4017.9-141

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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(Tax Collectors-

educational requirements)

NJSA:

40A:9-141

LAWS OF:

1993

CHAPTER: 25

BILL NO:

A135

SPONSOR(S)

Haytaian and others

DATE INTRODUCED:

June 15, 1992

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:

Local Government

SENATE:

Community Affairs

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:

Yes

Amendments during passage

denoted by asterisks

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:

October 29. 1992

SENATE:

December 7, 1992

DATE OF APPROVAL:

January 22, 1993

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

Yes

SENATE:

 $Y \in \mathbb{A}$

FISCAL NOTE: VETO MESSAGE:

Yes

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No No

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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

KBG:pp

[SECOND REPRINT] ASSEMBLY, No. 135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 1992

By Assemblyman HAYTAIAN, Assemblywoman HAINES and Assemblyman Wolfe

AN ACT concerning education requirements for municipal tax collectors ²[, amending N.J.S.40A:9-141]² and amending and supplementing P.L.1979, c.384.

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

²[1. N.J.S.40A:9-141 is amended to read as follows:

40A:9-141. Notwithstanding any other law the governing body or chief executive, as shall be appropriate to the form of government of the municipality, by ordinance, shall provide for the appointment of a municipal tax collector and the compensation of said tax collector shall be fixed in the manner otherwise provided by law. The office of municipal tax collector and municipal treasurer, or municipal clerk may be held by the same person.

If a governing body fails or refuses to comply with this subsection, and has received an order from the director to do so, the members of a governing body who willfully fail or refuse to comply shall each be subject to a personal penalty of \$25 for each day after the date fixed for final action that failure or refusal to comply continues. The amount of the penalty may be recovered by the director in the name of the State as a personal debt of the member of the governing body, and shall be paid, upon receipt, into the State Treasury.

(cf: P.L.1979, c.384, s.13)] 2

 2 [2.] $^{1.2}$ Section 2 of P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.2) is amended to read as follows:

2. Commencing on the effective date of this act, the director shall hold examinations semi-annually, and at such other times as he may determine appropriate, for certification as tax collector. An applicant for examination shall furnish proof to the director, not less than 30 days before an examination, that the applicant is not less than 21 years of age, is a citizen of the United States, is of good moral character, has obtained a certificate or diploma issued after at least four years of study in an approved secondary school or has received an academic education considered and accepted by the Commissioner of Education as fully equivalent[,]; [and] has graduated from a four year course at an institution of higher education of recognized standing, [and] or has not less than two years' full-time experience in tax collection, or has at least one year's full-time experience in tax collection and 30 credit hours at an institution of higher education of recognized standing; and possesses certificates of completion of Municipal Tax

EXPLANATION---Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

1 ¹[Collector] Collection I, II, and III courses offered by Rutgers, The State University or the Division of Local Government 2 3 Services.

[An applicant who does not meet the college education requirement may substitute on a year-to-year basis full-time experience in tax collection or accounting. An applicant who does not meet the college education requirement or full-time experience requirement permitted as a substitution for the college education requirement may substitute certificates of completion of municipal tax collection I, II and III courses offered through Rutgers, The State University.]

For the purpose of this section, experience in tax collection must include experience in the following areas: lien enforcement, tax collecting, tax billing, and reporting, and, shall be attested to by the tax collector of the employing municipality.

The proofs required pursuant to this section shall be provided on such application forms and in such manner as shall be prescribed by the director. Each completed application form shall be accompanied by a fee in the amount of [\$10.00] \$50 payable to the order of the State Treasurer and shall be filed with the Director at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination. Examinations shall be written, or both written and oral, and shall be of such character as fairly to test and determine the qualifications, fitness and ability of the person tested to actually perform the duties of tax collector. An individual who fails the examination three consecutive times shall retake the three required courses, prior to taking the examination again.

