

# SENATE BILL No. 571

August 24, 2011, Introduced by Senator HUNTER and referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions.

A bill to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled  
"The general property tax act,"  
by amending section 78m (MCL 211.78m), as amended by 2006 PA 498.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 78m. (1) Not later than the first Tuesday in July,  
2 immediately succeeding the entry of judgment under section 78k  
3 vesting absolute title to tax delinquent property in the  
4 foreclosing governmental unit, this state is granted the right of  
5 first refusal to purchase property at the greater of the minimum  
6 bid or its fair market value by paying that amount to the  
7 foreclosing governmental unit if the foreclosing governmental unit  
8 is not this state. If this state elects not to purchase the  
9 property under its right of first refusal, a city, village, or  
10 township may purchase for a public purpose any property located

1 within that city, village, or township set forth in the judgment  
2 and subject to sale under this section by payment to the  
3 foreclosing governmental unit of the minimum bid. If a city,  
4 village, or township does not purchase that property, the county in  
5 which that property is located may purchase that property under  
6 this section by payment to the foreclosing governmental unit of the  
7 minimum bid. If property is purchased by a city, village, township,  
8 or county under this subsection, the foreclosing governmental unit  
9 shall convey the property to the purchasing city, village,  
10 township, or county within 30 days. If property purchased by a  
11 city, village, township, or county under this subsection is  
12 subsequently sold for an amount in excess of the minimum bid and  
13 all costs incurred relating to demolition, renovation,  
14 improvements, or infrastructure development, the excess amount  
15 shall be returned to the delinquent tax property sales proceeds  
16 account for the year in which the property was purchased by the  
17 city, village, township, or county or, if this state is the  
18 foreclosing governmental unit within a county, to the land  
19 reutilization fund created under section 78n. Upon the request of  
20 the foreclosing governmental unit, a city, village, township, or  
21 county that purchased property under this subsection shall provide  
22 to the foreclosing governmental unit without cost information  
23 regarding any subsequent sale or transfer of the property. This  
24 subsection applies to the purchase of property by this state, a  
25 city, village, or township, or a county prior to a sale held under  
26 subsection (2).

27 (2) Subject to subsection (1), beginning on the third Tuesday

1 in July immediately succeeding the entry of the judgment under  
2 section 78k vesting absolute title to tax delinquent property in  
3 the foreclosing governmental unit and ending on the immediately  
4 succeeding first Tuesday in November, the foreclosing governmental  
5 unit, or its authorized agent, at the option of the foreclosing  
6 governmental unit, shall hold at least 2 property sales at 1 or  
7 more convenient locations at which property foreclosed by the  
8 judgment entered under section 78k shall be sold by auction sale,  
9 which may include an auction sale conducted via an internet  
10 website. Notice of the time and location of the sales shall be  
11 published not less than 30 days before each sale in a newspaper  
12 published and circulated in the county in which the property is  
13 located, if there is one. If no newspaper is published in that  
14 county, publication shall be made in a newspaper published and  
15 circulated in an adjoining county. Each sale shall be completed  
16 before the first Tuesday in November immediately succeeding the  
17 entry of judgment under section 78k vesting absolute title to the  
18 tax delinquent property in the foreclosing governmental unit.  
19 Except as provided in subsection (5), property shall be sold to the  
20 person bidding the highest amount above the minimum bid. The  
21 foreclosing governmental unit may sell parcels individually or may  
22 offer 2 or more parcels for sale as a group. The minimum bid for a  
23 group of parcels shall equal the sum of the minimum bid for each  
24 parcel included in the group. The foreclosing governmental unit may  
25 adopt procedures governing the conduct of the sale and may cancel  
26 the sale prior to the issuance of a deed under this subsection if  
27 authorized under the procedures. The foreclosing governmental unit

1 may require full payment by cash, certified check, or money order  
2 at the close of each day's bidding. Not more than 30 days after the  
3 date of a sale under this subsection, the foreclosing governmental  
4 unit shall convey the property by deed to the person bidding the  
5 highest amount above the minimum bid. The deed shall vest fee  
6 simple title to the property in the person bidding the highest  
7 amount above the minimum bid, unless the foreclosing governmental  
8 unit discovers a defect in the foreclosure of the property under  
9 sections 78 to 78/. If this state is the foreclosing governmental  
10 unit within a county, the department of natural resources shall  
11 conduct the sale of property under this subsection and subsections  
12 (4) and (5) on behalf of this state.

