

CHAPTER 711-A**REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS****§4641. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings: [PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW).]

1. Consideration. "Consideration" means the total price or amount paid, or required to be paid, for real property valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise and includes the amount of any mortgages, liens or encumbrances thereon, regardless of whether the underlying indebtedness is assumed by the grantee.

[PL 1993, c. 398, §1 (AMD).]

1-A. Controlling interest. "Controlling interest" means the following.

A. In the case of a corporation, "controlling interest" means more than 50% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the corporation entitled to vote or more than 50% of the capital, profits or beneficial interest in the voting stock of the corporation. [PL 2003, c. 391, §2 (AMD).]

B. In the case of a partnership, association, trust or other entity, "controlling interest" means more than 50% of the capital, profits or beneficial interest in the partnership, association, trust or other entity. [PL 2003, c. 391, §2 (AMD).]

C. For purposes of the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 2, all acquisitions of persons acting in concert are aggregated for purposes of determining whether a transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest has taken place. The State Tax Assessor shall adopt standards by rule to determine when persons are acting in concert. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. In adopting a rule for this purpose, the assessor shall consider the following:

(1) Persons must be treated as acting in concert when they have a relationship with each other such that one person influences or controls the actions of another through common ownership; and

(2) When persons are not commonly owned or controlled, they must be treated as acting in concert only when the unity with which the purchasers have negotiated and will consummate the transfer of ownership interests supports a finding that they are acting as a single entity. If the acquisitions are completely independent, with each purchaser buying without regard to the identity of the other purchasers, the acquisitions must be considered separate acquisitions. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 391, §2 (AMD).]

2. Deed. "Deed" means a written instrument whereby the grantor conveys to the grantee title in whole or in part to real property.

[PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW).]

2-A. Real property. "Real property" means land or anything affixed to land. "Real property" includes, but is not limited to, improvements such as buildings, mobile homes other than stock-in-trade, lines of electric light and power companies and pipelines and other things constructed or situated on land when the owner of the improvements is not the landowner.

[PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

3. Value. "Value" means the amount of the actual consideration for real property, except that in the case of a gift, or a contract or deed with nominal consideration or without stated consideration, or in the case of the transfer of a controlling interest in an entity with a fee interest in real property when the consideration for the real property cannot be determined, "value" is to be based on the estimated price a property will bring in the open market and under prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer, both conversant with the property and with prevailing general price levels. For the purposes of this subsection, "nominal" means less than 20% of the property's most recently locally assessed value as adjusted by the municipality's or unorganized territory's certified assessment ratio, unless the taxpayer provides an attestation from the local assessor that the most recent locally assessed value does not reflect current market value.

"Value" does not include the amount of consideration attributable to vacation exchange rights, vacation services or club memberships or the costs associated with those rights, services or memberships. Upon request of a municipal assessor or the State Tax Assessor, a developer of a time-share estate, as defined in Title 33, section 591, subsection 7, or an association of time-share estate owners shall provide an itemized schedule of fees included in the sales price of a time-share estate.

[PL 2019, c. 401, Pt. A, §18 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

P&SL 1967, c. 154, §H (NEW). PL 1967, c. 537, §2 (RP). PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 398, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 478, §3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 391, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 401, Pt. A, §18 (AMD).

§4641-A. Rate of tax; liability for tax

1. Deeds. A tax is imposed on each deed by which any real property in this State is transferred.

A. The rate of the tax is \$2.20 for each \$500 or fractional part of \$500 of the value of the property transferred. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

B. The tax is imposed 1/2 on the grantor and 1/2 on the grantee. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

[PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

2. Transfer of direct or indirect controlling interest in entity with interest in real property.

A tax is imposed on the transfer or acquisition within any 12-month period of a direct or indirect controlling interest in any entity with a fee interest in real property in this State.

A. The rate of the tax is \$2.20 for each \$500 or fractional part of \$500 of the value of the real property owned by the entity and located in this State. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

B. The tax is imposed 1/2 on the transferor and 1/2 on the transferee, but if the transfer or acquisition is not reported to the register of deeds in the county or counties in which the property is located and the tax is not paid within 30 days of the completion of the transfer or acquisition, the transferor and the transferee are jointly and severally liable for the full amount. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

C. If a controlling interest is acquired by a series of transfers, each transferor is liable for its proportional share of tax based on the value of the property on the date of the sale. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

[PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 859, §§M9,M13 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 381, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 398, §2 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 559, §13 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 559, §15 (AFF).

