HOUSE BILL No. 4373

March 3, 1999, Introduced by Reps. Cassis, Woronchak, Koetje, Patterson, Allen, Gosselin, Kukuk, Vear, Law and DeVuyst and referred to the Committee on Tax Policy.

A bill to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled "The general property tax act," by amending sections 2, 8, 14, and 34c (MCL 211.2, 211.8, 211.14, and 211.34c), section 2 as amended by 1993 PA 313, section 8 as amended by 1983 PA 254, and section 34c as amended by 1996 PA 476.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 2. (1) For the purpose of taxation, real property
- 2 includes all lands OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 3 (A) ALL LAND within the THIS state, all buildings and fix-
- 4 tures on the land, and ALL appurtenances thereto TO THE LAND,
- 5 except as expressly exempted by law. -, and includes all-
- **6** (B) ALL real property owned by the THIS state or purchased
- 7 or condemned for public highway purposes by any board, officer,
- 8 commission, or department of the THIS state and sold on land

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- (a) All goods, chattels, and effects within $\overline{}$ THIS state.
- (b) All goods, chattels, and effects belonging to inhabitants of this state, located without this state, except that property actually and permanently invested in business in another state shall not be included.

- (c) All interests owned by individuals in ——— REAL PROPERTY, the fee —— TITLE TO which is in this state or the United States, except as otherwise provided in this act.
- (d) —— FOR TAXES LEVIED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1999, buildings and improvements located upon leased —— REAL PROPERTY, except —— If the value of the real property is also assessed to the lessee or owner of those buildings and improvements. FOR TAXES LEVIED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1998, BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED UPON LEASED REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE ASSESSED AS REAL PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 2 TO THE OWNER OF THE BUILDINGS OR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH THE BUILDINGS OR IMPROVEMENTS ARE LOCATED IF THE VALUE OF THE BUILDINGS OR IMPROVEMENTS IS NOT OTHERWISE INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY.
- (e) Tombs or vaults built within any burial grounds and kept for hire or rent, in whole or in part, and the stock of a corporation or association owning the tombs, vaults, or burial grounds.
- (f) All other personal property not enumerated in this section $\overline{}$ and not especially exempted by law.
- (g) The personal property of gas and coke companies, natural gas companies, electric light companies, waterworks companies, hydraulic companies, and pipe line companies transporting oil or gas as public or common carriers, to be assessed in the township, village, or city where

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- 1 and wire or other line used for communication purposes in the
- 2 operation of those facilities, and the rights of way and the
- 3 easements or other interests in land REAL PROPERTY by virtue of
- 4 which the mains, pipes, supports, and wires are erected and main-
- 5 tained, shall be assessed as personal property in the township,
- 6 village, or city LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT where laid, placed,
- 7 or located. Interests in underground rock strata used for gas
- 8 storage purposes, whether by lease or ownership separate from the
- 9 surface of real property, shall be separately valued and assessed
- 10 as personal property in the township, village, or city LOCAL
- 11 TAX COLLECTING UNIT in which IT IS located to the person who
- 12 holds the interest. These interests INTERESTS in such under-
- 13 ground rock strata shall be reported as personal property to the
- 14 assessor APPROPRIATE ASSESSING OFFICER for all such property
- 15 descriptions included in the storage field in the township, vil-
- 16 lage, or city LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT and a separate valuation
- 17 shall be assessed for each school district. The personal prop-
- 18 erty of street railroad, plank road, cable or electric railroad
- 19 or transportation companies, bridge companies, and all other com-
- 20 panies not required to pay a specific tax to the THIS state in
- 21 lieu of all other taxes, shall, except as hereinafter OTHERWISE
- 22 provided IN THIS SECTION, be assessed in the township, village,
- 23 or city where LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH the property is
- 24 located, used, or laid, and the track, road, or bridge of such
- 25 a company shall be held to be IS CONSIDERED personal property.
- 26 None of the property assessable as personal property under this
- 27 subdivision shall be affected by any assessment or tax levied on

- 1 the lands REAL PROPERTY through or over which the same
- 2 PERSONAL PROPERTY is laid, placed, or located, nor shall any
- ${f 3}$ right of way, easement, or other interest in ${f -land}$ REAL
- 4 PROPERTY, assessable as personal property under this subdivision,
- 5 be extinguished or otherwise affected in case the REAL property
- 6 subject thereto shall be

