

HOUSE BILL No. 4044

January 25, 2001, Introduced by Rep. Bovin and referred to the Committee on Tax Policy.

A bill to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled
"The general property tax act,"
by amending section 34d (MCL 211.34d), as amended by 1996 PA
476.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 34d. (1) As used in this section or section 27a, or
2 section 3 or 31 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963:

3 (a) For taxes levied before 1995, "additions" means all
4 increases in value caused by new construction or a physical addi-
5 tion of equipment or furnishings, and the value of property that
6 was exempt from taxes or not included on the assessment unit's
7 immediately preceding year's assessment roll.

8 (b) For taxes levied after 1994, "additions" means, except
9 as provided in subdivision (c), all of the following:

1 (i) Omitted real property. As used in this subparagraph,
2 "omitted real property" means previously existing tangible real
3 property not included in the assessment. Omitted real property
4 shall not increase taxable value as an addition unless the
5 assessing jurisdiction has a property record card or other docu-
6 mentation showing that the omitted real property was not previ-
7 ously included in the assessment. The assessing jurisdiction has
8 the burden of proof in establishing whether the omitted real
9 property is included in the assessment. Omitted real property
10 for the current and the 2 immediately preceding years, discovered
11 after the assessment roll has been completed, shall be added to
12 the tax roll pursuant to the procedures established in section
13 154. For purposes of determining the taxable value of real prop-
14 erty under section 27a, the value of omitted real property is
15 based on the value and the ratio of taxable value to true cash
16 value the omitted real property would have had if the property
17 had not been omitted.

18 (ii) Omitted personal property. As used in this subpara-
19 graph, "omitted personal property" means previously existing tan-
20 gible personal property not included in the assessment. Omitted
21 personal property shall be added to the tax roll pursuant to sec-
22 tion 154.

23 (iii) New construction. As used in this subparagraph AND
24 SUBDIVISION (C)(iv), "new construction" means property not in
25 existence on the immediately preceding tax day and not replace-
26 ment construction. New construction includes the physical
27 addition of equipment or furnishings, subject to the provisions

1 set forth in section 27(2)(a) to (o). For purposes of
2 determining the taxable value of property under section 27a, the
3 value of new construction is the true cash value of the new con-
4 struction multiplied by 0.50.

5 (iv) Previously exempt property. As used in this subpara-
6 graph, "previously exempt property" means property that was
7 exempt from ad valorem taxation under this act on the immediately
8 preceding tax day but is subject to ad valorem taxation on the
9 current tax day under this act. For purposes of determining the
10 taxable value of real property under section 27a:

11 (A) The value of property previously exempt under section 7u
12 is the taxable value the entire parcel of property would have had
13 if that property had not been exempt, minus the product of the
14 entire parcel's taxable value in the immediately preceding year
15 and the lesser of 1.05 or the inflation rate.

16 (B) The taxable value of property that is a facility as that
17 term is defined in section 2 of ~~Act No. 198 of the Public Acts~~
18 ~~of 1974, being section 207.552 of the Michigan Compiled Laws~~
19 1974 PA 198, MCL 207.552, that was previously exempt under
20 section 7k is the taxable value that property would have had
21 under this act if it had not been exempt.

22 (C) The value of property previously exempt under any other
23 section of law is the true cash value of the previously exempt
24 property multiplied by 0.50.

25 (v) Replacement construction. As used in this subparagraph,
26 "replacement construction" means construction that replaced
27 property damaged or destroyed by accident or act of God and that

1 occurred after the immediately preceding tax day to the extent
2 the construction's true cash value does not exceed the true cash
3 value of property that was damaged or destroyed by accident or
4 act of God in the immediately preceding 3 years. For purposes of
5 determining the taxable value of property under section 27a, the
6 value of the replacement construction is the true cash value of
7 the replacement construction multiplied by a fraction the numera-
8 tor of which is the taxable value of the property to which the
9 construction was added in the immediately preceding year and the
10 denominator of which is the true cash value of the property to
11 which the construction was added in the immediately preceding
12 year, and then multiplied by the lesser of 1.05 or the inflation
13 rate.

14 (vi) An increase in taxable value attributable to the com-
15 plete or partial remediation of environmental contamination
16 existing on the immediately preceding tax day. The department of
17 environmental quality shall determine the degree of remediation
18 based on information available in existing department of environ-
19 mental quality records or information made available to the
20 department of environmental quality if the appropriate assessing
21 officer for a local tax collecting unit requests that
22 determination. The increase in taxable value attributable to the
23 remediation is the increase in true cash value attributable to
24 the remediation multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which
25 is the taxable value of the property had it not been contaminated
26 and the denominator of which is the true cash value of the
27 property had it not been contaminated.