§4641-B. Collection

1. Transfer of real property by deed. The State Tax Assessor shall provide for the collection of the tax on the transfer of real property by deed by each register of deeds. When any deed is offered for recordation, the register of deeds shall ascertain and compute the amount of tax due on the deed and shall collect that amount. The amount of tax must be computed on the value of the property as set forth in the declaration of value prescribed by section 4641-D. Payment of tax must be evidenced by affixing an indicium of payment prescribed by the assessor to the declaration of value provided for in section 4641-D.

[PL 2007, c. 627, §82 (AMD).]

2. Transfer or acquisition of controlling interest in entity with fee interest in real property. A person transferring or acquiring a controlling interest in an entity with a fee interest in real property for which a deed is not given shall report the transfer or acquisition to the register of deeds in the county or counties in which the real property is located within 30 days of the transfer or acquisition on a return in the form of an affidavit furnished by the State Tax Assessor. The return must be accompanied by payment of the tax due. When the real property is located in more than one county, the tax must be divided among the counties in the same proportion in which the real property is distributed among the counties. Disputes between 2 or more counties as to the proper amount of tax due to them as a result of a particular transaction must be decided by the State Tax Assessor upon the written petition of an official authorized to act on behalf of any such county.

[PL 2019, c. 607, Pt. A, §7 (AMD).]

3. Disposition of funds. Each register of deeds shall, on or before the 10th day of each month, pay over to the State Tax Assessor 90% of the tax collected pursuant to this section during the previous month. The remaining 10% must be retained for the county by the register of deeds and accounted for to the county treasurer as reimbursement for services rendered by the county in collecting the tax. If the tax collected is not paid over by the 10th day of the month, the State Tax Assessor may impose interest pursuant to section 186.

[PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §4 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

4. Distribution of State's share of proceeds.

[PL 2009, c. 372, Pt. E, §2 (RP).]

4-A. Distribution of State's share of proceeds.

[PL 2011, c. 453, §5 (RP).]

4-B. Distribution of State's share of proceeds. The State Tax Assessor shall pay all net receipts received pursuant to this section to the Treasurer of State and shall at the same time provide the Treasurer of State with documentation showing the amount of revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 1 and the amount of revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 2.

A. In fiscal year 2011-12, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

(2) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under

subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund.

(3) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first credit \$3,830,000 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund, after which the Treasurer of State shall pay any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. [PL 2011, c. 453, §6 (NEW).]

B. In fiscal year 2012-13, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

(2) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund.

(3) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first credit \$300,000 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Care - Payments to Providers, Other Special Revenue Funds account and \$3,950,000 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund, after which the Treasurer of State shall pay any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. [PL 2011, c. 477, Pt. P, §1 (AMD).]

C. In fiscal year 2013-14, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

(2) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund.

(3) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first credit \$2,710,964 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund, after which the Treasurer of State shall pay any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. [PL 2013, c. 502, Pt. T, §1 (AMD).]

D. In fiscal year 2014-15, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

(2) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund.

(3) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first credit \$5,038,104 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund, after which the Treasurer of State shall pay any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. [PL 2013, c. 595, Pt. V, §1 (AMD).]

E. In fiscal year 2015-16 and each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2025-26, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

(2) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund.

(3) On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of State shall credit 50% of the revenues to the Maine State Housing Authority, except that, notwithstanding paragraph F, in fiscal year 2015-16, the Treasurer of State shall first credit \$6,291,740 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund and except that, notwithstanding paragraph F, in fiscal year 2016-17, the Treasurer of State shall first credit \$6,090,367 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund and except that, notwithstanding paragraph F, in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, the Treasurer of State shall first credit \$2,500,000 of the revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund. The Maine State Housing Authority shall deposit the funds received pursuant to this subparagraph in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. Beginning July 1, 2023, the Maine State Housing Authority shall use 25% of funds transferred to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund under this subparagraph to support the creation of new housing units, through new construction or adaptive reuse, that are affordable to low-income households. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAAA, §2 (AMD).]

E-1. In fiscal year 2025-26 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

(2) On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit 1/2 of any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund and 1/2 of any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the Housing First Fund established in Title 22, section 20-A, subsection 2.

