SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 881

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SIFTON.

Read 1st time February 18, 2014, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

6068S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 143.902, 144.380, and 144.690, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to collection of delinquent taxes, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 143.902, 144.380, and 144.690, RSMo, are repealed 2 and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 140.910, 3 143.902, 144.380, and 144.690, to read as follows:

140.910. 1. In addition to any other remedy provided by law for the collection of delinquent taxes due the state, if the director of 2 revenue has filed a certificate of lien in the circuit court as provided 3 4 by sections 143.902, 144.380, or 144.690, the director or the director's 5 designee may issue an order directing any person to withhold and pay 6 over to the department of revenue assets belonging to, due, or to 7 become due the taxpayer. The director or the director's designee shall not issue the administrative garnishment if the taxpayer has entered 8 into a written agreement with the department for an alternative 9 payment arrangement and the taxpayer is in compliance with the 10 11 agreement.

2. An order entered under this section shall be served on the person either by regular or certified mail, return receipt requested, or through electronic means if the person has provided prior written consent to such service, and is binding on the employer or other payor on receipt. The person in possession of assets belonging to, due, or to become due the taxpayer may deduct a sum not to exceed six dollars per month as reimbursement for costs, except that the total amount
withheld shall not exceed the limitations under 15 U.S.C. 1673 of the
federal Consumer Credit Protection Act.

213. A copy of the order shall be mailed to the taxpayer at the 22taxpayer's last known address. The notice shall advise the taxpayer that the administrative garnishment has commenced and the 23 procedures to contest such garnishment by requesting a hearing within 24thirty days from the date of the notice. At such a hearing, the certified 2526records of the department shall constitute prima facie evidence that the director's order is valid and enforceable. If a prima facie case is 27established, the obligor may only assert as a defense mistake as to the 2829identity of the taxpayer, mistake as to payments made, or existence of an alternative payment agreement for which no default has 30 occurred. The taxpayer has the burden of proof on such issues. The 3132taxpayer may obtain relief from the garnishment by paying the amount owed. 33

34 4. An employer or other payor shall withhold from the earnings or other income of each taxpayer the amount specified in the 35order. The employer or other payor shall transmit the payments as 36 directed in the order within ten business days of the date the earnings, 37money due, or other income was payable to the taxpayer. For purposes 3839 of this section, "business day" means a day that state offices are open 40 for regular business. The employer or other payor shall provide the 41 date the amount was withheld from the taxpayer along with the 42amounts transmitted.

43 5. If the order is served on a person other than an employer or other payor, it is a lien against any money belonging to the taxpayer 44 that is in the possession of the person on the date of service. The 45person other than an employer or other payor shall pay over any assets 46 within ten business days of the service date of the order. A financial 47institution ordered to surrender an account is entitled to collect its 48 normally scheduled account activity surcharges to maintain the 49 account during the period of time the account is garnished. For 5051purposes of this section, the interest of the taxpayer in any joint 52financial accounts shall be presumed to be equal to all other joint 53 owners.

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6. An order issued under subsection 1 of this section is a

55 continuing order and remains in effect and is binding upon any person 56 to whom it is directed until a further order of the director. The 57 director shall notify such person to whom such an order has been 58 directed when the deficiency is paid in full.

7. An order issued pursuant to subsection 1 of this section has
priority over any other legal process pursuant to state law against the
same income or other asset, except legal process issued under sections
452.350, 454.505, and 454.507, for the withholding for child support.

63 8. No person who complies with an order entered under this section shall be liable to the taxpayer, or to any other person claiming 64 rights derived from the taxpayer, for wrongful withholding. A person 65 who fails or refuses to withhold or pay the amounts as ordered 66 pursuant to this section will be liable to the state in a sum equal to the 67 value of the wages or property not surrendered, but not to exceed the 68 amount of tax deficiency. The director is authorized to bring an action 69 in circuit court to determine the liability of a person for failure to 70withhold or pay the amounts as ordered. If a court finds that a 71violation has occurred, the court may fine the person in an amount not 72to exceed five hundred dollars. The court may also enter a judgment 73against the person or other legal entity for the amounts not 74surrendered, court costs, and reasonable attorney's fees. 75

9. The remedy provided by this section is available when the state or any of its political subdivisions is the employer or other payor of the taxpayer in the same manner and to the same extent as when the employer or other payor is a private party.

