

Act No. 140
Public Acts of 1999
Approved by the Governor
October 18, 1999
Filed with the Secretary of State
October 18, 1999
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 18, 1999

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
90TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1999**

**Introduced by Reps. Faunce, Price, Gosselin, Rick Johnson, Wojno, Woronchak, Thomas, Garcia and Middaugh
Reps. Allen, Cassis, DeRossett, Gielegheem, Jelinek, Koetje, Kowall, Kuipers, Kukuk, LaSata, Lemmons, Mortimer, O'Neil, Richner, Shulman, Switalski and Vear named co-sponsors**

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4844

AN ACT to amend 1974 PA 198, entitled "An act to provide for the establishment of plant rehabilitation districts and industrial development districts in local governmental units; to provide for the exemption from certain taxes; to levy and collect a specific tax upon the owners of certain facilities; to provide for the disposition of the tax; to provide for the obtaining and transferring of an exemption certificate and to prescribe the contents of those certificates; to prescribe the powers and duties of the state tax commission and certain officers of local governmental units; and to provide penalties," by amending sections 2, 4, 9, and 21 (MCL 207.552, 207.554, 207.559, and 207.571), section 2 as amended by 1986 PA 66, section 4 as amended by 1995 PA 218, and section 9 as amended by 1996 PA 513.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 2. (1) "Commission" means the state tax commission created by 1927 PA 360, MCL 209.101 to 209.107.

(2) "Facility" means either a replacement facility, a new facility, or, if applicable by its usage, a speculative building.

(3) "Replacement facility" means 1 of the following:

(a) In the case of a replacement or restoration that occurs on the same or contiguous land as that which is replaced or restored, industrial property that is or is to be acquired, constructed, altered, or installed for the purpose of replacement or restoration of obsolete industrial property together with any part of the old altered property that remains for use as industrial property after the replacement, restoration, or alteration.

(b) In the case of construction on vacant noncontiguous land, property that is or will be used as industrial property that is or is to be acquired, constructed, transferred, or installed for the purpose of being substituted for obsolete industrial property if the obsolete industrial property is situated in a plant rehabilitation district in the same city, village, or township as the land on which the facility is or is to be constructed and includes the obsolete industrial property itself until the time as the substituted facility is completed.

(4) "New facility" means new industrial property other than a replacement facility to be built in a plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district.

(5) "Local governmental unit" means a city, village, or township.

(6) "Industrial property" means land improvements, buildings, structures, and other real property, and machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures or any part or accessory whether completed or in the process of construction comprising an integrated whole, the primary purpose and use of which is the manufacture of goods or materials or the processing of goods and materials by physical or chemical change; property acquired, constructed, altered, or installed due to the passage of proposal A in 1976; the operation of a hydro-electric dam by a private company other than a public

utility; or agricultural processing facilities. Industrial property includes facilities related to a manufacturing operation under the same ownership, including but not limited to office, engineering, research and development, warehousing, or parts distribution facilities. Industrial property also includes research and development laboratories of companies other than those companies that manufacture the products developed from their research activities and research development laboratories of a manufacturing company that are unrelated to the products of the company. For applications approved by the legislative body of a local governmental unit between June 30, 1999 and June 30, 2002, industrial property also includes an electric generating plant that is not owned by a local unit of government. Industrial property also includes convention and trade centers over 250,000 square feet in size. Industrial property may be owned or leased. However, in the case of leased property, the lessee is liable for payment of ad valorem property taxes and shall furnish proof of that liability. Industrial property does not include any of the following:

(a) Land.

(b) Property of a public utility other than an electric generating plant that is not owned by a local unit of government and for which an application was approved by the legislative body of a local governmental unit between June 30, 1999 and June 30, 2002.

(c) Inventory.

(7) "Obsolete industrial property" means industrial property the condition of which is substantially less than an economically efficient functional condition.