13 (3) For sales held under subsection (2), after the conclusion  
14 of that sale, and prior to any additional sale held under  
15 subsection (2), a city, village, or township may purchase any  
16 property not previously sold under subsection (1) or (2) by paying  
17 the minimum bid to the foreclosing governmental unit. If a city,  
18 village, or township does not purchase that property, the county in  
19 which that property is located may purchase that property under  
20 this section by payment to the foreclosing governmental unit of the  
21 minimum bid.

22 (4) If property is purchased by a city, village, township, or  
23 county under subsection (3), the foreclosing governmental unit  
24 shall convey the property to the purchasing city, village, or  
25 township within 30 days.

26 (5) All property subject to sale under subsection (2) shall be  
27 offered for sale at not less than 2 sales conducted as required by

subsection (2). The final sale held under subsection (2) shall be held not less than 28 days after the previous sale under subsection (2). At the final sale held under subsection (2), the sale is subject to the requirements of subsection (2), except ~~that the~~ **FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

(A) **THE** minimum bid shall not be required. However, the foreclosing governmental unit may establish a reasonable opening bid at the sale to recover the cost of the sale of the parcel or parcels.

(B) **PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS SHALL REGISTER WITH THE FORECLOSING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT NOT LESS THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE SALE. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS SHALL CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE NOT A PERSON, ARE NOT ACTING ON BEHALF OF A PERSON, OR ARE NOT UNDER THE DIRECTION OR CONTROL OF A PERSON WHO MEETS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

(i) **HELD TITLE TO ANY PROPERTY OR CLAIMED TO HOLD TITLE TO ANY PROPERTY SUBJECT TO A JUDGMENT ENTERED UNDER SECTION 78K VESTING ABSOLUTE TITLE TO THAT PROPERTY IN THE FORECLOSING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.**

(ii) **HAD A LIEN ON ANY PROPERTY OR CLAIMED TO HAVE A LIEN ON ANY PROPERTY SUBJECT TO A JUDGMENT ENTERED UNDER SECTION 78K VESTING ABSOLUTE TITLE TO THAT PROPERTY IN THE FORECLOSING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.**

(iii) **HAS TITLE TO ANY PROPERTY OR CLAIMS TO HOLD TITLE TO ANY PROPERTY THAT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PETITION FOR FORECLOSURE FILED UNDER SECTION 78H IN THE TAX YEAR IN WHICH THE SALE IS HELD UNDER THIS SECTION.**

1           (iv) HAS A LIEN ON ANY PROPERTY OR CLAIMS TO HAVE A LIEN ON ANY  
2 PROPERTY THAT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PETITION FOR FORECLOSURE  
3 FILED UNDER SECTION 78H IN THE TAX YEAR IN WHICH THE SALE IS HELD  
4 UNDER THIS SECTION.

5           (C) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, THE  
6 FORECLOSING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT SHALL NOT ACCEPT BIDS FROM ANY PERSON  
7 WHO MEETS 1 OR MORE OF THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION (B).  
8 HOWEVER, THE FORECLOSING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT MAY ACCEPT BIDS FROM A  
9 PERSON WHO MEETS 1 OR MORE OF THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN  
10 SUBDIVISION (B) IF THE FORECLOSING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT DETERMINES  
11 THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP, OR  
12 COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO ACCEPT THE BID.

13           (6) On or before December 1 immediately succeeding the date of  
14 the sale under subsection (5), a list of all property not  
15 previously sold by the foreclosing governmental unit under this  
16 section shall be transferred to the clerk of the city, village, or  
17 township in which the property is located. The city, village, or  
18 township may object in writing to the transfer of 1 or more parcels  
19 of property set forth on that list. On or before December 30  
20 immediately succeeding the date of the sale under subsection (5),  
21 all property not previously sold by the foreclosing governmental  
22 unit under this section shall be transferred to the city, village,  
23 or township in which the property is located, except those parcels  
24 of property to which the city, village, or township has objected.  
25 Property located in both a village and a township may be  
26 transferred under this subsection only to a village. The city,  
27 village, or township may make the property available under the

1 urban homestead act, 1999 PA 127, MCL 125.2701 to 125.2709, or for  
2 any other lawful purpose.