- 1 (i) A leasehold estate received by a sublessor from which
- 2 the sublessor receives net rentals in excess of net rentals
- 3 required to be paid by the sublessor except to the extent that
- 4 the excess rentals are attributable to the installation and con-
- 5 struction of improvements and structures assessed under
- 6 subdivision (h) or (j) or included in the assessment of the real
- 7 property. For purposes of this act, a leasehold estate -shall
- 8 be IS considered to be owned by the lessee receiving such
- 9 additional net rentals. A lessee in possession shall be IS
- 10 required to provide the assessor with the name and address of its
- 11 lessor. Taxes imposed by COLLECTED UNDER this act on such
- 12 leasehold estates shall become a lien against the rentals paid by
- 13 the sublessee to the sublessor.
- 14 (j) To the extent not assessed as real property, a leasehold
- 15 estate of a lessee created by the difference between the income
- 16 that would be received by the lessor from the lessee on the basis
- 17 of the present economic income of the property as defined and
- 18 allowed by section 27(4), minus the actual value to the lessor
- 19 under the lease. This subdivision shall DOES not apply to
- 20 property when IF subject to a lease entered into before
- 21 January 1, 1984 for which the terms of the lease governing the
- 22 rental rate or the tax liability have not been renegotiated after
- 23 December 31, 1983. This subdivision shall DOES not apply to a
- 24 nonprofit housing cooperative. As used in this subdivision,
- 25 "nonprofit cooperative housing corporation" means a nonprofit
- 26 cooperative housing corporation which THAT is engaged in
- 27 providing housing services to its stockholders and members and

- 1 which THAT does not pay dividends or interest upon stock or
- 2 membership investment but which THAT does distribute all earn-
- 3 ings to its stockholders or members.
- 4 Sec. 14. (1) All goods and chattels situate LOCATED in
- 5 some township A LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT other than where
- 6 THAT IN WHICH the owner OF THE GOODS OR CHATTELS resides shall be
- 7 assessed in the township where situate, and not elsewhere LOCAL
- 8 TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH THE GOODS OR CHATTELS ARE LOCATED.
- 9 (2) All animals kept throughout the year in some township
- 10 A LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT other than -where- THAT IN WHICH the
- 11 owner OF THE ANIMALS resides shall be assessed to such THE
- 12 owner or the person in possession OF THE ANIMALS in the township
- 13 where LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH THE ANIMALS ARE kept.
- 14 (3) The tangible personal property of minors under guardian-
- 15 ship shall be assessed to the guardian in the township where he
- 16 LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH THE GUARDIAN resides, and the
- 17 personal property of any other person under guardianship shall be
- 18 assessed to the quardian in the township where LOCAL TAX COL-
- 19 LECTING UNIT IN WHICH the ward resides.
- 20 (4) The tangible TANGIBLE personal property belonging to
- 21 the estates ESTATE of A deceased persons PERSON, in the hands
- 22 of the executors, administrators, or trustees appointed under the
- 23 last will and testament of such THE deceased person, or by
- 24 ORDER OF any court of competent jurisdiction, shall be assessed
- 25 to -them THE EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, OR TRUSTEES in the
- 26 township LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT and in the school district
- 27 where IN WHICH the deceased last dwelt PERSON RESIDED, until

- 1 they shall THE EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, OR TRUSTEES give
- 2 notice to the supervisor or other APPROPRIATE assessing officer
- 3 that the estate has been distributed. to the legatees or benefi-
- 4 ciaries or other persons entitled thereto. If such THE
- 5 deceased PERSON was a nonresident of the THIS state, such THE
- 6 property shall be assessed in the township where situated LOCAL
- 7 TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED, to -such THE execu-
- 8 tors, administrators, or trustees or to the person in possession
- 9 OF THE PROPERTY.
- 10 (5) Tangible personal property under the control of a
- 11 trustee or agent, whether a corporation or a natural person, may
- 12 be assessed to -such THE trustee or agent in the -township where
- 13 he LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT IN WHICH THE TRUSTEE OR AGENT
- 14 resides, except as otherwise provided. Personal property mort-
- 15 gaged or pledged shall be deemed IS CONSIDERED the property of
- 16 the person in possession thereof OF THAT PERSONAL PROPERTY and
- 17 may be assessed to him, and personal THAT PERSON. PERSONAL
- 18 property not otherwise taxed under this act which THAT is in
- 19 the possession of any person, firm, or corporation using same
- 20 THAT PROPERTY in connection with a business conducted for profit
- 21 shall be deemed IS CONSIDERED the property of such THAT
- 22 person, FIRM, OR CORPORATION for taxation and SHALL BE assessed
- 23 to him accordingly THAT PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION.
- 24 (6) All tangible personal property of any person situated
- 25 upon, also all buildings FOR TAXES LEVIED BEFORE JANUARY 1,
- **26** 1999, A BUILDING situated and being upon the lands REAL
- 27 PROPERTY of the United States or of this state, or upon the

