## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## State of Illinois

# 2011 and 2012

#### HB1349

Introduced 2/9/2011, by Rep. Naomi D. Jakobsson

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 205/2	from Ch. 15, par. 102
30 ILCS 210/10.1	
30 ILCS 210/10.2	

Amends the Uncollected State Claims Act. Provides that a public university may delete from its records debts of \$1,000 or more certified as uncollectible when the debt is more than 8 years old. Amends the Illinois State Collection Act of 1986. Provides that Illinois public universities are not subject to certain provisions of the Act setting out requirements for entering into deferred payment plans or compromising past due debts. Provides that certain provisions of the Act concerning collection agency fees do not apply to second, third, or subsequent placements or to litigation activities. Effective immediately.

LRB097 09063 PJG 49197 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning finance.

# 2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, 3 represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Uncollected State Claims Act is amended by
changing Section 2 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 205/2) (from Ch. 15, par. 102)

7 Sec. 2. (a) When any State agency is unable to collect any claim or account receivable of \$1,000 or more due the agency 8 9 after having pursued the procedure prescribed by law or applicable rules and regulations for the collection thereof or, 10 if no procedure is so prescribed, then after having undertaken 11 all reasonable and appropriate procedures available to the 12 agency to effectuate collection, the State agency shall request 13 14 the Attorney General to certify the claim or account receivable to be uncollectible. 15

16 (b) Each request to the Attorney General asking that a 17 claim or account receivable of \$1,000 or more be declared uncollectible shall be in a format prescribed by the Attorney 18 19 General and shall include at a minimum the following information: debtor's name, debtor's social security number or 20 21 comparable identifying number, debtor's last known address, nature of the debt, efforts made to collect the debt and the 22 time period covered by those efforts, the age of the debt, the 23

age of the debtor and the specific reason the State agency believes the debt to be uncollectible. Nothing in this provision should be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Attorney General to require additional information that he may find to be necessary to evaluate requests sent him pursuant to this provision.

(c) Claims or accounts receivable of less than \$1,000 may
be certified as uncollectible by the agency when the agency
determines that further collection efforts are not in the best
economic interest of the State. Such determination shall be
made in accordance with rules of the Comptroller.

(d) If any item of information required by this provision or any item of additional information required by the Attorney General is not available, the State agency shall specifically so state in its request to the Attorney General asking that the debt be declared uncollectible.

(e) A State agency participating in a federal student loan program may remove student loans from its records by assigning or referring such student loans to the federal government for collection pursuant to the procedures prescribed by federal laws and regulations.

(f) Claims and receivables due from another State agency may be written off if the agency has pursued all reasonable means of collection and if the amount (1) is payable from an appropriation which has lapsed; (2) may not properly be charged against a current appropriation; and (3) was not originally

HB1349

payable from federal funds, a trust fund or locally held funds.
Each agency which writes off claims or receivables pursuant to
this subparagraph shall submit a listing of all such write-offs
to the Comptroller within 60 days of taking such action.

5 (g) Debts certified as uncollectible may be reopened for 6 collection by an agency upon the approval of the Attorney 7 General.

8 (h) Agencies shall submit a list of debts certified as 9 uncollectible to the Comptroller in the form and manner 10 specified by the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall take 11 reasonable steps to accept information on agency computer 12 tapes.

(i) After compliance with all provisions of this Section, an agency may delete from its records debts certified as uncollectible as follows:

(1) When the debt is less than \$1,000, immediately upon
 certification by the agency;

18 (2) For debts of \$1,000 or more that are less than 5
19 years old, when the agency determines pursuant to rules and
20 regulations promulgated by the Comptroller that such
21 deletion is in the best economic interest of the State;

(3) For debts of \$1,000 or more, when, the debt is more
than 5 years old <u>or</u>, in the case of a public university,
<u>more than 8 years old</u>.

(j) The Attorney General shall report to the GeneralAssembly by February 1 of each year the following:

HB1349

1 (1) the total number and dollar amount of debts 2 referred to him for collection in the preceding calendar 3 year;

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(2) the total amount actually collected;

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(3) the number of cases by agency.