(3) On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of State shall credit 50% of the revenues to the Maine State Housing Authority. The Maine State Housing Authority shall deposit the funds received pursuant to this subparagraph in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. Beginning July 1, 2025, the Maine State Housing Authority shall use 25% of funds transferred to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund under this subparagraph to support the creation of new housing units, through new construction or adaptive reuse, that are affordable to low-income households. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAAA, §3 (NEW).]

F. Neither the Governor nor the Legislature may divert the revenues payable to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to any other fund or for any other use. Any proposal to enact or amend a law to allow distribution of less than 1/2 of the revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 1 to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4853, as adjusted under this subsection, must be submitted to the Legislative Council and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over affordable housing matters at least 30 days prior to any vote or public hearing on the proposal. [PL 2011, c. 453, §6 (NEW).]

G. The Treasurer of State shall credit to the General Fund all of the revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 2. [PL 2011, c. 453, §6 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAAA, §§2, 3 (AMD).]

5. Dispute regarding amount. In the event of a dispute as to the correct amount of tax, the individual seeking to record the deed may request that the State Tax Assessor determine the correct amount of tax to be paid in order for the deed to be recorded.
[PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §4 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

6. Transfer of tax on deeds of foreclosure or in lieu of foreclosure. Notwithstanding subsection 4-B, the State Tax Assessor shall monthly pay to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection the revenues derived from the tax imposed on the transfer of real property described in section 4641-C, subsection 2, paragraphs A and C.
[PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

7. Assignment of rights in or connected with foreclosed real property. A person assigning rights in or connected with title to foreclosed real property for which a deed is not given, including rights as high bidder at the public sale pursuant to Title 14, section 6323, shall report the assignment to the register of deeds in the county or counties in which the real property is located within 30 days of the assignment on a return in the form of an affidavit furnished by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor shall provide for the collection of the tax in the same manner as in subsection 1 as if the assignment were a transfer of real property by deed. The return must be accompanied by payment of the tax due. When the real property is located in more than one county, the tax must be divided among the counties in the same proportion in which the real property is distributed among the counties.

Disputes between 2 or more counties as to the proper amount of tax due to them as a result of a particular transaction must be decided by the State Tax Assessor upon the written petition of an official authorized to act on behalf of any such county. This subsection applies to assignments made during the time between the judgment of foreclosure and the transfer of the foreclosed real property by deed.

[PL 2019, c. 607, Pt. A, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 364, §60 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 859, §§M10,M13 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 381, §2 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 737, §§C83,C106 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,C10 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §135 (COR). PL 1991, c. 528, §P16 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §P16 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 622, §K9 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 622, §K10 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 6, §D2 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 6, §D5 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 398, §3 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 410, §C5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 368, §K4 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 24, §C7 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 504, §9 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 759, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 759, §2 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 439, §XXX2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §14 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 559, §I15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 20, §V1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 12, §H1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 644, §4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. H, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 427, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. WW, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 627, §82 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 372, Pt. E, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 402, §21 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 453, §§5, 6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 477, Pt. P, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. U, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 502, Pt. T, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 595, Pt. V, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. N, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. AAAAAAA, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 607, Pt. A, §§7, 8 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 753, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAAA, §§2, 3 (AMD).

§4641-C. Exemptions

The following are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter: [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §5 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

1. Governmental entities. Deeds to property transferred to or by the United States, the State of Maine or any of their instrumentalities, agencies or subdivisions. For the purposes of this subsection, only the United States, the State of Maine and their instrumentalities, agencies and subdivisions are exempt from the tax imposed by section 4641-A; except that real property transferred to the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority for transportation purposes; gifts of real property to governmental entities; and deeds transferring real property to governmental entities from a bona fide nonprofit land conservation organization are exempt from the tax;

[PL 1997, c. 504, §10 (AMD).]

2. Mortgage deeds, deeds of foreclosure and deeds in lieu of foreclosure. Mortgage deeds, discharges of mortgage deeds and partial releases of mortgage deeds.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, only the mortgagor is exempt from the tax imposed for a deed in lieu of foreclosure. [PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §3 (NEW).]

B. In the event of a transfer, by deed, assignment or otherwise, to a 3rd party at a public sale held pursuant to Title 14, section 6323, the tax imposed upon the grantor by section 4641-A applies only to that portion of the proceeds of the sale that exceeds the sums required to satisfy in full the claims of the mortgagee and all junior claimants originally made parties in interest in the proceedings or having subsequently intervened in the proceedings as established by the judgment of foreclosure and sale. The tax must be deducted from the excess proceeds. [PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §3 (NEW).]

