

1 H.442

2 Introduced by Representatives Parent of St. Albans City, Tate of Mendon,
3 Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, and Russell of
4 Rutland City

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Court procedure; trustee process; Superior Court ejectment

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit a
9 landlord to recover a judgment for unpaid rent following the eviction of a
10 tenant by garnishing the tenant's income tax refund or renter's rebate.

11 An act relating to trustee process of income tax refunds and renter rebates

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 3013 is amended to read:

14 § 3013. WHO MAY BE SUMMONED AS TRUSTEE GENERALLY;

15 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO PROCESS

16 A person or corporation, or the ~~state~~ State of Vermont by service of process
17 upon the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer, may be summoned as a trustee of the
18 defendant. The goods, effects, or credits of the defendant which are in the
19 hands of such trustee at the time of the service of the writ upon the trustee, or
20 which come into the trustee's hands or possession before disclosure, shall

1 thereby be attached and held to respond to final judgment in the cause, except
2 as hereinafter provided. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ~~state~~ State of
3 Vermont may not be summoned as a trustee of the defendant for any tax
4 refunds, credits, or rebates due the defendant under Title 32, except as
5 provided in sections 3173 through 3176 of this chapter for final judgments
6 relating to an ejectment proceeding pursuant to chapter 169 of this title and
7 9 V.S.A. chapter 137.

8 Sec. 2. 12 V.S.A. § 3173 is added to read:

9 § 3173. ENFORCEMENT OF MONEY JUDGMENTS; TRUSTEE

10 PROCESS AGAINST TAX REFUND OR REBATE

11 Trustee process against a tax refund or rebate shall only be used in
12 connection with the enforcement of a money judgment in an ejectment action
13 under chapter 169 of this title and 9 V.S.A. chapter 137 after the judgment
14 becomes final.

15 Sec. 3. 12 V.S.A. § 3174 is added to read:

16 § 3174. MOTION FOR ISSUANCE OF TRUSTEE PROCESS;

17 SCHEDULING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

18 (a) Whenever a judgment debtor has neglected or refused to pay or make
19 reasonable arrangements to pay a money judgment in an ejectment action
20 pursuant to chapter 169 of this title and 9 V.S.A. chapter 137, the judgment
21 creditor may move the Court that rendered the judgment to issue trustee

1 process against the judgment debtor's income tax refund issued pursuant to
2 32 V.S.A. chapter 151 or renter rebate issued pursuant to 32 V.S.A.
3 chapter 154. The motion shall describe in detail the grounds for requesting
4 issuance of trustee process and the amount of judgment alleged to be unpaid.

5 (b) Upon receipt of the motion of the judgment creditor, the Court shall
6 give notice to the State Treasurer and to the judgment debtor as provided by
7 Rule 4.2 of the Rules of Civil Procedure and shall hold a hearing on the
8 motion.

9 Sec. 4. 12 V.S.A. § 3175 is added to read:

10 § 3175. HEARING ON MOTION; FINDINGS; ORDER

11 (a) At the hearing on the motion, the Court shall determine on the basis of
12 the motion, an affidavit offered by the judgment creditor, the record in the
13 ejection action, and any testimony offered by either party whether the
14 judgment debtor has neglected or refused to pay or make reasonable
15 arrangements to pay the money judgment.

16 (b) If the Court finds the judgment debtor has neglected or refused to pay
17 or make reasonable arrangements to pay the money judgment, it shall
18 determine the amount of the judgment that is unpaid and enter an appropriate
19 order. The order may provide for repetitive withholding from the judgment
20 debtor's income tax refund and renter rebate after all claims for setoff debt

1 collection pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 12 have been paid.

2 The order may, upon motion, be modified from time to time.

3 Sec. 5. 12 V.S.A. § 3176 is added to read:

4 § 3176. SERVICE OF ORDER; LIABILITY OF STATE

5 (a) The order shall be served on the judgment debtor and the State
6 Treasurer and shall state the address of the judgment creditor to which amounts
7 withheld are to be delivered.

8 (b) If the State Treasurer fails to honor the order of the Court, the State
9 shall be liable to the judgment creditor in the amounts that the Treasurer has
10 failed to withhold and deliver together with any costs, interest, and reasonable
11 attorney's fees incurred in their collection. The judgment debtor shall have no
12 additional liability for those costs, interest, or attorney's fees.

13 (c) Upon full satisfaction or payment of the debt upon which the judgment
14 is based, the judgment creditor shall notify the State Treasurer in writing and
15 the State Treasurer shall cease withholding from the income tax refund and
16 renter's rebate of the judgment debtor.

17 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.