(8) "Economically efficient functional condition" means a state or condition of property the desirability and usefulness of which is not impaired due to changes in design, construction, technology, or improved production processes, or from external influencing factors which make the property less desirable and valuable for continued use.

(9) "Research and development laboratories" means building and structures, including the machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures located in the building or structure, used or to be used for research or experimental purposes that would be considered qualified research as that term is used in section 30 of the internal revenue code, except that qualified research also includes qualified research funded by grant, contract, or otherwise by another person or governmental entity.

(10) "Manufacture of goods or materials" or "processing of goods or materials" means any type of operation that would be conducted by an entity included in the classifications provided by sector 31-33 — manufacturing, of the North American industry classification system — United States, 1997, published by the office of management and budget, regardless of whether the entity conducting that operation is included in that manual.

Sec. 4. (1) A local governmental unit, by resolution of its legislative body, may establish plant rehabilitation districts and industrial development districts that consist of 1 or more parcels or tracts of land or a portion of a parcel or tract of land.

(2) The legislative body of a local governmental unit may establish a plant rehabilitation district or an industrial development district on its own initiative or upon a written request filed by the owner or owners of 75% of the state equalized value of the industrial property located within a proposed plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district. This request shall be filed with the clerk of the local governmental unit.

(3) Except as provided in section 9(2)(h), after December 31, 1983, a request for the establishment of a proposed plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district shall be filed only in connection with a proposed replacement facility or new facility, the construction, acquisition, alteration, or installation of or for which has not commenced at the time of the filing of the request. The legislative body of a local governmental unit shall not establish a plant rehabilitation district or an industrial development district pursuant to subsection (2) if it finds that the request for the district was filed after the commencement of construction, alteration, or installation of, or of an acquisition related to, the proposed replacement facility or new facility. This subsection shall not apply to a speculative building.

(4) Before adopting a resolution establishing a plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district, the legislative body shall give written notice by certified mail to the owners of all real property within the proposed plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district and shall hold a public hearing on the establishment of the plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district at which those owners and other residents or taxpayers of the local governmental unit shall have a right to appear and be heard.

(5) The legislative body of the local governmental unit, in its resolution establishing a plant rehabilitation district, shall set forth a finding and determination that property comprising not less than 50% of the state equalized valuation of the industrial property within the district is obsolete.

(6) A plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district established by a township shall be only within the unincorporated territory of the township and shall not be within a village.

(7) Industrial property that is part of an industrial development district or a plant rehabilitation district may also be part of a tax increment district established under the tax increment finance authority act, 1980 PA 450, MCL 125.1801 to 125.1830.

Sec. 9. (1) The legislative body of the local governmental unit, in its resolution approving an application, shall set forth a finding and determination that the granting of the industrial facilities exemption certificate, considered together with the aggregate amount of industrial facilities exemption certificates previously granted and currently in force, shall not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the local governmental unit or impairing the financial soundness of a taxing unit that levies an ad valorem property tax in the local governmental unit in which the facility is located or to be located. If the state equalized valuation of property proposed to be exempt pursuant to an application under consideration, considered together with the aggregate state equalized valuation of property exempt under certificates previously granted and currently in force, exceeds 5% of the state equalized valuation of the local governmental unit, the commission, with the approval of the state treasurer, shall make a separate finding and shall include a statement in the order approving the industrial facilities exemption certificate that exceeding that amount shall not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the local governmental unit or impairing the financial soundness of an affected taxing unit.

(2) Except for an application for a speculative building, which is governed by subsection (4), the legislative body of the local governmental unit shall not approve an application and the commission shall not grant an industrial facilities exemption certificate unless the applicant complies with all of the following requirements:

(a) The commencement of the restoration, replacement, or construction of the facility occurred not earlier than 12 months before the filing of the application for the industrial facilities exemption certificate. If the application is not filed within the 12-month period, the application may be filed within the succeeding 12-month period and the industrial facilities exemption certificate shall in this case expire 1 year earlier than it would have expired if the application had been timely filed. This subdivision does not apply for applications filed with the local governmental unit after December 31, 1983.

