 361.567, the tax receiver has elected to use an expedited procedure for the sale of the property and the requirements of NRS 361.567 were met, notice of the sale must specify the day, time and place of the sale and be:
- (a) Posted in at least three public places in the county, including one at the courthouse and one on the property, not less than 20 days before the day of sale or, in lieu of such a posting, by publication of the notice at least once a week for 4 consecutive weeks by four weekly insertions in some newspaper published within the county, the first publication being at least 22 days before the day of the sale, if the board of county commissioners so directs.
- (b) Mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, not less than 45 days before the day of the sale, to the owner of the parcel as shown on the tax roll and to any person or governmental entity that appears in the records of the county to have a lien or other interest in the property. If the receipt is returned unsigned, the county treasurer





must make a reasonable attempt to locate and notify the owner or other person or governmental entity before the sale.

- 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the county treasurer shall make, execute and deliver to any purchaser, upon payment to the county treasurer, as trustee, of a consideration not less than that specified in the order, a quitclaim deed, discharged of any trust of the property mentioned in the order.
- 6. If, not later than [5 p.m.] the close of business of the county treasurer on the third business day immediately preceding the day of the sale by the county treasurer, a municipality provides the county treasurer with an affidavit signed by the treasurer of the municipality stating that:
- (a) The municipality sold the property or the property was stricken off to the municipality pursuant to NRS 271.560; and
- (b) A certificate of sale for the property was issued to the purchaser pursuant to NRS 271.570 or to the municipality pursuant to NRS 271.560,
- → the county treasurer may not issue the quitclaim deed described in subsection 5 unless the person who purchased the property from the county pays to the municipality any amount owed pursuant to the certificate of sale issued pursuant to NRS 271.560 and 271.570 and the municipality provides an affidavit signed by the treasurer of the municipality stating that such amounts have been paid. If the purchaser does not pay the amount owed to the municipality within 20 days after the sale of the property by the county, the sale of the property by the county is void and the county treasurer may retain for administrative costs not more than 10 percent of the purchase amount paid by the purchaser.
- 7. Before delivering a deed, the county treasurer shall record the deed at the expense of the purchaser.
- 8. All deeds issued pursuant to this section, whether issued before, on or after July 1, 1955, are primary evidence:
- (a) Of the regularity of all proceedings relating to the order of the board of county commissioners, the notice of sale and the sale of the property;
- (b) That if, pursuant to NRS 361.567, the tax receiver has elected to use an expedited procedure for the sale of the property, the property is abandoned; and
- (c) That, if the real property was sold to pay taxes on personal property, the real property belonged to the person liable to pay the tax.
- 9. No deed may be executed and delivered by the county treasurer until he or she files at the expense of the purchaser, with the clerk of the board of county commissioners, proper affidavits of posting and of publication of the notice of sale, as the case may be,





together with his or her return of sale, verified, showing compliance with the order of the board of county commissioners, which constitutes primary evidence of the facts recited therein.

- 10. If the deed when regularly issued is not recorded in the office of the county recorder, the deed, and all proceedings relating thereto, is void as against any subsequent purchaser in good faith and for a valuable consideration of the same property, or any portion thereof, when his or her own conveyance is first recorded.
- 11. The board of county commissioners shall provide its clerk with a record book in which must be indexed the name of each purchaser, together with the date of sale, a description of the property sold, a reference to the book and page of the minutes of the board of county commissioners where the order of sale is recorded, and the file number of the affidavits and return.
  - **Sec. 5.** NRS 361.610 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 361.610 1. Out of the sale price or rents of any property of which he or she is trustee, the county treasurer shall pay the costs due any officer for the enforcement of the tax upon the parcel of property and all taxes owing thereon, and upon the redemption of any property from the county treasurer as trustee, he or she shall pay the redemption money over to any officers having fees due them from the parcels of property and pay the tax for which it was sold and pay the redemption percentage according to the proportion those fees respectively bear to the tax.
  - 2. In no case may:

- (a) Any service rendered by any officer under this chapter become or be allowed as a charge against the county; or
- (b) The sale price or rent or redemption money of any one parcel of property be appropriated to pay any cost or tax upon any other parcel of property than that so sold, rented or redeemed.
- 3. After paying all the tax and costs upon any one parcel of property, the county treasurer shall pay into the general fund of the county, from the excess proceeds of the sale [:], the following:
- (a) Five percent of the total amount of excess proceeds into the account created by section 1 of this act;
  - (b) The [first] next \$300 of the excess proceeds; and

(c) Ten percent of the next \$10,000 of the excess proceeds.