- 1 lands REAL PROPERTY of any person, persons, firm,
- 2 association, or corporation -, where IF the owner of such
- 3 buildings or personal property THE BUILDING is not the owner of
- 4 the fee in such lands TITLE TO THAT REAL PROPERTY, and where
- 5 such IF THE lessor or owner of such buildings or property has
- 6 THE BUILDING IS not bound himself OBLIGATED to pay taxes on the
- 7 real estate, shall be deemed PROPERTY IS CONSIDERED personal
- 8 property for the purposes of taxation and assessment, and shall
- 9 be assessed as personal property to the owner or occupant
- 10 thereof OF THE BUILDING in the city, village or township
- 11 LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT in which such lands are situated and
- 12 such buildings shall be THE REAL PROPERTY IS LOCATED. THE
- 13 BUILDING IS subject to sale for taxes in the same manner as pro-
- 14 vided for the sale of personal property. It shall IS not be
- 15 necessary to remove any such buildings A BUILDING for the pur-
- 16 pose of sale. FOR TAXES LEVIED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1998, BUILD-
- 17 INGS AND IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED UPON REAL PROPERTY OF THE UNITED
- 18 STATES OR OF THIS STATE, OR UPON THE REAL PROPERTY OF ANY PERSON,
- 19 FIRM, ASSOCIATION, OR CORPORATION IF THE OWNER OF THE BUILDING IS
- 20 NOT THE OWNER OF THE FEE TITLE TO THAT REAL PROPERTY IS CONSID-
- 21 ERED REAL PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSES OF TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT,
- 22 AND SHALL BE ASSESSED AS REAL PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 2 TO THE
- 23 OWNER OR OCCUPANT OF THE BUILDING IN THE LOCAL TAX COLLECTING
- 24 UNIT IN WHICH THE BUILDINGS ARE LOCATED IF THE VALUE OF THE
- 25 BUILDING IS NOT OTHERWISE INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE REAL
- 26 PROPERTY.

(7) Tangible personal property of nonresidents of the THIS 1 2 state and all forest products, owned by residents or 3 nonresidents, or estates of deceased persons, shall be assessed 4 in the township or ward where the same may be LOCAL TAX COL-5 LECTING UNIT IN WHICH THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST 6 PRODUCTS ARE LOCATED, to the person -, persons or corporation 7 having IN control of the premises, store, mill, dockyard, 8 piling ground, place of storage, or warehouse where such prop-9 erty is situated in such township THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY 10 OR FOREST PRODUCTS ARE LOCATED, on December 31. -, except that 11 where such property is IF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST 12 PRODUCTS ARE in transit to -some place A LOCAL TAX COLLECTING 13 UNIT within the THIS state, it THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY 14 OR FOREST PRODUCTS shall be assessed in such place, except that 15 where such property is THAT LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT. IF TANGI-16 BLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS ARE in transit to some 17 place without the THIS state, it THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROP-18 ERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS shall be assessed at the place LOCAL 19 TAX COLLECTING UNIT in this state nearest to the last boom or 20 sorting gap of the stream in or bordering on this state in which 21 said property THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS 22 will naturally be last floated during the transit, thereof, 23 and in case IF the transit of any such property THE TANGIBLE 24 PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS is to be other than through 25 any watercourse in or bordering on this state, then -such THE

26 assessment shall be made IN THE LOCAL TAX COLLECTING UNIT at the

27 point where such property AT WHICH THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL

- 1 PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS will naturally leave the THIS state
- 2 in the ordinary course of its transit. ; and such property so
- 3 THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS in transit to
- 4 any place without the THIS state shall be assessed to the owner
- 5 or the person -, persons, or corporation in possession or con-
- 6 trol thereof, and in case such OF THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROP-
- 7 ERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS. IF THE transit OF THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL
- 8 PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS will pass said logs through the
- 9 booms or sorting gaps or into the places of storage of any person
- 10 -, persons or corporation operating upon any -such stream, then
- 11 such property THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS
- 12 may be assessed to such THAT person , persons or corporation.
- 13 -; and the A person -, persons or corporation -so assessed for
- 14 any such property TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS
- 15 belonging to a nonresident of this state shall be IS entitled
- 16 to recover from the owner of -such property THE TANGIBLE PER-
- 17 SONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS by a suit in attachment,
- 18 garnishment, or for money had and received, any amount which
- 19 THAT the person -, persons or corporation -so assessed -are IS
- 20 compelled to pay because of such THE assessment, and shall
- 21 have a lien upon said property THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY
- 22 OR FOREST PRODUCTS as a security against loss or damage because
- 23 of being so assessed for the property TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROP-
- 24 ERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS of another, and may retain possession of
- 25 such property THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS
- 26 until such THAT lien is satisfied. but the A person -,
- **27** persons or corporation so assessed shall IS not be

