

1       AN ACT relating to a property tax installment payment program.

2       *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3       ➔ SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 134 IS CREATED TO

4       READ AS FOLLOWS:

5       (1) As used in this section:

6       (a) "Designated property tax collector" means the:

7       1. Sheriff as provided in KRS 134.119; or

8       2. Special tax collector appointed by an independent school district board  
of education as provided in KRS 160.500; and

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10       (b) "Eligible taxpayer" means a taxpayer with estimated real property taxes due  
for the assessment year of two hundred dollars (\$200) or more.

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12       (2) Beginning January 1, 2029, property taxes on real property collected by a  
designated property tax collector may be paid by an eligible taxpayer in four (4)  
quarterly installments as provided in this section.

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15       (3) Each designated property tax collector shall create and administer a quarterly  
installment payment program in accordance with this section. The program shall  
be operational on or before January 1, 2029.

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18       (4) (a) In order to estimate an eligible taxpayer's quarterly installment payments  
prior to the actual tax liability being determined, the payments shall be  
based on the property taxes assessed against the property for the  
immediately preceding assessment year, unless the department allows for an  
alternative base to be calculated for an eligible taxpayer or updated  
assessment information is received by the designated property tax collector  
pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection.

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for the immediately preceding assessment year and then divide the sum by four (4).

(c) 1. Within fifteen (15) days after the property tax assessments and tax rates are finalized for preparing the property tax bills, as provided in KRS 133.220, the county clerk shall provide the assessment and tax rate information to the designated property tax collector.

2. When a property valuation administrator becomes aware that the estimated assessment of a particular parcel of property is expected to increase or decrease by more than twenty-five percent (25%) from the immediately preceding year's assessment, the property valuation administrator shall notify the designated property tax collector within fifteen (15) days of finalizing the assessment.

3. The designated property tax collector shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the updated information from the county clerk or property valuation administrator as required by subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this paragraph:

a. Make necessary adjustments to the remaining installment payment amounts to allow the eligible taxpayer to pay the total amount due in full on or before the due date established by Section 3 of this Act; and

**b. Notify the eligible taxpayer of the adjustments made.**

Any adjustment, whether an increase or decrease, shall be evenly divided between the remaining installment payments.

(d) Any overpayment, as of the due date established by Section 3 of this Act, may be automatically applied to the eligible taxpayer's real property tax bill for the immediately following assessment year or may be refunded to the eligible taxpayer at his or her request.

1       (5) (a) Before January 10, 2029, and on or before each January 10 thereafter, the  
2       designated property tax collector shall:

3       1. Post information about the quarterly installment payment program on  
4       its website, or on the county website; and

5       2. Send every eligible taxpayer within the jurisdiction a notification that  
6       provides information about the quarterly installment payment  
7       program and the requirements for participation.

8       (b) Full payment of the first installment by the eligible taxpayer on or before its  
9       due date shall constitute enrollment in the quarterly installment payment  
10       program, unless the eligible taxpayer:

11       1. Participates in an alternative enrollment option established by the  
12       department; or

13       2. Fails to meet any additional requirements established by the  
14       department.

15       (c) 1. The designated tax collector shall provide updated information to  
16       eligible taxpayers regarding the status of payments and the  
17       outstanding balance remaining on at least a quarterly basis and shall  
18       provide access to the information electronically when possible.

19       2. Information provided by the electronic system, if available, and the  
20       notifications required by this paragraph shall include, at a minimum:

21       a. The eligible taxpayer's estimated property taxes;

22       b. The amount of each quarterly installment;

23       c. The due date for each quarterly installment;

24       d. The total property taxes paid to date by the eligible taxpayer for  
25       the assessment year;

26       e. The eligible taxpayer's outstanding property tax balance for the  
27       assessment year;

- 1        f. Details of all adjustments made to the quarterly installments;
- 2        g. An explanation that the quarterly installment amounts may
- 3        increase or decrease in order to reflect the actual assessed value
- 4        of the property and the tax rates for the assessment year; and
- 5        h. An explanation of the duties of the eligible taxpayer under the
- 6        quarterly installment payment program.

7        (d) The preferred method for providing information, sending notices, and  
8        communicating with eligible taxpayers, and receipt of payments for the  
9        quarterly installment payment program shall be through use of an  
10        electronic, web-based system. However, in recognition that some designated  
11        property tax collectors and some eligible taxpayers may lack the technology  
12        necessary to use this method, the department shall establish alternative  
13        methods for the provision of information, sending of notices, and receipt of  
14        payments to ensure that the quarterly installment payment program is  
15        widely available.