C. In the event of a transfer, by deed, assignment or otherwise, from a mortgagee or its servicer to the mortgagee or its servicer or to the owner of the mortgage debt at a public sale held pursuant to Title 14, section 6323, the mortgagee or its servicer if the servicer is the selling entity is considered

to be both the grantor and grantee for purposes of section 4641-A. [PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §3 (NEW).]

D. In the event of a deed in lieu of foreclosure and a deed from a mortgagee or its servicer to the mortgagee or its servicer or to the owner of the mortgage debt at a public sale held pursuant to Title 14, section 6323, the tax applies to the value of the property. [PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §3 (NEW).]

For the purposes of this subsection, "servicer" means a person or entity that acts on behalf of the owner of a mortgage debt to provide services related to the mortgage debt, including accepting and crediting payments from the mortgagor, issuing statements and notices to the mortgagor, enforcing rights of the owner of a mortgage debt and initiating and pursuing foreclosure proceedings; [PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §3 (RPR).]

3. Deeds affecting a previous deed. Deeds that, without additional consideration and without changing ownership or ownership interest, confirm, correct, modify or supplement a deed previously recorded; [PL 1997, c. 504, §11 (AMD).]

4. Deeds between certain family members. Deeds between spouses, parent and child or grandparent and grandchild, without actual consideration for the deed, and deeds between spouses in divorce proceedings; [PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. B, §8 (AMD).]

5. Tax deeds. Tax deeds; [PL 1977, c. 318, §1 (NEW).]

6. Deeds of partition. Deeds of partition when the interest conveyed is without consideration. However, if any of the parties take shares greater in value than their undivided interest, a tax is due on the difference between their proportional undivided interest and the greater value, computed at the rate set forth in section 4641-A; [PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (AMD).]

7. Deeds pursuant to mergers or consolidations. Deeds made pursuant to mergers or consolidations of business entities, from which no gain or loss is recognized under the Code. For purposes of this subsection, "business entity" means an association or legal entity organized to conduct business, including, without limitation, a domestic or foreign corporation, a limited partnership, a general partnership, a limited liability partnership, a limited liability company, a joint venture, a joint stock company or a business trust; [PL 2009, c. 361, §26 (AMD); PL 2009, c. 361, §37 (AFF).]

8. Deeds by subsidiary corporation. Deeds made by a subsidiary corporation to its parent corporation for no consideration other than the cancellation or surrender of the subsidiary's stock; [PL 1981, c. 148, §1 (AMD).]

9. Deeds prior to October 1, 1975. Deeds dated or acknowledged prior to October 1, 1975, and offered for recording subsequent to that date; [PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (AMD).]

10. Deeds by parent corporation. Deeds made by a parent corporation to its subsidiary corporation for no consideration other than shares of stock of the subsidiary corporation; [PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (AMD).]

11. Deeds of distribution. Deeds of distribution made pursuant to Title 18-B or Title 18-C; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §106 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

12. Deeds executed by public officials. Deeds executed by public officials in the performance of their official duties; [PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (NEW).]

13. Deeds of foreclosure and in lieu of foreclosure.

[PL 2009, c. 402, §23 (RP).]

14. Deeds given pursuant to the United States Bankruptcy Code. Deeds given pursuant to the United States Bankruptcy Code;
[PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (NEW).]

15. Deeds; trustee, nominee or straw party. Any deeds:

A. To a trustee, nominee or straw party for the grantor as beneficial owner; [PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (NEW).]

B. To a trustee, nominee or straw party for the beneficial ownership of a person other than the grantor when, if that person were the grantee, a tax would not be imposed upon the conveyance pursuant to this chapter; or [PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. A, §10 (AMD).]

C. From a trustee, nominee or straw party to the beneficial owner; [PL 1993, c. 647, §2 (AMD); PL 1993, c. 718, Pt. B, §10 (AMD).]
[PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. A, §10 (AMD).]