3 (7) If property not previously sold is not transferred to the  
4 city, village, or township in which the property is located under  
5 subsection (6), the foreclosing governmental unit shall retain  
6 possession of that property. If the foreclosing governmental unit  
7 retains possession of the property and the foreclosing governmental  
8 unit is this state, title to the property shall vest in the land  
9 bank fast track authority created under section 15 of the land bank  
10 fast track act, 2003 PA 258, MCL 124.765.

11 (8) A foreclosing governmental unit shall deposit the proceeds  
12 from the sale of property under this section into a restricted  
13 account designated as the "delinquent tax property sales proceeds  
14 for the year \_\_\_\_". The foreclosing governmental unit shall  
15 direct the investment of the account. The foreclosing governmental  
16 unit shall credit to the account interest and earnings from account  
17 investments. Proceeds in that account shall only be used by the  
18 foreclosing governmental unit for the following purposes in the  
19 following order of priority:

20 (a) The delinquent tax revolving fund shall be reimbursed for  
21 all taxes, interest, and fees on all of the property, whether or  
22 not all of the property was sold.

23 (b) All costs of the sale of property for the year shall be  
24 paid.

25 (c) Any costs of the foreclosure proceedings for the year,  
26 including, but not limited to, costs of mailing, publication,  
27 personal service, and outside contractors shall be paid.

1 (d) Any costs for the sale of property or foreclosure  
2 proceedings for any prior year that have not been paid or  
3 reimbursed from that prior year's delinquent tax property sales  
4 proceeds shall be paid.

5 (e) Any costs incurred by the foreclosing governmental unit in  
6 maintaining property foreclosed under section 78k before the sale  
7 under this section shall be paid, including costs of any  
8 environmental remediation.

9 (f) If the foreclosing governmental unit is not this state,  
10 any of the following:

11 (i) Any costs for the sale of property or foreclosure  
12 proceedings for any subsequent year that are not paid or reimbursed  
13 from that subsequent year's delinquent tax property sales proceeds  
14 shall be paid from any remaining balance in any prior year's  
15 delinquent tax property sales proceeds account.

16 (ii) Any costs for the defense of title actions.

17 (iii) Any costs incurred in administering the foreclosure and  
18 disposition of property forfeited for delinquent taxes under this  
19 act.

20 (g) If the foreclosing governmental unit is this state, any  
21 remaining balance shall be transferred to the land reutilization  
22 fund created under section 78n.

23 (h) In 2008 and each year after 2008, if the foreclosing  
24 governmental unit is not this state, not later than June 30 of the  
25 second calendar year after foreclosure, the foreclosing  
26 governmental unit shall submit a written report to its board of  
27 commissioners identifying any remaining balance and any contingent



1 costs of title or other legal claims described in subdivisions (a)  
2 through (f). All or a portion of any remaining balance, less any  
3 contingent costs of title or other legal claims described in  
4 subdivisions (a) through (f), may subsequently be transferred into  
5 the general fund of the county by the board of commissioners.

6 (9) Two or more county treasurers of adjacent counties may  
7 elect to hold a joint sale of property as provided in this section.  
8 If 2 or more county treasurers elect to hold a joint sale, property  
9 may be sold under this section at a location outside of the county  
10 in which the property is located. The sale may be conducted by any  
11 county treasurer participating in the joint sale. A joint sale held  
12 under this subsection may include or be an auction sale conducted  
13 via an internet website.

14 (10) The foreclosing governmental unit shall record a deed for  
15 any property transferred under this section with the county  
16 register of deeds. The foreclosing governmental unit may charge a  
17 fee in excess of the minimum bid and any sale proceeds for the cost  
18 of recording a deed under this subsection.