(cf: P.L.1985, c.9, s.1) 29

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- $^{2}[3.]$ 2. Section 3 of P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.3) is 30 amended to read as follows: 31
 - 3. Upon the successful completion of the examination by an applicant, a tax collector certificate shall be issued to him, upon the payment of an additional fee of [\$25.00] \$50 payable to the order of the State Treasurer.
- 36 (cf: P.L.1979, c.384, s.3)
- ²[4.] 3.² Section 6 of P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.6) is amended to read as follows: 38
 - 6. No person shall [service] serve or continue to serve as a tax collector [who is] for the municipality in which that person serves as a member of the governing body of [a] the municipality.
- (cf: P.L.1979, c.384, s.6) 42
- ²[5.] 4.² Section 7 of P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.7) is 43 44 amended to read as follows:
- 7. Commencing [January 1, 1982 no person shall be appointed 45 46 or reappointed as tax collector in any municipality of this State unless he shall hold a tax collector certificate issued pursuant to 47 section 3 or 4 of this act] on the effective date of P.L. , c.
- 48 49) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), no person
- shall be appointed or reappointed as tax collector in any 50
- 51 municipality of this State unless he shall hold a tax collector
- certificate issued pursuant to N.J.S.40A:9-141, section 2 of 52
- 53 P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.2), and section 7 of P.L. , c.
- (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). 54
- (cf: P.L.1979, c.384, s.7) 55

 2 [6.] $^{5.2}$ Section 8 of P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.8) is amended to read as follows:

- 8. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, any person who:
- a. Shall be reappointed tax collector subsequent to having received a tax collector certificate pursuant to section 3 or 4 of [this act] P.L.1979, c.384, or holds a tax collector certificate issued pursuant to N.J.S.40A:9-141, section 2 of P.L.1979, c.384 (C.40A:9-145.2), and section 7 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and having served as tax collector or performed the duties of tax collector for not less than 4 consecutive years immediately prior to such reappointment; or,
- b. shall have acquired tenure; shall hold his office during good behavior [and], efficiency, and compliance with requirements for continuing education pursuant to sections 7 and 8 of P.L., c.

 (C. and C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), notwithstanding that such reappointment was for a fixed term of years; and he shall not be removed therefrom for political reasons but only for good cause shown and after a proper hearing before the director or his designee.
- c. The removal of a municipal tax collector shall be only upon a written complaint setting forth with specificity the charge or charges against him. The complaint shall be filed with the municipal clerk and the director and a certified copy thereof shall be served upon the person so charged, with notice of a designated hearing date before the director or his designee, which shall be not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days from the date of service of the complaint. Such date may be extended by the Superior Court for good cause shown upon the application of either party. The person so charged and the complainant shall have the right to be represented by counsel and the power to subpena witnesses and documentary evidence together with discovery proceedings. The provisions of this section shall apply to every person actually in office as tax collector or performing the duties of tax collector whether or not in the classified service under Title [11 of the Revised] 11A, Civil Service, of the New [[Civil Service]].
- d. For the purposes of this section, the definition of good cause for removal of a tax collector may include the failure of a tax collector to meet the continuing education requirement set forth in sections 7 and 8 of P.L., c. (C. and C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

44 (cf: P.L.1979, c.384, s.8)

²[7.] <u>6.</u>² (New section) Within six months of the effective date of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a tax collector who does not hold a tax collector certificate and who has been granted tenure pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-144 or N.J.S.40A:9-145, or who has held office continuously for five consecutive years in the same municipality shall, at no cost, apply to the director on a form approved by the director for a tax collector certificate. Upon verification of the applicant's eligibility under the tenure or service conditions described herein, the director shall issue a tax collector certificate that is marked as being valid only in the municipality

employing the tax collector. A tax collector holding such a certificate shall then be subject to all provisions affecting other certificate holders under this act, including but not limited to renewal, continuing education and maintenance of tenure rights.

 2 [8.] $^{7.2}$ (New section) Commencing on the effective date of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) all outstanding tax collector certificates shall expire and be renewed in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. All tax collector certificates shall be renewed upon application, payment of the required fee, and verification that the applicant has met continuing education requirements, as set forth in subsection c. of this section. Each renewal shall be for a period of two years. The renewal date shall be 30 days prior to the expiration date.
- b. All tax collector certificates subject to renewal pursuant to this section issued prior to January 1, 1993, shall have an expiration date of December 31, 1994. All tax collector certificates issued on or after January ¹[2, 2003] 1, 1993¹, shall have an expiration date of either June 30 or December 31, whichever is sooner, of the second year following the year in which the certificates were originally issued, provided that no certificate shall expire sooner than two years from the date of original issue.
- c. Prior to the renewal date of a tax collector certificate, every tax collector shall, on a form prescribed by the director, furnish proof of having earned at least 1.5 continuing education units. For the purpose of this section, 1.5 continuing education units equals 15 contact hours with a minimum number of hours 1, as determined by the director, 1 for each 1 [subject as follows] of the following curriculum areas 1:

Reporting, Billing & Collection

Enforcement ¹[Legislation] Procedures ¹

Legislation

Legislation

General/Secondary duties

1 [4 hours] ¹

1 [6 hours] ¹

1 [2 hours] ¹

1 [3 hours] ¹

Under verification of this requirement, and upon payment of a fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, the director shall renew the tax collector certificate.

