**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**A59, R90, S78**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Massey and Nicholson

Document Path: l:\s-res\asm\010forf.ksg.asm.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3399

Introduced in the Senate on January 13, 2015

Introduced in the House on February 24, 2015

Last Amended on May 27, 2015

Passed by the General Assembly on June 2, 2015

Governor's Action: June 4, 2015, Signed

Summary: Forfeited Lands Emergency Development Act

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/3/2014 Senate Prefiled

12/3/2014 Senate Referred to Committee on **Finance**

1/13/2015 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 72](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-13-15.docx))

1/13/2015 Senate Referred to Committee on **Finance** ([Senate Journal‑page 72](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\01-13-15.docx))

2/11/2015 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Finance** ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-11-15.docx))

2/12/2015 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-12-15.docx))

2/12/2015 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-12-15.docx))

2/12/2015 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑1 ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-12-15.docx))

2/19/2015 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\02-19-15.docx))

2/24/2015 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\02-24-15.docx))

2/24/2015 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\02-24-15.docx))

5/13/2015 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 49](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-13-15.docx))

5/14/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

5/19/2015 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 5‑20‑15 ([House Journal‑page 74](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-19-15.docx))

5/20/2015 House Debate adjourned until Wed., 5‑27‑15 ([House Journal‑page 17](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-20-15.docx))

5/27/2015 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-27-15.docx))

5/27/2015 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-27-15.docx))

5/27/2015 House Roll call Yeas‑73 Nays‑1 ([House Journal‑page 17](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-27-15.docx))

5/28/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

5/28/2015 House Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-28-15.docx))

6/2/2015 Senate Concurred in House amendment and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 51](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\06-02-15.docx))

6/2/2015 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑2 ([Senate Journal‑page 51](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\06-02-15.docx))

6/3/2015 Ratified R 90

6/4/2015 Signed By Governor

6/11/2015 Effective date 06/04/15

6/12/2015 Act No. 59

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/3/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20141203.docx)

[2/11/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20150211.docx)

[2/12/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20150212.docx)

[5/13/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20150513.docx)

[5/14/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20150514.docx)

[5/27/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20150527.docx)

[5/28/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\78_20150528.docx)

(A59, R90, S78)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, TO ENACT THE “FORFEITED LANDS EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT ACT” BY ADDING SECTION 12‑59‑140 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO PETITION THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO ALLOW THE COUNTY’S FORFEITED LAND COMMISSION TO UTILIZE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, TO SPECIFY THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE PETITION IS SUBMITTED, AND TO SPECIFY THE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 12‑59‑150 SO AS TO PROHIBIT AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF A COUNTY FORFEITED LAND COMMISSION MEMBER FROM PURCHASING LAND FROM THE FORFEITED LAND COMMISSION ON WHICH THEIR RELATIVE SERVES, AND TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Citation**

SECTION 1. This act may be referred to and cited as the “Forfeited Lands Emergency Development Act”.

**Emergency procedures for county forfeited land commission**

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 59, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 12‑59‑140. (A) The county council may petition the Department of Revenue for authority to use the procedures provided for in this section when the number and percentage of subdivided properties in the county that have been bid into the commission have, and are reasonably continued to have:

(1) a significant adverse effect on county ad valorem tax collections that severely affect continued essential public services in the county; or

(2) a significant adverse effect on economic development and employment in the county resulting from the limited number of properties available for sale and improvement.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘subdivided properties’ refer to a parcel or parcels of real property, residential or commercial, made up of multiple lots.

(C) The petition to the Department of Revenue must provide for:

(1) all necessary documentation to support the past and anticipated future adverse impacts, including historical data on the number and percentage of properties bid into the forfeited land commission;

(2) the loss of ad valorem tax revenues associated with these properties;

(3) the impact of any millage increases imposed by the county to compensate for such lost ad valorem tax revenues;

(4) the past and projected future impact on the ability of the county to deliver essential public services; and

(5) the past and projected future impact on county development and employment opportunities.

(D) If the Department of Revenue approves the petition, the county’s forfeited land commission is authorized to utilize the emergency procedures contained in this section for a period not to exceed five years from the date of approval. This authorization may be extended for additional one‑year increments, not to exceed two one‑year extensions. Petitions for extensions must contain the same types of documentation specified in subsection (C).

(E) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(1) The forfeited land commission of any county may, at its discretion, establish a revolving fund to pay for its legal and other expenses. This fund shall be established and maintained by the county treasurer from a portion of the proceeds of the sale of forfeited lands in an amount not exceeding fifty percent of the sale price of any forfeited land, in whole or in part. Legal and other expenses for which the funds may be expended may not include compensation to any members of the commission, but may include:

(a) payment of legal or other expenses in connection with the commission’s decision to accept or reject a forfeited land to be held as an asset of the county;

(b) payment of legal or other expenses in connection with the commission’s decision to obtain clear title to a forfeited land pursuant to Section 12‑61‑10;

(c) payment of a commission to a certified realtor or broker not to exceed three percent of the sales price of any forfeited land, in whole or in part;

(d) the cost of advertising the sale of forfeited lands, including the cost of any multiple realty listing established or provided by commercial realtors or brokers; and

(e) the cost of any clean up of a site, including demolition and disposal costs, intended to make the property salable.

(2) The acquisition of clear title to forfeited lands shall be considered an industrial or commercial development project pursuant to Chapter 29, Title 4, for which a county council may issue special revenue bonds for the purpose of initial funding of revolving funds under this section. Payment of the principal and interest for such bonds may be made from the proceeds of the sale of the forfeited lands.

(3) The forfeited land commission of a county that has established a revolving fund under this section shall dissolve or reduce the amount of funds held by the county treasurer in the fund when it is no longer required for the timely and effective marketing and sale of forfeited lands. The released funds will be deposited into the general fund of the county not later than thirty days from the date of decision by the commission or the date of the expiration of the authorization and, if necessary, may be used to complete any payment of principal and interest remaining from the sale of any special revenue bonds used for the initial establishment of the revolving fund.

(4) The authorized representative of a forfeited land commission that elects to clear tax titles pursuant to Section 12‑61‑10 may bring multiple actions to the court of common pleas in a single suit, if all of the properties included in the suit were previously owned by a single, individual, partnership, or corporation.

(5) The payment of the expenses of forfeited land commissions exercising authority under this section shall include the collection of its expenses as a part of the sale price of forfeited lands by former owners pursuant to Section 12‑59‑60 and the disposition of the proceeds of land sales pursuant to Section 12‑59‑100.

(6) Deductions from ‘value’ pursuant to Section 12‑24‑30(B) shall include any lien or encumbrance on realty in possession of a forfeited land commission which may subsequently be waived or reduced after the transfer under a signed contract or agreement between the lien holder and the buyer existing before the transfer.

(7) Investments by county treasurers under Section 12‑45‑220(A) may include sums held by the treasurer on behalf of a forfeited land commission under this section.

(F) The provisions of this section do not apply to property for which legal ownership by the defaulting taxpayer was acquired solely through the laws of intestacy through more than one generation.”

**Certain purchasers prohibited from buying forfeited land**

SECTION 3. Article 1, Chapter 59, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 12‑59‑150. An immediate family member of a county forfeited land commission member may not purchase land from the forfeited land commission on which their relative serves, unless the sale is through a competitive bid process or a listing open to members of the general public which has been made available for at least ten days. For purposes of this section, an immediate family member is a spouse, parent, sibling, or child of a forfeited land commission member.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 3rd day of June, 2015.

Approved the 4th day of June, 2015.

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