80 10. An employer shall not discharge, refuse to hire or otherwise discipline an employee as a result of an order to withhold and pay over 81 money authorized by this section. If any such employee is discharged 82 within thirty days of the date upon which an order to withhold and pay 83 over money is to take effect, there is a rebuttable presumption that 84 such discharge was a result of such order. This presumption can be 85 86 overcome only by clear and convincing evidence produced by the employer that the employee was not terminated because of the order 87 to withhold and pay over certain money. The director or the director's 88 designee is authorized to bring an action in circuit court to determine 89 whether the discharge constitutes a violation of this subsection. If the 90 court finds that a violation has occurred, the court may enter an order 91

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against the employer requiring reinstatement of the employee and may fine the employer in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars. The court may also enter judgment against the employer for the back wages, costs, attorney's fees, and for the amount of taxes that should

95 wages, costs, attorney's fees, and for the amount of taxes that should
96 have been withheld and paid over during the period of time the
97 employee was wrongfully discharged.

98 11. If a taxpayer whose earnings or other income are subject to an order issued under subsection 1 of this section terminates the 99 taxpayer's employment, the employer shall notify the department of the 100 termination within ten days of the termination, provide to the 101 102department the last address of the taxpayer known to the employer, and provide to the department the name and address of the taxpayer's 103 new employer, if known. The director or the director's designee may 104 105issue an order to the new employer as provided in subsection 1 of this 106 section.

107 12. For purposes of this section, "assets" include, but are not 108 limited to, currency, any financial account or other liquid asset, and 109 any income or other periodic form of payment due to a taxpayer 110 regardless of source, including, but not limited to, wages, salaries, 111 commissions, bonuses, workers' compensation benefits, disability 112 benefits, payments pursuant to a pension or a retirement program, and 113 interest.

143.902. 1. In any case in which any assessment of tax, interest, $\mathbf{2}$ additions to tax or penalty imposed under sections 143.005 to 143.998 has been made and has become final, the director of revenue may file for record in the 3 recorder's office of any county in which the taxpayer owing such tax, interest, 4 additions to tax or penalty resides, owns property or has a place of business, a 5certificate of lien specifying the amount of the tax, interest, additions to tax or 6 penalty due and the name of the taxpayer liable for the same. Included in the 7notice of deficiency, the director shall notify the taxpayer of the department's 8 intent to file prior to the filing of such certificate. Such notification shall contain 9 a summary of the taxpayer's right to protest or contest such proposed 10 deficiency. The director shall within twenty days after filing such certificate 11 12notify the taxpayer by first class mail postage prepaid.

13 (1) The lien shall arise on the date such assessment becomes final and 14 shall be continuing and shall attach to real or personal property or interest in

real or personal property owned by the taxpayer or acquired in any manner by 15the taxpayer after the filing of the certificate of lien. Unless sooner released or 16 discharged, the lien shall expire ten years after the certificate of lien was filed, 17 unless within such ten-year period, the certificate of lien has been refiled by the 18 director of revenue with the recorder. Unless sooner released or discharged, a 19 timely refiled certificate of lien shall be treated as if filed on the date of filing of 20the original certificate of lien, and shall expire ten years after the refiling. A 2122certificate of lien may not be refiled more than one time.

