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# HOUSE BILL No. 1218

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 36-9-37.

**Synopsis:** Barrett Law assessment collection deferment. For purposes of the Barrett Law applicable to municipalities, allows a municipal fiscal officer and municipal works board to establish procedures allowing the municipality to defer collection of a special assessment that is in default by preserving the assessment as a lien upon the property subject to the assessment. Requires the collection of the preserved lien: (1) when ownership of the property is transferred; and (2) before the final bond maturity date. Provides that deferred assessments are treated similarly to delinquent property taxes. (Under current law, an assessment in default must be collected through: (1) payment in full; (2) foreclosure on the property; or (3) a conveyance in satisfaction of the assessment.) Makes a technical correction.

**Effective:** July 1, 2004.

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### Summers

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January 15, 2004, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.

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Second Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2004)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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**HOUSE BILL No. 1218**



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 36-9-37-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.62-2001,  
2 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 11. (a) If a municipal works board orders any of  
4 the following improvements and assessments are imposed after June  
5 30, 2001, to pay for the improvements or to repay bonds issued under  
6 this chapter after June 30, 2001, each owner of property assessed for  
7 that improvement may elect to pay the owner's assessment in  
8 installments with interest as described in section 8.5(a) of this chapter:

- 9 (1) Streets.
- 10 (2) Alleys.
- 11 (3) Other paved public places.
- 12 (4) Lighting.
- 13 (5) For municipalities that own and operate a water utility, water  
14 main extensions from the water utility.

15 SECTION 2. IC 36-9-37-19 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
16 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 19. (a) If a person  
17 defaults in the payment of a waived installment of principal or



1 interest of an assessment, the municipal fiscal officer shall mail notice  
 2 of the default to the person. The notice must meet the following  
 3 conditions:

- 4 (1) Be mailed not more than sixty (60) days after the default.  
 5 (2) Show the amount of the default, plus interest on that amount  
 6 for six (6) months at one-half (1/2) the rate prescribed by  
 7 IC 6-1.1-37-10.  
 8 (3) State that the amount of the default, plus interest, is due by the  
 9 following May 10 or November 10 after the notice is mailed.

10 (b) A notice that is mailed to the person in whose name the property  
 11 is assessed and addressed to the person within the municipality is  
 12 sufficient notice. However, the fiscal officer shall also attempt to  
 13 determine the name and address of the current owner of the property  
 14 and send a similar notice to the current owner.

15 (c) Failure to send the notice required by this section does not  
 16 preclude or otherwise affect the following:

- 17 (1) The sale of the property for delinquency as prescribed by  
 18 IC 6-1.1-24.  
 19 (2) The foreclosure of the assessment lien by the bondholder.

20 **(3) The preservation of the assessment lien under section 22.5**  
 21 **of this chapter.**

22 SECTION 3. IC 36-9-37-22 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 23 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 22. **Except as**  
 24 **provided in section 22.5 of this chapter**, the following apply if at least  
 25 one (1) installment of an assessment is in default:

- 26 (1) The total amount of the assessment that remains unpaid is  
 27 considered to be in default.  
 28 (2) The assessed property is subject to sale under sections 23  
 29 through 24 of this chapter to pay that amount.

30 **(3) The assessment is subject to the:**

- 31 **(A) requirements and duties imposed;**  
 32 **(B) rights and remedies provided; and**  
 33 **(C) procedures available to the county treasurer;**

34 **for the collection of delinquent property taxes.**

35 SECTION 4. IC 36-9-37-22.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 36 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 37 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: **Sec. 22.5. (a) The municipal fiscal**  
 38 **officer and the municipal works board may jointly establish**  
 39 **procedures allowing a municipality to avoid a sale that:**

- 40 **(1) is required under section 22 of this chapter; and**  
 41 **(2) would be conducted under IC 6-1.1-24;**

42 **by preserving an assessment that is in default as a lien against the**

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1 property on which the assessment was imposed. A lien created  
2 under this section applies to the total assessment principal, interest,  
3 and penalties owed by the property owner on the date on which the  
4 municipality determines that the assessment is in default.

5 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), an assessment  
6 preserved as a lien under this section is subject to collection by the  
7 county treasurer when ownership of the property is transferred.

8 (c) The following apply to an assessment preserved as a lien  
9 under this section:

10 (1) Additional penalties do not accrue to the lien after the date  
11 described in subsection (a).

12 (2) The procedures established under subsection (a) must  
13 specify when additional interest shall accrue to the lien after  
14 the date described in subsection (a).

15 (3) The lien must be recorded.

16 (4) The amount owed by the property owner must be collected  
17 by the county treasurer before the final bond maturity date.

18 (d) When the county treasurer collects an assessment preserved  
19 as a lien under this section, the proceeds of the collection are  
20 subject to the same requirements as the proceeds of a sale  
21 conducted under section 24 of this chapter.

22 SECTION 5. IC 36-9-37-25 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
23 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 25. (a) To avoid a  
24 foreclosure action on a special assessment, a municipality may:

25 (1) defer collection of the assessment under section 22.5 of this  
26 chapter; or

27 (2) accept a conveyance in satisfaction of the assessment from the  
28 owner of the assessed property.

29 (b) If there are bondholders other than the municipality holding  
30 bonds on the improvement for which the assessment was made, the  
31 municipality may do any of the following:

32 (1) Join with the other bondholders in accepting a conveyance of  
33 an undivided interest in the property.

34 (2) Cause a conveyance of the property to be made to a bank or  
35 trust company in the municipality and held under a trust  
36 agreement by the bank or trust company for the use and benefit of  
37 the municipality and the other bondholders.

38 (c) A conveyance under this section may be accepted by the  
39 municipality only if the head of the municipal legal department makes  
40 a written recommendation to the city executive or town legislative body  
41 that the conveyance be accepted.

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