- d. When the holder of a tax collector certificate has allowed the certificate to lapse by failing to renew the certificate, a new application and certificate shall be required. If application is made within six months of the expiration of the certificate, then application may be made in the same manner as a renewal, but the application shall be accompanied by the fee ¹[or] required for a new application.
- ¹[9.] <u>8.</u>² (New section) The director is authorized to adopt, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) such regulations, forms and procedures as may be necessary to carry out the terms of this act.
- 2[10.] 9.2 This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month following enactment.

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Changes educational prerequisites for tax collector examination applicants; requires continuing education for appointment or reappointment as tax collector.

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

This bill changes the educational prerequisites for tax collector examination applicants and tax collectors seeking an appointment or reappointment to the position of municipal tax collector. It also requires that beginning on its effective date no person will be appointed or reappointed as a tax collector in this State unless that person holds a tax collector certificate issued pursuant to this bill.

The bill requires that an applicant for the tax collector examination must have graduated from a four-year course at an institution of higher education, or have at least two years of full-time experience in tax collection, or have at least one year of full-time experience in tax collection and have completed 30 credit hours at an institution of higher education. The bill also requires an applicant for the examination to possess certificates of completion for three courses in tax collection.

The bill increases the examination fee from \$10 to \$50, and provides that if an individual fails the examination three consecutive times, that individual must retake the three required courses prior to taking the examination again. The bill also increases the additional fee for a tax collector certificate payable upon the successful completion of the examination by an applicant from \$25 to \$50.

The bill also provides that within six months of the effective date, a tax collector who does not hold a tax collector certificate and who has been granted tenure pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-144 or N.J.S.40A:9-145, or who has held office continuously for five consecutive years in the same municipality shall apply for the certificate at no cost, on a form approved by the director. A tax collector certificate issued under these conditions will be valid only in the municipality employing the tax collector. A tax collector holding such a certificate shall then be subject to all provisions affecting other certificate holders under this act, including, but not limited to renewal, continuing education and maintenance of tenure rights.

alters the procedure by The bill which tax collector certificates expire and are renewed. All tax collector certificates will be renewed upon application, payment of the required fee, and verification that the applicant has met continuing education requirements. Each renewal will be for a period of two years. The renewal date will be 30 days prior to the expiration date. All tax collector certificates subject to renewal that were issued prior to January 1, 1993, will have an expiration date of December 31, 1994. All tax collector certificates issued on or after January 2, 2003, will have an expiration date of either June 30 or December 31, whichever is sooner, of the second year following the year in which the certificates were originally issued, provided that no certificate will expire sooner than two years from the date of original issue. Prior to the renewal date of a tax collector certificate, every tax collector will be required to furnish proof of having earned at least 1.5 continuing education units. For the purpose of this bill, 1.5 continuing education units equal 15 contact hours with a minimum numbers of hours for each subject as follows:

Reporting, Billing & Collection 4 hours
Enforcement Legislation 6 hours
Legislation 2 hours
General/Secondary duties 3 hours

When the continuing education requirement is verified, and upon payment of a fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, the director will renew the tax collector certificate.

When the holder of a tax collector certificate has allowed the certificate to lapse by failing to renew the certificate, a new application and certificate will be required. If application is made within six months of the expiration of the certificate, then it may be made in the same manner as a renewal, but the application will be accompanied by the fee required for a new application.

Lastly, the bill prohibits a person from serving as the tax collector in a municipality in which that person serves as a member of the governing body. Current law prevents a person from serving as a tax collector if the person is a member of the governing body of any municipality.

Changes educational prerequisites for tax collector examination applicants; requires continuing education for appointment or reappointment as tax collector.

ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 135

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 1, 1992

The Assembly Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 135, with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 135, as amended by the committee, changes the educational prerequisites for tax collector examination applicants and tax collectors seeking an appointment or reappointment to the position of municipal tax collector. It also requires that beginning on the effective date of the bill, no person will be appointed or reappointed as a tax collector in this State unless that person holds a tax collector certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this bill.