1 (vii) An increase in the value attributable to the
2 property's occupancy rate if either a loss, as that term is
3 defined in this section, had been previously allowed because of a
4 decrease in the property's occupancy rate or if the value of new
5 construction was reduced because of a below-market occupancy
6 rate. For purposes of determining the taxable value of property
7 under section 27a, the value of an addition for the increased
8 occupancy rate is the product of the increase in the true cash
9 value of the property attributable to the increased occupancy
10 rate multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is the tax-
11 able value of the property in the immediately preceding year and
12 the denominator of which is the true cash value of the property
13 in the immediately preceding year, and then multiplied by the
14 lesser of 1.05 or the inflation rate.

15 (viii) Public services. As used in this subparagraph,
16 "public services" means water service, sewer service, a primary
17 access road, natural gas service, electrical service, telephone
18 service, sidewalks, or street lighting. For purposes of deter-
19 mining the taxable value of real property under section 27a, the
20 value of public services is the amount of increase in true cash
21 value of the property attributable to the available public serv-
22 ices multiplied by 0.50 and shall be added in the calendar year
23 following the calendar year when those public services are ini-
24 tially available.

25 (c) For taxes levied after 1994, additions do not include
26 increased value attributable to any of the following:

- 1 (i) Platting, splits, or combinations of property.
- 2 (ii) A change in the zoning of property.
- 3 (iii) For the purposes of the calculation of the millage
4 reduction fraction under subsection (7) only, increased taxable
5 value under section 27a(3) after a transfer of ownership of
6 property.
- 7 (iv) NEW CONSTRUCTION IF IT IS OCCUPIED OR WILL BE OCCUPIED
8 BY, OR IS USED OR WILL BE USED TO ASSIST IN THE CARE OF, A FAMILY
9 MEMBER WHO IS 62 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR WHO IS TOTALLY AND PER-
10 MANENTLY DISABLED. AS USED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, "TOTALLY AND
11 PERMANENTLY DISABLED" MEANS DISABILITY AS DEFINED IN TITLE II OF
12 THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, CHAPTER 531, 49 STAT. 620, 42
13 U.S.C. 416.
- 14 (d) "Assessed valuation of property as finally equalized"
15 means taxable value under section 27a.
- 16 (e) "Financial officer" means the officer responsible for
17 preparing the budget of a unit of local government.
- 18 (f) "General price level" means the annual average of the 12
19 monthly values for the United States consumer price index for all
20 urban consumers as defined and officially reported by the United
21 States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics.
- 22 (g) For taxes levied before 1995, "losses" means a decrease
23 in value caused by the removal or destruction of real or personal
24 property and the value of property taxed in the immediately pre-
25 ceding year that has been exempted or removed from the assessment
26 unit's assessment roll.

1 (h) For taxes levied after 1994, "losses" means, except as
2 provided in subdivision (i), all of the following:

3 (i) Property that has been destroyed or removed. For pur-
4 poses of determining the taxable value of property under section
5 27a, the value of property destroyed or removed is the product of
6 the true cash value of that property multiplied by a fraction the
7 numerator of which is the taxable value of that property in the
8 immediately preceding year and the denominator of which is the
9 true cash value of that property in the immediately preceding
10 year.

11 (ii) Property that was subject to ad valorem taxation under
12 this act in the immediately preceding year that is now exempt
13 from ad valorem taxation under this act. For purposes of deter-
14 mining the taxable value of property under section 27a, the value
15 of property exempted from ad valorem taxation under this act is
16 the amount exempted.

17 (iii) An adjustment in value, if any, because of a decrease
18 in the property's occupancy rate, to the extent provided by law.
19 For purposes of determining the taxable value of real property
20 under section 27a, the value of a loss for a decrease in the
21 property's occupancy rate is the product of the decrease in the
22 true cash value of the property attributable to the decreased
23 occupancy rate multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is
24 the taxable value of the property in the immediately preceding
25 year and the denominator of which is the true cash value of the
26 property in the immediately preceding year.

1 (iv) A decrease in taxable value attributable to
2 environmental contamination existing on the immediately preceding
3 tax day. The department of environmental quality shall determine
4 the degree to which environmental contamination limits the use of
5 property based on information available in existing department of
6 environmental quality records or information made available to
7 the department of environmental quality if the appropriate
8 assessing officer for a local tax collecting unit requests that
9 determination. The department of environmental quality's deter-
10 mination of the degree to which environmental contamination
11 limits the use of property shall be based on the criteria estab-
12 lished for the ~~classifications~~ CATEGORIES set forth in section
13 20120a(1) of part 201 ~~(environmental remediation)~~ of the natu-
14 ral resources and environmental protection act, ~~Act No. 451 of~~
15 ~~the Public Acts of 1994, being section 324.20120a of the Michigan~~
16 ~~Compiled Laws~~ 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.20120A. The decrease in tax-
17 able value attributable to the contamination is the decrease in
18 true cash value attributable to the contamination multiplied by a
19 fraction the numerator of which is the taxable value of the prop-
20 erty had it not been contaminated and the denominator of which is
21 the true cash value of the property had it not been
22 contaminated.