23(2) If any taxpayer fails to pay any tax, interest, additions to tax or 24penalties imposed by this chapter when due and the assessment for which has 25become final, the director may file for record in the office of the clerk of the 26circuit court of any county in which the taxpayer resides, or has a place of 27business, or owns property, the certificate of lien specifying the amount of the tax, 28interest, additions to tax and penalties due and the name of the liable 29taxpayer. The clerk of the circuit court shall file such certificate and enter it in the record of the circuit court for judgments and decrees under the procedure 30 31prescribed for filing transcripts of judgments. If the taxpayer does not reside, have a place of business or own property in the state of Missouri, the director 3233 may file for record a certificate of delinquency in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Cole County. From the time of the filing of the certificate of lien 3435 or certificate of delinquency with the clerk of the circuit court, the amount of the tax, interest, additions to tax and penalties specified therein shall have the full 36 37 and effect of a default judgment of the circuit court until force 38satisfied. Execution shall issue at the request of the director of revenue or [his] 39 the director's agent as is provided in the case of other judgments. No exemption shall be allowed from the levy of an execution issued for any 40 delinquent tax, interest, additions to tax or penalties due under the provisions of 41 sections 143.191 to 143.265. No bond shall be required of the director of revenue, 42[his] **the director's** agent or of the sheriff before making the levy. 43

(3) The remedies in this subsection are cumulative and in addition to other collection methods given the director of revenue. No action taken shall be construed as an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy or action hereunder to the exclusion of any other remedy or action for which provision is made.

49 (4) If any certificate of lien has been erroneously or improvidently filed,50 the taxpayer or any other person affected by the lien may notify the director of

revenue. The taxpayer or other affected person shall provide the director with 5152the reasons the filing of the certificate of lien is erroneous or improvident as to such person (including that the affected person's name or other identification is 53similar to the taxpayer's) and a list of creditors with current addresses who are 54affected by the department's action. Upon receipt of the creditor list, reasons and 55verification of the erroneous or improvident filing, the director shall release the 56lien as to the taxpayer or the affected person, as necessary, and notify all 57creditors, stating the certificate of lien was filed erroneously or improvidently. If 5859the certificate of lien was erroneously or improvidently filed the director shall 60 forthwith make a determination in writing which shall become a public record in 61 the same place the certificate of lien is noted under subsection 5 of this section 62 that the same be expunded from the record and give written notice thereof, duly 63 certified, by certified mail to the recorder of deeds and the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the same is recorded and upon receipt by the recorder 64 65of deeds and the clerk of the circuit court of the certification the recorder and clerk shall immediately cause such record to be expunged. The director 66 67 shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the lien is expunged. The 68 director shall pay a three-dollar fee charged by the recorder when an erroneously 69 or improvidently filed lien is expunged.

2. The lien imposed under subsection 1 of this section may be wholly or partly released by filing for record in the office of the county recorder a release thereof executed by the director of revenue upon payment of the tax, interest, additions to tax and penalties or upon receipt by the director of revenue of security sufficient to secure payment thereof, or by final judgment holding such certificate of lien to have been erroneously or improvidently imposed.

3. The director may release any part of the property subject to the lien by filing with the county recorder a copy of the original lien document and an affidavit containing a legal description of the property, and stating that the property is to be released from the lien. The county recorder shall note the partial release in the same manner as provided in section 443.090. The release of any specific property shall not affect in any manner other property subject to lien.

4. Each county recorder shall receive a fee of three dollars which shall be charged for the filing of each certificate of lien and a fee of one dollar and fifty cents for each release of lien filed for record. Such amounts shall be paid to the county recorder from funds appropriated to the department of revenue for that 87 purpose. The county recorder shall be reimbursed by presenting a statement, 88 showing the number of certificates and releases filed, to the department of 89 revenue each calendar quarter. The department of revenue is authorized to 90 collect an additional penalty from each taxpayer equal to the cost of filing a 91 certificate of lien or release of lien with respect to such taxpayer.

92 5. The director of revenue shall establish and maintain records for all 93 certificates of lien filed under this section. The director shall also maintain records of all releases of lien filed under this section. The provisions of section 94 32.057 to the contrary notwithstanding, the records prepared by the director 95 under this section, to the extent such information is or may be on file with the 96 97 recorder, shall be open to public inspection. Such records established and 98 maintained by the director shall not be the official record and are not conclusive 99 evidence of any liability of any taxpayer to this state.

6. If any action is taken by the director under the provisions of this chapter; including, but not limited to, section 143.791, to alter or abate any assessment upon which a judgment has been filed under the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the director is authorized to file a modification or satisfaction of such judgment.