16. Certain corporate, partnership and limited liability company deeds. Deeds between a family corporation, partnership, limited partnership or limited liability company and its stockholders, partners or members for the purpose of transferring real property in the organization, dissolution or liquidation of the corporation, partnership, limited partnership or limited liability company under the laws of this State, if the deeds are given for no actual consideration other than shares, interests or debt securities of the corporation, partnership, limited partnership or limited liability company. For purposes of this subsection a family corporation, partnership, limited partnership or limited liability company is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership or limited liability company in which the majority of the voting stock of the corporation, or of the interests in the partnership, limited partnership or limited liability company is held by and the majority of the stockholders, partners or members are persons related to each other, including by adoption, as descendants or as spouses of descendants of a common ancestor who was also a transferor of the real property involved, or persons acting in a fiduciary capacity for persons so related;
[PL 1995, c. 462, Pt. A, §69 (RPR).]

17. Deeds to charitable conservation organizations. Deeds for gifts of land or interests in land granted to bona fide nonprofit institutions, organizations or charitable trusts under state law or charter, a similar law or charter of any other state or the Federal Government that meet the conservation purposes requirements of Title 33, section 476, subsection 2, paragraph B without actual consideration for the deeds;
[PL 1999, c. 638, §45 (AMD).]

18. Limited liability company deeds. Deeds to a limited liability company from a corporation, a general or limited partnership or another limited liability company, when the grantor or grantee owns an interest in the limited liability company in the same proportion as the grantor's or grantee's interest in or ownership of the real estate being conveyed;
[PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §6 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

19. Change in identity or form of ownership. Any transfer of real property, whether accomplished by deed, conversion, merger, consolidation or otherwise, if it consists of a mere change in identity or form of ownership of an entity. This exemption is limited to those transfers when no change in beneficial ownership is made and may include transfers involving corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, trusts, estates, associations and other entities;
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §2 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

20. Controlling interests. Transfers of controlling interests in an entity with a fee interest in real property if the transfer of the real property would qualify for exemption if accomplished by deed of the real property between the parties to the transfer of the controlling interest; and
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §3 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

21. Transfers pursuant to transfer on death deed. Any transfer of real property effectuated by a transfer on death deed pursuant to Title 18-C, Article 6, Part 4.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §4 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 655, §1 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 318, §1 (RPR). PL 1977, c. 394 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 148, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 691, §32 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 373, §5 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 398, §4 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 647, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 680, §A31 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 718, §§B10-12 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 462, §§A69-71 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 479, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 479, §2 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 504, §§10-12 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 638, §§44-47 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §§15-8 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §115 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 344, §D26 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 397, §C21 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 397, §C22 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 519, §SSS1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 519, §SSS2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 361, §26 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 361, §37 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 402, §§22, 23 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 521, Pt. A, §3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. B, §8 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §106 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. A, §10 (AMD).

§4641-D. Declaration of value

Except as otherwise provided in this section, any deed, when offered for recording, and any report of a transfer of a controlling interest must be accompanied by a declaration of the value of the property transferred and indicating the taxpayer identification numbers of the grantor and grantee, if they are business entities. The declaration of value with regard to a transfer by deed must include evidence of compliance with section 5250-A. The declaration of value must identify the tax map and parcel number of the property transferred unless a tax map does not exist that includes that property, in which event the declaration must indicate that an appropriate tax map does not exist. The following are exempt from these requirements: [PL 2019, c. 607, Pt. A, §9 (AMD).]

1. Governmental conveyances. Any conveyance by or to the United States of America, the State of Maine or any of their instrumentalities, agencies or subdivisions. For purposes of this subsection, only governmental entities are exempt from the requirement to file a declaration of value;
[PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (AMD).]

2. Mortgage. Any mortgage or mortgage discharge;
[PL 1977, c. 318, §2 (NEW).]

3. Partial release of mortgage. Any partial release of a mortgage deed;
[PL 1977, c. 318, §2 (NEW).]

4. Deed affecting previous deed. Any deed that, without additional consideration, confirms, corrects, modifies or supplements a previously recorded deed;
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §5 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Deed dated prior to October 1, 1975.
[PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (RP).]

6. Deed of distribution. Any deed of distribution made pursuant to Title 18-C; and
[PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §109 (RPR).]

7. Transfer on death deed. Any transfer on death deed under Title 18-C, Article 6, Part 4.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §7 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

If the transfer is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter, the reason for the exemption must be stated on the declaration of value. [PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (AMD).]

The declaration of value must be in a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor, who shall provide an adequate supply of such forms to each register of deeds in the State. The State Tax Assessor shall prescribe a form for the declaration of value with regard to transfers of controlling interests subject to tax under this chapter. The State Tax Assessor, by rule, may establish grounds and procedures for waiver of the requirement that the taxpayer identification numbers of the grantor and grantee must be shown on the declaration of value. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (AMD).]