(b) For applications made after December 31, 1983, the proposed facility shall be located within a plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district that was duly established in a local governmental unit eligible under this act to establish a district and that was established upon a request filed or by the local governmental unit's own initiative taken before the commencement of the restoration, replacement, or construction of the facility.

(c) For applications made after December 31, 1983, the commencement of the restoration, replacement, or construction of the facility occurred not earlier than 6 months before the filing of the application for the industrial facilities exemption certificate.

(d) The application relates to a construction, restoration, or replacement program that when completed constitutes a new or replacement facility within the meaning of this act and that shall be situated within a plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district duly established in a local governmental unit eligible under this act to establish the district.

(e) Completion of the facility is calculated to, and will at the time of issuance of the certificate have the reasonable likelihood to create employment, retain employment, prevent a loss of employment, or produce energy in the community in which the facility is situated.

(f) Completion of the facility does not constitute merely the addition of machinery and equipment for the purpose of increasing productive capacity but rather is primarily for the purpose and will primarily have the effect of restoration, replacement, or updating the technology of obsolete industrial property. An increase in productive capacity, even though significant, is not an impediment to the issuance of an industrial facilities exemption certificate if other criteria in this section and act are met. This subdivision does not apply to a new facility.

(g) The provisions of subdivision (c) do not apply to a new facility located in an existing industrial development district owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in April of 1992 if the application was approved by the local governing body and was denied by the state tax commission in April of 1993.

(h) The provisions of subdivisions (b) and (c) and section 4(3) do not apply to 1 or more of the following:

(i) A facility located in an industrial development district owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in October 1995 for construction that was commenced in July 1992 in a district that was established by the legislative body of the local governmental unit in July 1994. An industrial facilities exemption certificate described in this subparagraph shall expire as provided in section 16(3).

(ii) A facility located in an industrial development district that was established in January 1994 and was owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in February 1994 if the personal property and real property portions of the application were approved by the legislative body of the local governmental unit and the personal property portion of the application was approved by the state tax commission in December 1994 and the real property portion of the application was denied by the state tax commission in December 1994. An industrial facilities exemption certificate described in this subparagraph shall expire as provided in section 16(3).

(iii) A facility located in an industrial development district that was established in December 1995 and was owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemptions certificate in November or December 1995 for construction that was commenced in September 1995.

(i) The provisions of subdivision (c) do not apply to any of the following:

(i) A new facility located in an existing industrial development district owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in October 1993 if the application was approved by the legislative body of the local governmental unit and the real property portion of the application was denied by the state tax commission in December 1993.

(ii) A new facility located in an existing industrial development district owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in September 1993 if the personal property portion of the application was approved by the legislative body of the local governmental unit and the real property portion of the application was denied by the legislative body of the local governmental unit in October 1993 and subsequently approved by the legislative body of the local governmental unit in September 1994.

(iii) A facility located in an existing industrial development district owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in August 1993 if the application was approved by the local governmental unit in September 1993 and the application was denied by the state tax commission in December 1993.

(iv) A facility located in an existing industrial development district occupied by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in June of 1995 if the application was approved by the legislative body of the local governmental unit in October of 1995 for construction that was commenced in November or December of 1994.

(v) A facility located in an existing industrial development district owned by a person who filed an application for an industrial facilities exemption certificate in June of 1995 if the application was approved by the legislative body of the local governmental unit in July of 1995 and the personal property portion of the application was approved by the state tax commission in November of 1995.

(j) If the facility is locating in a plant rehabilitation district or an industrial development district from another location in this state, the owner of the facility is not delinquent in any of the taxes described in section 10(1)(a) of the Michigan renaissance zone act, 1996 PA 376, MCL 125.2690, or substantially delinquent in any of the taxes described in and as provided under section 10(1)(b) of the Michigan renaissance zone act, 1996 PA 376, MCL 125.2690.