Assembly Bill No. 135 requires that an applicant for the tax collector examination must have graduated from a four-year course at an institution of higher education, or have at least two years of full-time experience in tax collection, or have at least one year of full-time experience in tax collection and have completed 30 credit hours at an institution of higher education. The bill also requires an applicant for the examination to possess certificates of completion for three courses in tax collection.

The bill increases the examination fee from \$10 to \$50, and provides that if an individual fails the examination three consecutive times, that individual must retake the three required courses prior to taking the examination again. The bill also increases the additional fee for a tax collector certificate payable upon the successful completion of the examination by an applicant from \$25 to \$50.

The bill also provides that within six months of the effective date, a tax collector who does not hold a tax collector certificate and who has been granted tenure pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-144 or N.J.S.40A:9-145, or who has held office continuously for five consecutive years in the same municipality shall apply for the certificate at no cost, on a form approved by the director. A tax collector certificate issued under these conditions will be valid only in the municipality employing the tax collector. A tax collector holding such a certificate shall then be subject to all provisions affecting other certificate holders under this act, including, but not limited to renewal, continuing education and maintenance of tenure rights.

The bill, as amended, alters the procedure by which tax collector certificates expire and are renewed. All tax collector certificates will be renewed upon application, payment of the required fee, and verification that the applicant has met continuing

education requirements. Each renewal will be for a period of two years. The renewal date will be 30 days prior to the expiration date. All tax collector certificates subject to renewal that were issued prior to January 1, 1993, will have an expiration date of December 31, 1994. All tax collector certificates issued on or after January 1, 1993, will have an expiration date of either June 30 or December 31, whichever is sooner, of the second year following the year in which the certificates were originally issued, provided that no certificate will expire sooner than two years from the date of original issue. Prior to the renewal date of a tax collector certificate, every tax collector will be required to furnish proof of having earned at least 1.5 continuing education units. For the purpose of this bill, 1.5 continuing education units equal 15 contact hours with a minimum numbers of hours, as determined by the director, for each of the following curriculum areas:

Reporting, Billing & Collection Enforcement Procedures Legislation General/Secondary duties

When the continuing education requirement is verified, and upon payment of a fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, the director will renew the tax collector certificate.

When the holder of a tax collector certificate has allowed the certificate to lapse by failing to renew the certificate, a new application and certificate will be required. If application is made within six months of the expiration of the certificate, then it may be made in the same manner as a renewal, but the application will be accompanied by the fee required for a new application.

Lastly, the bill prohibits a person from serving as the tax collector in a municipality in which that person serves as a member of the governing body. Current law prevents a person from serving as a tax collector if the person is a member of the governing body of any municipality.

As introduced, the bill provided that all tax collector certificates issued on or after January 2, 2003, would have an expiration date of either June 30 or December 31, whichever is sooner, of the second year following the year in which the certificates were originally issued, provided that no certificate would expire sooner than two years from the date of original issue. The committee's amendments change that date to January 1, 1993.

The committee further amended the bill to give the director the discretion to set the specific hour requirements for required curriculum areas. The committee amendments also correct several technical errors in the text of the bill.

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT] ASSEMBLY, No. 135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 1992

The Senate Community Affairs Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 135 [1R].

Assembly Bill 135 No. [1R] changes the educational prerequisites for tax collector examination applicants and tax collectors seeking an appointment or reappointment to the position of municipal tax collector. It also requires that beginning on the effective date of the bill, no person will be appointed or reappointed as a tax collector in this State unless that person holds a tax collector certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this bill.

Assembly Bill No. 135 [1R] requires that an applicant for the tax collector examination must have graduated from a four-year course at an institution of higher education, or have at least two years of full-time experience in tax collection, or have at least one year of full-time experience in tax collection and have completed 30 credit hours at an institution of higher education. The bill also requires an applicant for the examination to possess certificates of completion for three courses in tax collection.

The bill increases the examination fee from \$10 to \$50, and provides that if an individual fails the examination three consecutive times, that individual must retake the three required courses prior to taking the examination again. The bill also increases the additional fee for a tax collector certificate payable upon the successful completion of the examination by an applicant from \$25 to \$50.

