

THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 206 of 1893

211.56a Personal property taxes uncollected for 5 years; petition; striking from rolls; judgment; duties of county treasurer.

Sec. 56a.

(1) If a tax levied on personal property remains uncollected for more than 5 years after that tax becomes delinquent, the township or city treasurer shall prepare a statement showing all of the following:

- (a) The taxes levied upon personal property that remain unpaid.
- (b) The names of the persons against whom those taxes were assessed.
- (c) The amount assessed against each person that remains uncollected, together with all fees, penalties, and interest due under this act or under a city charter.

(2) The original copy of the statement prepared pursuant to subsection (1) shall be filed with the circuit court of the county in which the township or city is located together with a petition. Two or more township or city treasurers may file a joint petition under this section.

(3) The petition shall state all of the following:

(a) That the taxes upon personal property as shown in the statement have remained unpaid for more than 5 years after they were returned to the county treasurer as delinquent.

(b) That the taxes have remained delinquent despite the fact that the township or city treasurer or his or her predecessors in office exercised due diligence in an effort to collect the taxes.

(c) The taxes are, to the township or city treasurer's best knowledge and information, uncollectible.

(4) The petition shall request that a date, not less than 30 nor more than 45 days after the date of filing the petition, be set for a hearing on the petition and that the court enter a judgment in favor of the township or city, striking those taxes from the tax rolls of the county and township or city. If a judgment is entered in favor of the township or city, the taxes in the statement shall cease to constitute an asset of the township or city, the county in which the township or city is located, and any school district or other taxing entity in which the personal property was located at the time it was assessed for taxes.

(5) The township or city treasurer shall, not less than 10 days before the date set by the circuit court for the hearing, notify the county treasurer and the clerk or secretary of any school district in which any personal property may have been located at the time it was assessed for taxes that a petition was filed with the circuit court under this section, that the statement required under this section was prepared, and the date set for the hearing on the petition.

(6) Within 15 days after the hearing on the petition, the court shall enter a judgment that as to all items or personal taxes set forth in the statement of uncollected taxes filed with the court for which the township or city treasurer and his or her predecessors in office have exercised due diligence in an effort to collect the taxes upon that personal property, those taxes shall be stricken from the tax rolls of the county and of the township or city and shall cease to constitute an asset of the township or city, the county in which the township or city is located, and any school district in which the personal property was located at the time it was assessed for taxes, and that the debt created by the provisions of this act or by any city charter of the person assessed for those taxes to the township or city shall, from the date of entry of the judgment, assume the status of a debt against which the statute of limitations has run.

(7) A copy of the judgment shall be served upon the county clerk, the clerk of the township or city, and the clerk or secretary of each school district located in the township or city.

(8) In a county in which the county treasurer collects delinquent personal property taxes as provided in section 56, the county treasurer shall undertake and carry out all of the proceedings to strike delinquent personal property taxes from the county tax rolls as provided in this section.

History: Add. 1941, Act 234, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1941 ;-- Am. 1947, Act 339, Eff. Oct. 11, 1947 ;-- CL 1948, 211.56a ;-- Am. 1998, Act 435, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 1998

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