

# DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

## 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Patron** Stephen E. Heretick

3. **Committee** House Finance

4. **Title** Local Treasurers; Power to Summon  
Taxpayers and Other Persons

2. **Bill Number** HB 1583

**House of Origin:**

  X   **Introduced**

       **Substitute**

       **Engrossed**

**Second House:**

       **In Committee**

       **Substitute**

       **Enrolled**

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

This bill would provide that a local treasurer's power to summon a taxpayer or other person to answer questions under oath or produce documents for the purpose of collecting delinquent amounts owed to the locality applies to any amounts, charges, or fees owed to the locality, as well as to taxes owed to the locality.

Under current law, a local treasurer's power to summon a taxpayer or other person is limited to taxes owed to the locality.

If enacted during the Regular Session of the 2020 General Assembly, this bill would become effective July 1, 2020.

**6. Budget amendment necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Not available. (See Line 8.)

**8. Fiscal implications:**

Administrative Costs

This bill would have no impact on state administrative costs. It could result in administrative costs to localities.

Revenue Impact

This bill would have no impact on state revenue. It could result in an unknown impact to local revenues.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** All localities

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** Yes

## 11. Other comments:

State law authorizes local treasurers to summon a taxpayer or any other person to appear before the treasurer in the treasurer's office, to answer, under oath, questions touching a tax liability of the taxpayer and to produce documents relating to such tax liability. Treasurers and their deputies may administer oaths. Any person who refuses to answer, under oath, questions touching any person's tax liability shall be deemed guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

### Proposal

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If enacted during the Regular Session of the 2020 General Assembly, this bill would become effective July 1, 2020.

### Similar Legislation

**House Bill 316** would increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the maximum amount at which the governing body of a locality may authorize its treasurer to approve and issue a refund of taxes paid as a result of an erroneous tax assessment.

**House Bill 1534** would authorize the board of supervisors of any county that has adopted the urban county executive form of government to enter into agreements with towns located partially or wholly within such county for the collection and enforcement of real or personal property taxes by the county official responsible for assessment or collection of taxes. The authority granted to such counties is similar to authority granted to Loudoun County under existing law.

**House Bill 1581** would transfer the duties of maintaining records of delinquent real property taxes and sales of such property and of correcting records relating to such property from the local clerk of court to the local treasurer.

cc : Secretary of Finance

Date: 1/25/2020 SK  
HB1583F161