- 1 compelled to pay taxes on account of such THAT assessment -
- 2 unless the supervisor or APPROPRIATE assessing officer, shall
- 3 at the time of assessment, —serve— SERVES notice in writing on
- 4 the person -, persons or corporation having IN control of the
- 5 premises, store, mill, dockyard, piling ground, place of storage,
- **6** or warehouse that such THE assessment will be made. Any AN
- 7 owner or person interested in -said property THE TANGIBLE PER-
- 8 SONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS may secure the release of the
- 9 same TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST PRODUCTS from such
- 10 THAT lien by giving to the person -, persons or corporation -so
- 11 assessed a bond in an amount double the probable tax to be
- 12 assessed thereon ON THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OR FOREST
- 13 PRODUCTS, but not less than the sum of \$200.00, with 2 suffi-
- 14 cient sureties, conditioned for the payment of such THE tax by
- 15 said THE owner or person interested and the saving of the
- 16 person -, persons or corporation assessed from payment -thereof-
- 17 OF THE ASSESSMENT and from costs, damages, and expenses on
- 18 account of his nonpayment, which bond as to amount and suffi-
- 19 ciency of sureties shall be approved by the county clerk of the
- 20 county in which the assessment is made.
- 21 Sec. 34c. (1) Not later than the first Monday in March in
- 22 each year, the assessor shall classify every item of assessable
- 23 property according to the definitions contained in this section.
- 24 Following the March board of review, the assessor shall tabulate
- 25 the total number of items and the valuations as approved by the
- 26 board of review for each classification and for the totals of
- 27 real and personal property in the local tax collecting unit. The

- 1 assessor shall transmit to the county equalization department and
- 2 to the state tax commission the tabulation of assessed valuations
- 3 and other statistical information the state tax commission con-
- 4 siders necessary to meet the requirements of this act and Act
- 5 No. 44 of the Public Acts of 1911, being sections 209.1 to 209.8
- 6 of the Michigan Compiled Laws 1911 PA 44, MCL 209.1 TO 209.8.
- 7 (2) The classifications of assessable real property are
- 8 described as follows:
- 9 (a) Agricultural real property includes parcels used par-
- 10 tially or wholly for agricultural operations, with or without
- 11 buildings, and parcels assessed to the department of natural
- 12 resources and valued by the state tax commission. As used in
- 13 this subdivision, "agricultural operations" means the following:
- 14 (i) Farming in all its branches, including cultivating
- **15** soil.
- 16 (ii) Growing and harvesting any agricultural, horticultural,
- 17 or floricultural commodity.
- 18 (iii) Dairying.
- 19 (iv) Raising livestock, bees, fish, fur-bearing animals, or
- 20 poultry.
- 21 (v) Turf and tree farming.
- 22 (vi) Performing any practices on a farm incident to, or in
- 23 conjunction with, farming operations. A commercial storage, pro-
- 24 cessing, distribution, marketing, or shipping operation is not
- 25 part of agricultural operations.
- 26 (b) Commercial real property includes the following:

- 1 (i) Platted or unplatted parcels used for commercial
- 2 purposes, whether wholesale, retail, or service, with or without
- 3 buildings.
- 4 (ii) Parcels used by fraternal societies.
- 5 (iii) Parcels used as golf courses, boat clubs, ski areas,
- 6 or apartment buildings with more than 4 units.
- 7 (c) Developmental real property includes parcels containing
- 8 more than 5 acres without buildings, or more than 15 acres with a
- 9 market value in excess of its value in use. Developmental real
- 10 property may include farm land or open space land adjacent to a
- 11 population center, or farm land subject to several competing val-
- 12 uation influences.
- (d) Industrial real property includes the following:
- 14 (i) Platted or unplatted parcels used for manufacturing and
- 15 processing purposes, with or without buildings.
- 16 (ii) Parcels used for utilities sites for generating plants,
- 17 pumping stations, switches, substations, compressing stations,
- 18 warehouses, rights-of-way, flowage land, and storage areas.
- 19 (iii) Parcels used for removal or processing of gravel,
- 20 stone, or mineral ores, whether valued by the local assessor or
- 21 by the state geologist.
- (e) Residential real property includes the following:
- 23 (i) Platted or unplatted parcels, with or without buildings,
- 24 and condominium apartments located within or outside a village or
- 25 city, which are used for, or probably will be used for, residen-
- 26 tial purposes.