144.380. 1. In any case in which any assessment of tax, interest, $\mathbf{2}$ additions to tax or penalty imposed under sections 144.010 to 144.510 has been 3 made and has become final, the director of revenue may file for record in the recorder's office of any county in which the taxpayer owing such tax, interest, 4 additions to tax or penalty resides, owns property or has a place of business a 56 certificate of lien specifying the amount of the tax, additions to tax, interest or 7 penalty due and the name of the person liable for the same. Included in the assessment, the director shall notify the taxpayer of the department's intent to 8 file prior to the filing of such certificate. Such notification shall contain an 9 explanation of the taxpayer's right to protest or contest such proposed 10 assessment. The director shall within twenty days after filing such certificate 11 12notify the taxpayer by first class mail postage prepaid.

(1) The lien shall arise on the date such assessment becomes final and shall be continuing and shall attach to real or personal property or interest in real or personal property owned by the taxpayer or acquired in any manner by the taxpayer after the filing of the certificate of lien. Unless sooner released or discharged, the lien shall expire ten years after the certificate of lien was filed, unless within such ten-year period, the certificate of lien has been refiled by the 19 director of revenue with the recorder. Unless sooner released or discharged, a 20 timely refiled certificate of lien shall be treated as if filed on the date of filing of 21 the original certificate of lien and shall expire ten years after the refiling. A 22 certificate of lien may not be refiled more than one time.

23(2) If any taxpayer fails to pay any tax, interest, additions to tax or penalties imposed by sections 144.010 to 144.525 when due and the assessment 2425for which has become final, the director may file for record in the office of the 26clerk of the circuit court of any county in which the taxpayer resides, or has a 27place of business, or owns property, a certificate of lien specifying the amount of 28the tax, interest, additions to tax and penalties due and the name of the liable 29taxpayer. The clerk of the circuit court shall file such certificate and enter it in 30 the record of the circuit court for judgments and decrees under the procedure 31prescribed for filing transcripts of judgments. If the taxpayer does not reside, 32have a place of business or own property in the state of Missouri, the director 33 may file for record a certificate of delinquency in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Cole County. From the time of the filing of the certificate of lien 3435or certificate of delinquency with the clerk of the circuit court, the amount of the tax, interest, additions to tax and penalties specified therein shall have the full 36 force and effect of a default judgment of the circuit court until 37satisfied. Execution shall issue at the request of the director of revenue or [his] 38 39 the director's agent as is provided in the case of other judgments. No exemption shall be allowed from the levy of an execution issued for such 40delinquent tax, interest, additions to tax or penalties and no bond shall be 41 42required of the director of revenue, [his] the director's agent, or of the sheriff 43before making the levy.

(3) The remedies in this subsection are cumulative and in addition to other collection methods given the director of revenue. No action taken shall be construed as an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy or action hereunder to the exclusion of any other remedy or action for which provision is made.

(4) If any certificate of lien has been erroneously or improvidently filed, the taxpayer or any other person affected by the lien may notify the director of revenue. The taxpayer or other affected person shall provide the director with the reasons the filing of the certificate of lien is erroneous or improvident as to such person (including that the affected person's name or other identification is similar to the taxpayer's) and a list of creditors with current addresses who are 55affected by the department's action. Upon receipt of the creditor list, reasons and verification of the erroneous or improvident filing, the director shall release the 56lien as to the taxpayer or the affected person, as necessary, and notify all 57creditors, stating the certificate of lien was filed erroneously or improvidently. If 58the certificate of lien was erroneously or improvidently filed after August 13, 591987, the director shall forthwith make a determination in writing which shall 60 become a public record in the same place the certificate of lien is noted under 61 subsection 5 of this section that the same be expunded from the record and give 62 written notice thereof, duly certified, by certified mail to the recorder of deeds 63 and the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the same is recorded 64 65 and upon receipt by the recorder of deeds and the clerk of the circuit court 66 of the certification the recorder **and clerk** shall immediately cause such record 67 to be expunged. The director shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the lien is expunged. The director shall pay a three-dollar fee charged by the 68 69 recorder when an erroneously or improvidently filed lien is expunged.