16        (6) The designated property tax collector shall be entitled to an administrative fee for  
17        each quarterly installment collected. The fee shall:  
18        (a) Be paid by each eligible taxpayer that participates in the quarterly  
19        installment payment program;  
20        (b) Be separately stated and clearly identified as an administrative fee in the  
21        eligible taxpayer's quarterly installment; and  
22        (c) Not exceed three percent (3%) of the total taxes due.

23        (7) (a) The two percent (2%) discount for the early payment of property taxes as  
24        provided by Section 3 of this Act shall not apply to taxes paid under a  
25        quarterly installment payment program.  
26        (b) Penalties and interest shall not be assessed by a designated property tax  
27        collector for late payments received under a quarterly installment payment

1                   program. Penalties, interest, and collection processes shall apply in  
2                   accordance with this chapter to property taxes that become delinquent after  
3                   the due date established by Section 3 of this Act.

4                   (8) The department shall, through the promulgation of administrative regulations in  
5                   accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, establish guidelines, conditions, and  
6                   standards for quarterly installment payment programs to ensure uniformity in the  
7                   administration by designated tax collectors and to ensure that the program will be  
8                   available statewide. The administrative regulations shall include but not be  
9                   limited to the following:

10                   (a) Accounting and tracking procedures for installment payments to ensure  
11                   that payments are clearly identified and associated with a specific parcel;

12                   (b) A process for setting the administrative fee permitted by subsection (6) of  
13                   this section;

14                   (c) Alternative enrollment options for eligible taxpayers;

15                   (d) Any forms necessary for administration of the quarterly installment  
16                   payment program;

17                   (e) Conditions under which a taxpayer may be ineligible for or rejected from  
18                   the program, and any appeal rights a taxpayer who is deemed ineligible or  
19                   rejected from the program may have;

20                   (f) The processes for collection, distribution, handling, and refunding of  
21                   property taxes collected under the program;

22                   (g) The process for determining when an installment payment plan is in  
23                   default, and the processes and procedures for addressing the default;

24                   (h) The requirements for the electronic systems that provide eligible taxpayers  
25                   access to their property tax information;

26                   (i) Details on the information that shall be posted on the designated property  
27                   tax collector's website or the county's website;

1                   (j) *The processes in providing notices to eligible taxpayers and accepting*  
2                   *payments under the quarterly installment payment program; and*  
3                   (k) *Any other requirements the department determines necessary for the*  
4                   *quarterly installment payment program to operate in an efficient,*  
5                   *transparent, and accessible manner.*

6                   (9) *The department shall make available on its website information about installment*  
7                   *payment plans with contact information for each designated tax collector.*

8                   (10) *Any designated property tax collector who does not comply with this section and*  
9                   *any administrative regulations promulgated for quarterly installment programs*  
10                   *shall be subject to penalties in KRS 134.990.*

11                   ➔Section 2. KRS 133.220 is amended to read as follows:

12                   (1) The department annually shall furnish to each county clerk tax bill forms designed  
13                   for adequate accounting control sufficient to cover the taxable property on the rolls.  
14                   (2) After receiving the forms, the county clerk shall prepare for the use of the sheriff or  
15                   collector a correct tax bill for each taxpayer in the county whose property has been  
16                   assessed and whose valuation is included in the certification provided in KRS  
17                   133.180. If the bills are bound, the cost of binding shall be paid out of the county  
18                   levy. Each tax bill shall show the rate of tax upon each one hundred dollars (\$100)  
19                   worth of property for state, county, and school purposes; the name of the taxpayer  
20                   and his or her mailing address; the number of acres of farm land and its value; the  
21                   number of lots and their value; the amount and value of notes and money; the value  
22                   of mixed personal property; the total amount of taxes due the state, county, school  
23                   district, and any other taxing district for which the sheriff collects taxes; and shall  
24                   include a statement that notifies the taxpayer that costs and fees increase  
25                   substantially if the taxes become delinquent. Provision shall be made for the sheriff  
26                   to have a stub, duplicate, or other proper evidence of receipt of payment of each tax  
27                   bill.

1       (3) Tax bills prepared in accordance with the certification of the department shall be  
2       delivered to the sheriff or collector by the county clerk before September 15 of each  
3       year. The clerk shall take a receipt showing the number of tax bills and the total  
4       amount of tax due each taxing district as shown upon the tax bills. The receipt shall  
5       be signed and acknowledged by the sheriff or collector before the county clerk,  
6       filed with the county judge/executive, and recorded in the order book of the county  
7       judge/executive in the manner required by law for recording the official bond of the  
8       sheriff.