(3) If the replacement facility when completed will not be located on the same premises or contiguous premises as the obsolete industrial property, then the applicant shall make provision for the obsolete industrial property by demolition, sale, or transfer to another person with the effect that the obsolete industrial property shall within a reasonable time again be subject to assessment and taxation under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, or be used in a manner consistent with the general purposes of this act, subject to approval of the commission.

(4) The legislative body of the local governmental unit shall not approve an application and the commission shall not grant an industrial facilities exemption certificate that applies to a speculative building unless the speculative building is or is to be located in a plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district duly established by a local governmental unit eligible under this act to establish a district; the speculative building was constructed less than 9 years before the filing of the application for the industrial facilities exemption certificate; the speculative building has not been occupied since completion of construction; and the speculative building otherwise qualifies under subsection (2)(e) for an industrial facilities exemption certificate. An industrial facilities exemption certificate granted under this subsection shall expire as provided in section 16(3).

(5) Not later than September 1, 1989, the commission shall provide to all local assessing units the name, address, and telephone number of the person on the commission staff responsible for providing procedural information concerning this act. After October 1, 1989, a local unit of government shall notify each prospective applicant of this information in writing.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if on December 29, 1986 a local governmental unit passed a resolution approving an exemption certificate for 10 years for real and personal property but the commission did not receive the application until 1992 and the application was not made complete until 1995, then the commission shall issue, for that property, an industrial facilities exemption certificate that begins December 30, 1987 and ends December 30, 1997. The facility described in this subsection shall be taxed under this act as if it was granted an industrial facilities exemption certificate on December 30, 1987.

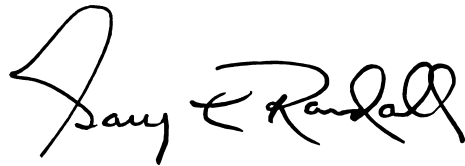
(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if a local governmental unit passed a resolution approving an industrial facilities exemption certificate for a new facility on July 8, 1991 but rescinded that resolution and passed a resolution approving an industrial facilities exemption certificate for that same facility as a replacement facility on October 21, 1996, the commission shall issue for that property an industrial facilities exemption certificate that begins December 30, 1991 and ends December 2003. The replacement facility described in this subsection shall be taxed under this act as if it was granted an industrial facilities exemption certificate on December 30, 1991.

(8) Property owned or operated by a casino is not industrial property or otherwise eligible for an abatement or reduction of ad valorem property taxes under this act. As used in this subsection, "casino" means a casino or a parking lot, hotel, motel, convention and trade center, or retail store owned or operated by a casino, an affiliate, or an affiliated company, regulated by this state pursuant to the Michigan gaming control and revenue act, the Initiated Law of 1996, MCL 432.201 to 432.226.

Sec. 21. (1) An industrial facilities exemption certificate may be transferred and assigned by the holder of the industrial facilities exemption certificate to a new owner or lessee of the facility but only with the approval of the local governmental unit and the commission after application by the new owner or lessee, and notice and hearing in the same manner as provided in section 5 for the application for a certificate.

(2) If the owner or lessee of a facility for which an industrial facilities exemption certificate is in effect relocates that facility outside of the industrial development district or plant rehabilitation district during the period in which the industrial facilities exemption certificate is in effect, the owner or lessee is liable to the local governmental unit from which it is leaving, upon relocating, for an amount equal to the difference between the industrial facilities tax to be paid by the owner or lessee of that facility for that facility for the tax years remaining under the industrial facilities exemption certificate that is in effect and the general ad valorem property tax that the owner or lessee would have paid if the owner or lessee of that facility did not have an industrial facilities exemption certificate in effect for those years. If the local governmental unit determines that it is in its best interest, the local governmental unit may forgive the liability of the owner or lessee under this subsection. The payment provided in this subsection shall be distributed in the same manner as the industrial facilities tax is distributed.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.



Secretary of the Senate.

Approved

Governor.