19 (11) As used in this section, "minimum bid" is the minimum  
20 amount established by the foreclosing governmental unit for which  
21 property may be sold under this section. The minimum bid shall  
22 include all of the following:

23 (a) All delinquent taxes, interest, penalties, and fees due on  
24 the property. If a city, village, or township purchases the  
25 property, the minimum bid shall not include any taxes levied by  
26 that city, village, or township and any interest, penalties, or  
27 fees due on those taxes.

1 (b) The expenses of administering the sale, including all  
2 preparations for the sale. The foreclosing governmental unit shall  
3 estimate the cost of preparing for and administering the annual  
4 sale for purposes of prorating the cost for each property included  
5 in the sale.

6 (12) For property transferred to this state under subsection  
7 (1), a city, village, or township under subsection (6) or retained  
8 by a foreclosing governmental unit under subsection (7), all taxes  
9 due on the property as of the December 31 following the transfer or  
10 retention of the property are canceled effective on that December  
11 31.

12 (13) For property sold under this section, transferred to this  
13 state under subsection (1), a city, village, or township under  
14 subsection (6), or retained by a foreclosing governmental unit  
15 under subsection (7), all liens for costs of demolition, safety  
16 repairs, debris removal, or sewer or water charges due on the  
17 property as of the December 31 immediately succeeding the sale,  
18 transfer, or retention of the property are canceled effective on  
19 that December 31. This subsection does not apply to liens recorded  
20 by the department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES** under  
21 this act or the land bank fast track act, 2003 PA 258, MCL 124.751  
22 to 124.774.

23 (14) If property foreclosed under section 78k and held by or  
24 under the control of a foreclosing governmental unit is a facility  
25 as defined under section 20101(1)(o) of the natural resources and  
26 environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.20101, prior to  
27 the sale or transfer of the property under this section, the

1 property is subject to all of the following:

2 (a) Upon reasonable written notice from the department of  
3 ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**, the foreclosing  
4 governmental unit shall provide access to the department of  
5 ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**, its employees,  
6 contractors, and any other person expressly authorized by the  
7 department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES** to conduct  
8 response activities at the foreclosed property. Reasonable written  
9 notice under this subdivision may include, but is not limited to,  
10 notice by electronic mail or facsimile, if the foreclosing  
11 governmental unit consents to notice by electronic mail or  
12 facsimile prior to the provision of notice by the department of  
13 ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**.

14 (b) If requested by the department of ~~environmental quality~~  
15 **NATURAL RESOURCES** to protect public health, safety, and welfare or  
16 the environment, the foreclosing governmental unit shall grant an  
17 easement for access to conduct response activities on the  
18 foreclosed property as authorized under chapter 7 of the natural  
19 resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL  
20 324.20101 to ~~324.20519~~ **324.20509**.

21 (c) If requested by the department of ~~environmental quality~~  
22 **NATURAL RESOURCES** to protect public health, safety, and welfare or  
23 the environment, the foreclosing governmental unit shall place and  
24 record deed restrictions on the foreclosed property as authorized  
25 under chapter 7 of the natural resources and environmental  
26 protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.20101 to ~~324.20519~~ **324.20509**.

27 (d) The department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**

1 may place an environmental lien on the foreclosed property as  
2 authorized under section 20138 of the natural resources and  
3 environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.20138.

4 (15) If property foreclosed under section 78k and held by or  
5 under the control of a foreclosing governmental unit is a facility  
6 as defined under section 20101(1)(o) of the natural resources and  
7 environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.20101, prior to  
8 the sale or transfer of the property under this section, the  
9 department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES** shall request  
10 and the foreclosing governmental unit shall transfer the property  
11 to the state land bank fast track authority created under section  
12 15 of the land bank fast track act, 2003 PA 258, MCL 124.765, if  
13 all of the following apply:

14 (a) The department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**  
15 determines that conditions at a foreclosed property are an acute  
16 threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, to the  
17 environment, or to other property.

18 (b) The department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**  
19 proposes to undertake or is undertaking state-funded response  
20 activities at the property.

21 (c) The department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL RESOURCES**  
22 determines that the sale, retention, or transfer of the property  
23 other than under this subsection would interfere with response  
24 activities by the department of ~~environmental quality~~ **NATURAL**  
25 **RESOURCES**.