- 1 (ii) Parcels that are used for, or probably will be used
- 2 for, recreational purposes, such as lake lots and hunting lands,
- 3 located in an area used predominantly for recreational purposes.
- 4 (f) Timber-cutover real property includes parcels that are
- 5 stocked with forest products of merchantable type and size, cut-
- 6 over forest land with little or no merchantable products, and
- 7 marsh lands or other barren land. However, when a typical pur-
- 8 chase of this type of land is for residential or recreational
- 9 uses, the classification shall be changed to residential.
- 10 (3) The classifications of assessable personal property are
- 11 described as follows:
- 12 (a) Agricultural personal property includes farm buildings
- 13 on leased land and any agricultural equipment and produce not
- 14 exempt by law.
- (b) Commercial personal property includes the following:
- 16 (i) All equipment, furniture, and fixtures on commercial
- 17 parcels, and inventories not exempt by law.
- (ii) Outdoor advertising signs and billboards.
- 19 (iii) Well drilling rigs and other equipment attached to a
- 20 transporting vehicle but not designed for operation while the
- 21 vehicle is moving on the highway.
- 22 (iv) Unlicensed commercial vehicles or commercial vehicles
- 23 licensed as special mobile equipment or by temporary permits.
- (v) Commercial buildings on leased land.
- (c) Industrial personal property includes the following:
- 26 (i) All machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, and
- 27 dies on industrial parcels, and inventories not exempt by law.

- 1 (ii) Industrial buildings on leased land.
- 2 (iii) Personal property of mining companies valued by the
- 3 state geologist.
- 4 (d) Residential personal property includes a home, cottage,
- 5 or cabin on leased land, and a mobile home that would be asses-
- 6 sable as real property under section 2a except that the land on
- 7 which it is located is not assessable because the land is
- 8 exempt.
- 9 (e) Utility personal property includes the following:
- 10 (i) Electric transmission and distribution systems, substa-
- 11 tion equipment, spare parts, gas distribution systems, and water
- 12 transmission and distribution systems.
- 13 (ii) Oil wells and allied equipment such as tanks, gathering
- 14 lines, field pump units, and buildings.
- 15 (iii) Inventories not exempt by law.
- 16 (iv) Gas wells with allied equipment and gathering lines.
- (v) Oil or gas field equipment stored in the open or in
- 18 warehouses such as drilling rigs, motors, pipes, and parts.
- 19 (vi) Gas storage equipment.
- 20 (vii) Transmission lines of gas or oil transporting
- 21 companies.
- 22 (viii) Utility buildings on leased land.
- 23 (4) Buildings FOR TAXES LEVIED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1999,
- 24 BUILDINGS on leased land of any classification are improvements
- 25 where the owner of the improvement is not the owner of the land
- 26 or fee and has not bound himself or herself to pay taxes levied
- 27 against the land or fee and the improvement has been assessed as

- 1 personal property pursuant to section 14(6). FOR TAXES LEVIED
- 2 AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1998, BUILDINGS LOCATED UPON LEASED LAND SHALL
- 3 BE ASSESSED AS REAL PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 2 AND SHALL BEAR THE
- 4 SAME CLASSIFICATION AS THE PARCEL UPON WHICH THE BUILDING IS
- 5 LOCATED.
- **6** (5) If the total usage of a parcel includes more than 1
- 7 classification, the assessor shall determine the classification
- 8 that most significantly influences the total valuation of the
- 9 parcel.
- 10 (6) An owner of any assessable property who disputes the
- 11 classification of that parcel shall notify the assessor and may
- 12 protest the assigned classification to the March board of
- 13 review. An owner or assessor may appeal the decision of the
- 14 March board of review by filing a petition with the state tax
- 15 commission not later than June 30 in that tax year. The state
- 16 tax commission shall arbitrate the petition based on the written
- 17 petition and the written recommendations of the assessor and the
- 18 state tax commission staff. An appeal may not be taken from the
- 19 decision of the state tax commission regarding classification
- 20 complaint petitions and the state tax commission's determination
- 21 is final and binding for the year of the petition.
- 22 (7) The department of treasury may appeal the classification
- 23 of any assessable property to the residential and small claims
- 24 division of the Michigan tax tribunal not later than December 31
- 25 in the tax year for which the classification is appealed.

- 1 (8) This section shall not be construed to encourage the
- 2 assessment of property at other than the uniform percentage of
- 3 true cash value prescribed by this act.

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