9       (4) **(a)** Upon delivery to him or her of the tax bills, the sheriff or collector shall mail  
10       a notice to each taxpayer, showing the total amount of taxes due the state,  
11       county, school district, and any other taxing district for which the sheriff  
12       collects taxes, the date on which the taxes are due, and any discount to which  
13       the taxpayer may be entitled upon payment of the taxes prior to a designated  
14       date. The sheriff shall not mail tax notices prior to September 15.

15       **(b) For taxpayers that participate in a quarterly installment payment program**  
16       **as permitted by Section 1 of this Act, the sheriff or collector shall include in**  
17       **with the taxpayer's tax notice a statement that provides the:**

18       **1. Total estimated assessment used in calculating the installment**  
19       **payments;**

20       **2. Total payments made by the taxpayer to date;**

21       **3. Actual assessment for the assessment year;**

22       **4. Difference between the estimated and actual assessment for the**  
23       **assessment year; and**

24       **5. Amount due under the remaining installments once adjusted to reflect**  
25       **the actual assessment for the assessment year.**

26       (5) All notices returned as undeliverable shall be submitted no later than the following  
27       work day to the property valuation administrator. The property valuation

1 administrator shall correct inadequate or erroneous addresses if the information to  
2 do so is available and, if property has been transferred, shall determine the new  
3 owner and the current mailing address, or the in-care-of address reflected in the  
4 deed as required by KRS 382.135. The property valuation administrator shall return  
5 the corrected notices to the sheriff or collector on a daily basis as corrections are  
6 made, but no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt. Uncorrected notices shall be  
7 submitted to the department by the property valuation administrator.

8 ➔Section 3. KRS 134.015 is amended to read as follows:

- 9 (1) All property taxes are due and payable on or before December 31 of the assessment  
10 year except as otherwise provided by law. Payment shall be made to the sheriff as  
11 provided in KRS 134.119 unless otherwise provided by law.
- 12 (2) (a) Any taxpayer, except taxpayers paying under a quarterly installment  
13 program established by Section 1 of this Act, who pays the property taxes in  
14 full by November 1 of the assessment year shall receive a two percent (2%)  
15 discount on the amount otherwise due.  
16 (b) Taxes paid in full between November 2 and December 31 of the assessment  
17 year shall be paid at the amount reflected on the tax bill without discount or  
18 penalty.  
19 (c) Taxes paid in full between January 1 and January 31 of the year following the  
20 assessment year shall be subject to a penalty of five percent (5%) of the taxes  
21 due and unpaid.  
22 (d) Taxes paid after January 31 of the year following the assessment year shall be  
23 subject to a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the taxes due and unpaid.  
24 (3) If the regular collection schedule established by subsections (1) and (2) of this  
25 section is delayed, the department may establish an alternative collection schedule.  
26 Taxes shall be due two (2) full months from the date the tax bills are mailed. The  
27 alternative collection schedule shall allow a two percent (2%) discount for all tax

1 bills paid in full within one (1) full month of the date the tax bills were mailed,  
2 except for the taxes paid under a quarterly installment program established by  
3 Section 1 of this Act. Upon expiration of the discount period, the face amount  
4 reflected on the tax bill without discount or penalty shall be due for the next full  
5 month. Payments made within one (1) month following the face amount period  
6 shall be subject to a penalty of five percent (5%) of the taxes due and unpaid.  
7 Payments made after the five percent (5%) penalty period shall be subject to a  
8 penalty of ten percent (10%) of the taxes due and unpaid.

9 (4) All taxes due under this section and all fees, penalties, and interest thereon are a  
10 personal debt of the taxpayer on the assessment date, from the time the tax becomes  
11 due until paid.

12 (5) The lien that attaches to property on which taxes have become delinquent under  
13 KRS 134.420 shall continue as provided in KRS 134.420, from the time the taxes  
14 become delinquent until the taxes are paid or the eleven (11) year period established  
15 by KRS 134.420 expires, regardless of who owns the property.

16 (6) A tax bill issued against omitted property, or an increase in valuation over that  
17 claimed by the taxpayer, as finally determined upon appeal as provided for in KRS  
18 133.120, shall be due the day the bill is prepared and shall be considered delinquent  
19 on that date. If the tax bill is not paid within one (1) full month of the due date, an  
20 additional penalty of ten percent (10%) of the tax, fees, penalties, and interest due  
21 shall be added to the tax bill. The laws relating to delinquent taxes on the same  
22 class of property or taxpayers involved shall apply to delinquent omitted tax bills  
23 unless otherwise provided by law.