

# 2014 Property Tax-Related Legislation

April, 2014

## **HB 93 Property Tax Assessment Amendments**

Effective January 1, 2015

A new term is defined in property tax county assessment statutes called “diminished productive value”. The term relates to: (1) the assessment of certain properties having values impaired by the actions of municipal/county governments, through ordinances or zoning, which significantly reduce the ability of land to generate income; or (2) one or more easements burdening the property. In assessing fair market value, a county assessor is to consider whether property has “diminished productive value”.

## **HB 123 Property Lien Amendments**

A new section of county code—Section 17-50-336—was enacted prohibiting the county from reassigning a lien created under Title 59-2, Part 13, Collection of Taxes on Real Property. This legislation prohibits commercial tax lien loan companies from doing business in Utah.

## **HB 219 Veteran’s Separation Amendments**

This legislation provides uniform military discharge language for the purpose of qualifying for Armed Forces member benefits. It includes those with a “general” discharge in addition to those with an “honorable” discharge. This change has no effect upon property tax as the determining factor for property tax relief would be a disability not whether the veteran has a general or honorable discharge.

## **HB 238 Local Referendum Requirements Amendments**

The term “subjurisdiction” means “an area comprised of all precincts and subprecincts in the jurisdiction of a county, city, or town that are subject to a subjurisdictional law”. Also, a “subjurisdictional law is defined to mean “a law or local obligation law passed by a local legislative body imposing a tax or other payment obligation on property in an area that does not include all precincts and subprecincts under the jurisdiction of the county, city or town.” When a “subjurisdictional law” is passed, the signatures required for a referendum and the subsequent vote on the referendum are to be by residents of the precincts and subprecincts to which the tax or other payment obligation applies. Also, it establishes the number of signatures required for a referendum relating to a “subjurisdictional law”.