The register of deeds shall transmit the declaration of value to the State Tax Assessor not later than 40 days from the date of recordation of the deed or, in the case of a transfer of a controlling interest subject to tax under this chapter, no later than the 10th day of the month following the month in which the report of the transfer is received by the register of deeds. [PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (AMD).]

The State Tax Assessor shall, on or before the 20th day of the month following the month of receipt, transmit each declaration of value to the assessors of the municipality or the chief assessor of a primary assessing area in which the real estate is situated. [PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 655, §2 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 318, §2 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 535, §13 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 568, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 131 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §Y1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 528, §§Y3,RRR (AFF). PL 1991, c. 591, §Y1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 591, §Y3 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 398, §5 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 504, §13 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §§19,10 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 391, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 437, §14 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §107 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. E, §§5-7 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §109 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 607, Pt. A, §9 (AMD).

§4641-E. Powers and duties of State Tax Assessor

The State Tax Assessor is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [PL 1993, c. 398, §6 (AMD).]

Within 3 years of the recording of a deed subject to the tax imposed by this chapter or of the date on which a transfer of a controlling interest in an entity subject to taxation under this chapter is reported to the register of deeds, the State Tax Assessor may examine any books, papers, records or memoranda of the grantor or grantee bearing upon the amount of tax payable, and may enforce that right of examination by subpoena. If the assessor determines that there is a deficiency of taxes due under this chapter, such deficiency must be assessed, together with interest and penalties, with notice to the persons liable, but no such assessment may be made more than 3 years after the date of recording or transfer. [PL 2003, c. 391, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 679, §32 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 398, §6 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §11 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 391, §4 (AMD).

§4641-F. Petition for reconsideration of assessment (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 694, §719 (RP).

§4641-G. Appeals

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 694, §719 (RP).

§4641-H. Notices**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

P&SL 1975, c. 78, §21 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 218, §49 (RP).

§4641-I. Priority**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 364, §61 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 218, §50 (RP).

§4641-J. Recording without tax

Any register of deeds who, upon recording any deed or receiving a report of a transfer of a controlling interest upon which a tax is imposed by this chapter, fails to collect that tax or to obtain the declaration of value required by this chapter and does so with the intent of defeating the purposes of this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$200 may be adjudged. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §12 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §293 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 559, §112 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §115 (AFF).

§4641-K. Falsifying declaration of value**1. Prohibition.** A person may not:

A. Knowingly falsify the declaration of value prescribed by section 4641-D; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. U, §16 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. Refuse to permit the State Tax Assessor or any of the State Tax Assessor's agents or representatives to inspect property in question or any relevant books, papers, records or memoranda within 3 years after recording or transfer of a controlling interest subject to tax under this chapter; [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. U, §16 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

C. Knowingly alter, cancel or obliterate a part of any relevant books, papers, records or memoranda; or [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. U, §16 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

D. Knowingly make a false entry in any relevant books, papers, records or memoranda. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. U, §16 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. U, §16 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. U, §16 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §294 (RPR). PL 1993, c. 398, §7 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §113 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §115 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §U16 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§4641-L. No effect on recordation

Failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter does not affect the validity of any recorded instrument or the validity of any recordation or transfer of a controlling interest. [PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §14 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §15 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 559, §14 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 559, §15 (AFF).

§4641-M. Confidentiality of declaration of value

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 572, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 509, §32 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 668, §5 (RP).

§4641-N. Review

The Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters by April 1st of each year. The report must identify the amount of revenues under this chapter that have been credited to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and the manner in which those funds have been used. The report must provide a full accounting of how funds were spent in the prior fiscal year and a detailed summary of how funds were spent in the prior 10 fiscal years. [PL 2023, c. 251, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 381, §3 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 251, §1 (AMD).

§4642. Rate of Tax

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

P&SL 1967, c. 154, §§H1,2 (NEW). PL 1967, c. 537, §2 (RP).

§4643. Collection

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

P&SL 1967, c. 154, §§H1,2 (NEW). PL 1967, c. 537, §2 (RP).

§4644. Exemptions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

P&SL 1967, c. 154, §§H1,2 (NEW). PL 1967, c. 537, §2 (RP).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.