4. The amount remaining after the county treasurer has paid the amounts required by subsection 3 must be deposited in an interest-bearing account maintained for the purpose of holding excess proceeds separate from other money of the county. If no claim is made for the excess proceeds within 1 year after the deed given by the county treasurer is recorded, the county treasurer shall pay the money into the general fund of the county, and it must not thereafter be refunded to the former property owner or his or her successors in





interest. All interest paid on money deposited in the account required by this subsection is the property of the county.

- 5. If a person listed in subsection 6 makes a claim in writing for the excess proceeds within 1 year after the deed is recorded, the county treasurer shall pay the claim or the proper portion of the claim over to the person if the county treasurer is satisfied that the person is entitled to it.
- 6. A claim for excess proceeds must be paid out in the following order of priority to:
- (a) The following persons in the order of priority of the liens recorded or perfected before the sale:
- (1) A person holding a valid lien under subsection 3 of NRS 444.520:
- (2) Persons specified in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (g), (h) and (i) of subsection 4 of NRS 361.585;
- (3) An association, as defined in NRS 116.011, that has caused to be recorded a notice of default and election to sell the property pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 116.31162 that has not been rescinded; and
- (4) An association, as defined in NRS 116B.030, or a hotel unit owner, as defined in NRS 116B.125, that has caused to be recorded a notice of default and election to sell the property pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 116B.635 that has not been rescinded; and
- (b) Any person specified in paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) of subsection 4 of NRS 361.585.
- 7. The county treasurer shall approve or deny a claim within 30 days after the period described in subsection 4 for filing a claim has expired. In determining a claim for excess proceeds, the county treasurer may require any person making a claim to provide any records or other documents to the county treasurer. Any records or other documents concerning a claim shall be deemed the working papers of the county treasurer and are confidential. If more than one person files a claim, and the county treasurer is not able to determine who is entitled to the excess proceeds, the matter must be submitted to mediation.
- 8. If the mediation is not successful, the county treasurer shall
- (a) Conduct a hearing to determine who is entitled to the excess proceeds; or
  - (b) File] *file* an action for interpleader.
- 9. A person who is aggrieved by a determination of the county treasurer pursuant to this section may, within 90 days after the person receives notice of the determination, commence an action for judicial review of the determination in district court.





- 10. If an association, as defined in NRS 116.011, recovers any amount of excess proceeds of a sale of a residential unit, as defined in NRS 116.332, the amount recovered by the association shall be deemed to have satisfied the debt owed by the owner of the residential unit to the association and the association may not recover in a civil action or otherwise collect any deficiency remaining due to the association from the owner.
- 11. Any agreement to locate, deliver, recover or assist in the recovery of remaining excess proceeds of a sale which is entered into by a person listed in subsection 6 must:
  - (a) Be in writing.

- (b) Be signed by the person listed in subsection 6.
- (c) If the agreement is entered into by a natural person for assistance in the recovery of excess proceeds remaining from a sale, for a residence that was occupied by that natural person as his or her primary residence at the time of the sale, not provide for a fee of more than 10 percent of the total remaining excess proceeds of the sale due that person.
- 12. In addition to authorizing a person pursuant to an agreement described in subsection 11 to file a claim and collect from the county treasurer any property owed to the person, a person listed in subsection 6 may authorize a person pursuant to a power of attorney, assignment or any other legal instrument to file a claim and collect from the county treasurer any property owed to him or her. Any person authorized pursuant to a power of attorney, assignment or any other legal instrument to file a claim and collect from the county treasurer any property may collect a fee of not more than 10 percent of the total remaining excess proceeds of the sale due the person making the authorization. The county is not liable for any losses resulting from the approval of the claim if the claim is paid by the county treasurer in accordance with the provisions of the legal instrument.