2. The lien imposed under subsection 1 of this section may be wholly or partly released by filing for record in the office of the county recorder a release thereof executed by the director of revenue upon payment of the tax, interest, additions to tax and penalties or upon receipt by the director of revenue of security sufficient to secure payment thereof, or by final judgment holding such certificate of lien to have been erroneously or improvidently imposed.

3. The director may release any part of the property subject to the lien by filing with the county recorder a copy of the original lien document and an affidavit containing a legal description of the property and stating that the property is to be released from the lien. The county recorder shall note the partial release in the same manner as provided in section 443.090. The release of any specific property shall not affect in any manner other property subject to lien.

83 4. Each county recorder shall receive a fee of three dollars which shall be charged for the filing of each certificate of lien and a fee of one dollar and fifty 84 cents for each release of lien filed for record. Such amounts shall be paid to the 85 county recorder from funds appropriated to the department of revenue for that 86 87 purpose. The county recorder shall be reimbursed by presenting a statement, 88 showing the number of certificates and releases filed, to the department of 89 revenue each calendar quarter. The department of revenue is authorized to 90 collect an additional penalty from each taxpayer equal to the cost of filing a 91 certificate of lien or release of lien with respect to such taxpayer.

92 5. The director of revenue shall establish and maintain records for all certificates of lien filed under this section. The director shall also maintain 93 records of all releases of lien filed under this section. The provisions of section 94 32.057 to the contrary notwithstanding, the records prepared by the director 9596 under this section, to the extent such information is or may be on file with the recorder, shall be open to public inspection. Such records established and 97 maintained by the director shall not be the official record and are not conclusive 98 99 evidence of any liability of any taxpayer to this state.

6. If any action is taken by the director under the provisions of this chapter; including, but not limited to, section 144.425, to alter or abate any assessment upon which a judgment has been filed under the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the director is authorized to file a modification or satisfaction of such judgment.

144.690. 1. In any case in which any assessment of tax, interest, additions to tax, or penalty imposed under sections 144.600 to 144.745 $\mathbf{2}$ 3 has been made and has become final, the director of revenue may file for record in the recorder's office of any county in which the taxpayer 4 owing such tax, interest, additions to tax, or penalty resides, owns 5property or has a place of business a certificate of lien specifying the 6 amount of the tax, additions to tax, interest, or penalty due and the 7 name of the person liable for the same. Included in the assessment, the 8 9 director shall notify the taxpayer of the department's intent to file 10 prior to the filing of such certificate. Such notification shall contain an explanation of the taxpayer's right to protest or contest such proposed 11 assessment. The director shall within twenty days after filing such 12certificate notify the taxpayer by first class mail postage prepaid. 13

14 (1) The lien shall arise on the date such assessment becomes final and shall be continuing and shall attach to real or personal 1516 property or interest in real or personal property owned by the taxpayer 17or acquired in any manner by the taxpayer after the filing of the 18 certificate of lien. Unless sooner released or discharged, the lien shall expire ten years after the certificate of lien was filed, unless within 19 such ten-year period, the certificate of lien has been refiled by the 20director of revenue with the recorder. Unless sooner released or 21discharged, a timely refiled certificate of lien shall be treated as if filed 22

on the date of filing of the original certificate of lien and shall expire
ten years after the refiling. A certificate of lien may not be refiled
more than one time.

26(2) If any taxpayer refuses or neglects to pay any tax, interest or penalty imposed by this law when due and the assessment of which has become final, the 27director may file for record in the office of the clerk of the circuit court in any 2829county in which the taxpayer owing the tax, interest or penalty resides, or has a place of business or in which he has property, or all of them, a certificate 30 specifying the amount of the tax, interest and penalties due and the name of the 31taxpayer liable. The clerk of the circuit court shall file the certificate of record 32 and enter it in the record of the circuit court for judgments and decrees under the 33 34 procedure prescribed for filing transcripts of judgments. From the time of the 35 filing of the certificate, the amount of the tax, interest and penalties specified 36 therein shall have the force and effect of a judgment of the circuit court until satisfied by the director of revenue through his duly authorized 37 38 agents. Execution shall issue at the request of the director of revenue or [his] the director's agent as is provided in the case of other judgments. No 39 exemption shall be allowed from the levy of an execution issued for the tax, 40 interest and penalties and no indemnifying bond is required by the sheriff before 41 42making levy.

