

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE BILL

No. 291 Session of  
1997

INTRODUCED BY BUXTON, CAWLEY, VAN HORNE, TIGUE, ROONEY, SANTONI,  
BELARDI, STABACK, BROWNE, ARGALL, STURLA, MELIO, BOSCOLA,  
MIHALICH, CAPPABIANCA, SAYLOR, WOJNAROSKI, SHANER, SCRIMENTI,  
THOMAS AND ARMSTRONG, FEBRUARY 5, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 5, 1997

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), entitled,  
2 as amended, "An act amending, revising and consolidating the  
3 laws relating to delinquent county, city, except of the first  
4 and second class and second class A, borough, town, township,  
5 school district, except of the first class and school  
6 districts within cities of the second class A, and  
7 institution district taxes, providing when, how and upon what  
8 property, and to what extent liens shall be allowed for such  
9 taxes, the return and entering of claims therefor; the  
10 collection and adjudication of such claims, sales of real  
11 property, including seated and unseated lands, subject to the  
12 lien of such tax claims; the disposition of the proceeds  
13 thereof, including State taxes and municipal claims recovered  
14 and the redemption of property; providing for the discharge  
15 and divestiture by certain tax sales of all estates in  
16 property and of mortgages and liens on such property, and the  
17 proceedings therefor; creating a Tax Claim Bureau in each  
18 county, except counties of the first and second class, to act  
19 as agent for taxing districts; defining its powers and  
20 duties, including sales of property, the management of  
21 property taken in sequestration, and the management, sale and  
22 disposition of property heretofore sold to the county  
23 commissioners, taxing districts and trustees at tax sales;  
24 providing a method for the service of process and notices;  
25 imposing duties on taxing districts and their officers and on  
26 tax collectors, and certain expenses on counties and for  
27 their reimbursement by taxing districts; and repealing  
28 existing laws," restricting the rights of certain persons to  
29 purchase property subject to sale under this act; and  
30 imposing additional powers and duties on local municipalities  
31 and tax claim bureaus.

32 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 hereby enacts as follows:

2 Section 1. The act of July 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known  
3 as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, is amended by adding a section  
4 to read:

5 Section 619. Restrictions on Purchases.--(a) Deeds for any  
6 property exposed for any sale under this act shall not be  
7 exchanged any sooner than fifteen (15) days nor later than  
8 thirty (30) days after any sale held under this act.

9 (b) A municipality may, within fifteen (15) days of any sale  
10 held under this act, petition the court of common pleas to  
11 prohibit the transfer of any deed for any property exposed for  
12 any sale under this act which is located in that municipality to  
13 any purchaser who is proven to meet any of the criteria set  
14 forth in the local municipality's petition.

15 (c) The petition of the local municipality shall, at a  
16 minimum, allege that the purchaser has over the last five years  
17 exhibited a course of conduct which demonstrates that the  
18 purchaser:

19 (1) permits uncorrected housing code violations to continue  
20 unabated after being convicted of those violations;

21 (2) fails to maintain the property owned by that purchaser  
22 in a reasonable manner;

23 (3) permits the use of property in an unsafe or unsanitary  
24 manner; or

25 (4) acts or has acted as an agent for a purchaser who seeks  
26 to avoid the limitations placed on the purchase of property by  
27 this act.

28 Allegations under this subsection shall be proved by a  
29 preponderance of the evidence.

30 (d) As used in this section:

1     "Purchaser," any individual, partner, shareholder, trust,  
2     partnership, limited partnership, corporation, or any other  
3     business association, or any trust, partnership, limited  
4     partnership, corporation or any other business association that  
5     has any individual as part of the business association who had  
6     any ownership interest or rights in the property. A change of  
7     name or business status shall not defeat the purpose of this  
8     section.

9     "Uncorrected housing code violations," any conviction of a  
10    violation of the local housing code which is not remedied within  
11    six (6) months of conviction.

12    Section 2. This act shall apply to all sales conducted on or  
13    after January 1, 1998.

14    Section 3. This act shall take effect in 30 days.