6 (k) Each State agency shall report in its annual report the 7 total amount and the number of claims due and payable to the 8 State. Each agency shall also describe in its annual report the 9 method used in collecting debts, whether by a private 10 collection service or by the Attorney General.

(1) The provisions of Section 2505-250 of the Department of Revenue Law (20 ILCS 2505/2505-250) take precedence over the provisions of this Section.

14 (Source: P.A. 91-239, eff. 1-1-00.)

Section 10. The Illinois State Collection Act of 1986 is amended by renumbering and changing Section 9 added by Public Act 96-1383 and Section 9 added by Public Act 96-1435 as follows:

19 (30 ILCS 210/10.1)

Sec. <u>10.1</u> <del>9</del>. Collection agency fees. Except where prohibited by federal law or regulation, in the case of any liability referred to a collection agency on or after July 1, 2010, any fee charged to the State by the collection agency (i) may not exceed 25% for a first placement of the <u>underlying</u>

liability referred to the collection agency unless 1 the 2 liability is for a tax debt, (ii) is considered an additional liability owed to the State, (iii) is immediately subject to 3 all collection procedures applicable to the liability referred 4 5 to the collection agency, and (iv) must be separately stated in any statement or notice of the liability issued by the 6 7 collection agency to the debtor. The fee limitations of this 8 Section do not apply to a second, third, or subsequent 9 placement or to litigation activities.

10 (Source: P.A. 96-1383, eff. 1-1-11; revised 9-7-10.)

11 (30 ILCS 210/10.2)

12 Sec. <u>10.2</u> 9. Deferral and compromise of past due debt.

(a) In this Section, "past due debt" means any debt owed to the State that has been outstanding for more than 12 months. "Past due debt" does not include any debt if any of the actions required under this Section would violate federal law or regulation.

(b) State agencies may enter into a deferred payment plan
for the purpose of satisfying a past due debt. The deferred
payment plan must meet the following requirements:

(1) The term of the deferred payment plan may notexceed 2 years.

(2) The first payment of the deferred payment plan must
be at least 10% of the total amount due.

25 (3) All subsequent monthly payments for the deferred

HB1349

payment plan must be assessed as equal monthly principal
 payments, together with interest.

3 (4) The deferred payment plan must include interest at
4 a rate that is the same as the interest required under the
5 State Prompt Payment Act.

6 (5) The deferred payment plan must be approved by the 7 Secretary or Director of the State agency.

8 <u>(b-5) The requirements of subsection (b) do not apply to a</u> 9 <u>deferred payment plan entered into by any Illinois public</u> 10 <u>university, as defined in Section 10 of the Illinois Prepaid</u> 11 <u>Tuition Act.</u>

12 (c) State agencies may compromise past due debts. Any 13 action taken by a State agency to compromise a past due debt 14 must meet the following requirements:

15 (1) The amount of the compromised debt shall be no less
16 than 80% of the total of the past due debt.

17 (2) Once a past due debt has been compromised, the 18 debtor must remit to the State agency the total amount of 19 the compromised debt. However, the State agency may collect 20 the compromised debt through a payment plan not to exceed 6 21 months. If the State agency accepts the compromised debt 22 through a payment plan, then the compromised debt shall be 23 subject to the same rate of interest as required under the 24 State Prompt Payment Act.

(3) Before a State agency accepts a compromised debt,
the amount of the compromised debt must be approved by the

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Department of Revenue.

2 (c-5) Illinois public universities, as defined in Section
3 10 of the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act, may compromise past due
4 debt without regard to the requirements set forth in subsection
5 (c).

6 (d) State agencies may sell a past due debt to one or more 7 outside private vendors. Sales shall be conducted under rules 8 adopted by the Department of Revenue using a request for 9 proposals procedure similar to that procedure under the 10 Illinois Procurement Code. The outside private vendors shall 11 remit to the State agency the purchase price for debts sold 12 under this subsection.

(e) The State agency shall deposit all amounts receivedunder this Section into the General Revenue Fund.

15 (f) This Section does not apply to any tax debt owing to 16 the Department of Revenue.

17 (Source: P.A. 96-1435, eff. 8-16-10; revised 9-7-10.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.