[2.] (3) The foregoing remedy is cumulative and in addition to the methods given the director of revenue for the collection of the Missouri sales tax which are here made available to him in the collections of the tax, interest and penalties imposed by sections 144.600 to 144.745. No action taken shall be construed as an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy or action hereunder to the exclusion of any other remedy or action for which provision is made.

50(4) If any certificate of lien has been erroneously or improvidently filed, the taxpayer or any other person affected by the 51lien may notify the director of revenue. The taxpayer or other affected 52person shall provide the director with the reasons the filing of the 53certificate of lien is erroneous or improvident as to such person, 54including that the affected person's name or other identification is 55similar to the taxpayer's, and a list of creditors with current addresses 56who are affected by the department's action. Upon receipt of the 57creditor list, reasons and verification of the erroneous or improvident 58

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59filing, the director shall release the lien as to the taxpayer or the affected person, as necessary, and notify all creditors, stating the 60 certificate of lien was filed erroneously or improvidently. If the 61 certificate of lien was erroneously or improvidently filed after August 62 13, 1987, the director shall make a determination in writing which shall 63 become a public record in the same place the certificate of lien is noted 64 under subsection 5 of this section that the same be expunged from the 65 record and give written notice thereof, duly certified, by certified mail 66 67 to the recorder of deeds and the clerk of the circuit clerk in the county where the same is recorded and upon receipt by the recorder of deeds 68 69 and the clerk of the circuit court of the certification the recorder and clerk shall immediately cause such record to be expunged. The 70 director shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the lien is 7172expunged. The director shall pay a three-dollar fee charged by the 73recorder when an erroneously or improvidently filed lien is expunged.

2. The lien imposed under subsection 1 of this section may be wholly or partly released by filing for record in the office of the county recorder a release thereof executed by the director of revenue upon payment of the tax, interest, additions to tax and penalties, or upon receipt by the director of revenue of security sufficient to secure payment thereof, or by final judgment holding such certificate of lien to have been erroneously or improvidently imposed.

81 3. The director may release any part of the property subject to 82 the lien by filing with the county recorder a copy of the original lien 83 document and an affidavit containing a legal description of the 84 property and stating that the property is to be released from the 85 lien. The county recorder shall note the partial release in the same 86 manner as provided in section 443.090. The release of any specific 87 property shall not affect in any manner other property subject to lien.

88 4. Each county recorder shall receive a fee of three dollars which shall be charged for the filing of each certificate of lien and a fee of one 89 90 dollar and fifty cents for each release of lien filed for record. Such amounts shall be paid to the county recorder from funds appropriated 91 92to the department of revenue for that purpose. The county recorder 93 shall be reimbursed by presenting a statement, showing the number of certificates and releases filed, to the department of revenue each 94 95calendar quarter. The department of revenue is authorized to collect 96 an additional penalty from each taxpayer equal to the cost of filing a97 certificate of lien or release of lien with respect to such taxpayer.

98 5. The director of revenue shall establish and maintain records for all certificates of lien filed under this section. The director shall 99 100 also maintain records of all releases of lien filed under this section. The provisions of section 32.057 to the contrary 101 notwithstanding, the records prepared by the director under this 102section, to the extent such information is or may be on file with the 103 recorder, shall be open to public inspection. Such records established 104 105 and maintained by the director shall not be the official record and are not conclusive evidence of any liability of any taxpayer to this state. 106

6. If any action is taken by the director under the provisions of this chapter to alter or abate any assessment upon which a judgment has been filed under the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the director is authorized to file a modification or satisfaction of such judgment.