The bill also provides that within six months of the effective date, a tax collector who does not hold a tax collector certificate and who has been granted tenure pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-144 or N.J.S.40A:9-145, or who has held office continuously for five consecutive years in the same municipality shall apply for the certificate at no cost, on a form approved by the director. A tax collector certificate issued under these conditions will be valid only in the municipality employing the tax collector. A tax collector holding such a certificate shall then be subject to all provisions affecting other certificate holders under this act, including, but not limited to renewal, continuing education and maintenance of tenure rights.

The bill alters the procedure by which tax collector certificates expire and are renewed. All tax collector certificates will be renewed upon application, payment of the required fee, and verification that the applicant has met continuing education requirements. Each renewal will be for a period of two years. The renewal date will be 30 days prior to the expiration date. All tax collector certificates subject to renewal that were issued prior to

January 1, 1993, will have an expiration date of December 31, 1994. All tax collector certificates issued on or after January 1, 1993, will have an expiration date of either June 30 or December 31, whichever is sooner, of the second year following the year in which the certificates were originally issued, provided that no certificate will expire sooner than two years from the date of original issue. Prior to the renewal date of a tax collector certificate, every tax collector will be required to furnish proof of having earned at least 1.5 continuing education units. For the purpose of this bill, 1.5 continuing education units equal 15 contact hours with a minimum numbers of hours, as determined by the director, for each of the following curriculum areas:

Reporting, Billing & Collection Enforcement Procedures Legislation General/Secondary duties

When the continuing education requirement is verified, and upon payment of a fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, the director will renew the tax collector certificate.

When the holder of a tax collector certificate has allowed the certificate to lapse by failing to renew the certificate, a new application and certificate will be required. If application is made within six months of the expiration of the certificate, then it may be made in the same manner as a renewal, but the application will be accompanied by the fee required for a new application.

The bill holds each governing body member personally liable to a penalty of \$25 for each day after the day fixed for final action in the event of the governing body's willful refusal to comply with the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-141. That section of law mandates the appointment of a municipal tax collector and provides for the compensation of that person in the manner otherwise provided by law.

Lastly, the bill prohibits a person from serving as the tax collector in a municipality in which that person serves as a member of the governing body. Current law prevents a person from serving as a tax collector if the person is a member of the governing body of any municipality.

Assembly Bill No. 135 [1R] is identical to Senate Bill 955, with committee amendments, which was also reported by this committee today.

FISCAL NOTE TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: November 24, 1992

Assembly Bill No. 135 [1R] of 1992 changes the educational prerequisites for tax collector examination applicants and tax collectors seeking an appointment or reappointment to the position of municipal tax collector. It increases the examination fee from \$10 to \$50 and also increases the additional fee for a tax collector certificate payable upon the successful completion of the examination by an applicant from \$25 to \$50. It also requires that beginning on the effective date of the bill, no person will be appointed or reappointed as a tax collector in this State unless that person holds a tax collector certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this bill.

The bill also provides that within six months of the effective date, a tax collector who does not hold a tax collector certificate and who has been granted tenure pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-144 or N.J.S.40A:9-145, or who has held office continuously for five consecutive years in the same municipality shall apply for the certificate at no cost. This bill requires all tax collector certificates to be renewed for a period of two years. Prior to the renewal date of a tax collector certificate, every tax collector will be required to furnish proof of having earned at least 1.5 continuing education units. For the purpose of this bill, 1.5 continuing education units equal 15 contact hours with a minimum numbers of hours for each of the specific curriculum areas as determined by the director. When the continuing education requirement is verified, and upon payment of a fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, the director will renew the tax collector certificate. Currently, the renewal fee is \$10.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) estimates that this bill will generate \$40,910 in revenues for the State. DCA also estimates a total expenditure of about \$37,500 which includes salaries, fringe benefits, printing, and other administrative costs. Therefore, the net additional State revenues are estimated to be \$3,410. The calculations used to arrive at this figure are shown in the following table:

<u>Item</u>	Current Cost	A-135 Cost	Additiona <u>Cost</u>	l No. of items	Tot Add'l Cost
Application					
& Examination	\$10	\$50	\$40	104	\$ 4,160
Certification	\$25	\$50	\$25	30	\$ 750
Renewals	\$10	\$50	\$40	900	\$36,000
Grand Total					\$40,910
Expenditures					<u>37,500</u>
New increase in State revenue					3,410

A135 [1R] 2

The Office of Legislative Services concurs and notes that revenues will be higher in years in which more certificates are renewed and lower in years in which fewer certificates are renewed.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.