23 (i) For taxes levied after 1994, losses do not include
24 decreased value attributable to either of the following:

25 (i) Platting, splits, or combinations of property.

26 (ii) A change in the zoning of property.

1 (j) "New construction and improvements" means additions less
2 losses.

3 (k) "Current year" means the year for which the millage lim-
4 itation is being calculated.

5 (l) "Inflation rate" means the ratio of the general price
6 level for the state fiscal year ending in the calendar year imme-
7 diately preceding the current year divided by the general price
8 level for the state fiscal year ending in the calendar year
9 before the year immediately preceding the current year.

10 (2) On or before the first Monday in May of each year, the
11 assessing officer of each township or city shall tabulate the
12 tentative taxable value as approved by the local board of review
13 and as modified by county equalization for each classification of
14 property that is separately equalized for each unit of local gov-
15 ernment and provide the tabulated tentative taxable values to the
16 county equalization director. The tabulation by the assessing
17 officer shall contain additions and losses for each classifica-
18 tion of property that is separately equalized for each unit of
19 local government or part of a unit of local government in the
20 township or city. If as a result of state equalization the tax-
21 able value of property changes, the assessing officer of each
22 township or city shall revise the calculations required by this
23 subsection on or before the Friday following the fourth Monday in
24 May. The county equalization director shall compute these
25 amounts and the current and immediately preceding year's taxable
26 values for each classification of property that is separately
27 equalized for each unit of local government that levies taxes

1 under this act within the boundary of the county. The county
2 equalization director shall cooperate with equalization directors
3 of neighboring counties, as necessary, to make the computation
4 for units of local government located in more than 1 county. The
5 county equalization director shall calculate the millage reduc-
6 tion fraction for each unit of local government in the county for
7 the current year. The financial officer for each taxing juris-
8 diction shall calculate the compounded millage reduction frac-
9 tions beginning in 1980 resulting from the multiplication of suc-
10 cessive millage reduction fractions and shall recognize a local
11 voter action to increase the compounded millage reduction frac-
12 tion to a maximum of 1 as a new beginning fraction. Upon request
13 of the superintendent of the intermediate school district, the
14 county equalization director shall transmit the complete computa-
15 tions of the taxable values to the superintendent of the interme-
16 diate school district within that county. At the request of the
17 presidents of community colleges, the county equalization direc-
18 tor shall transmit the complete computations of the taxable
19 values to the presidents of community colleges within the
20 county.

21 (3) On or before the first Monday in June of each year, the
22 county equalization director shall deliver the statement of the
23 computations signed by the county equalization director to the
24 county treasurer.

25 (4) On or before the second Monday in June of each year, the
26 treasurer of each county shall certify the immediately preceding
27 year's taxable values, the current year's taxable values, the

1 amount of additions and losses for the current year, and the
2 current year's millage reduction fraction for each unit of local
3 government that levies a property tax in the county.

4 (5) The financial officer of each unit of local government
5 shall make the computation of the tax rate using the data certi-
6 fied by the county treasurer and the state tax commission. At
7 the annual session in October, the county board of commissioners
8 shall not authorize the levy of a tax unless the governing body
9 of the taxing jurisdiction has certified that the requested mill-
10 age has been reduced, if necessary, in compliance with section 31
11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963.

12 (6) The number of mills permitted to be levied in a tax year
13 is limited as provided in this section pursuant to section 31 of
14 article IX of the state constitution of 1963. A unit of local
15 government shall not levy a tax rate greater than the rate deter-
16 mined by reducing its maximum rate or rates authorized by law or
17 charter by a millage reduction fraction as provided in this sec-
18 tion without voter approval.

19 (7) A millage reduction fraction shall be determined for
20 each year for each local unit of government. For ad valorem
21 property taxes that became a lien before January 1, 1983, the
22 numerator of the fraction shall be the total state equalized val-
23 uation for the immediately preceding year multiplied by the
24 inflation rate and the denominator of the fraction shall be the
25 total state equalized valuation for the current year minus new
26 construction and improvements. For ad valorem property taxes
27 that become a lien after December 31, 1982 and through

1 December 31, 1994, the numerator of the fraction shall be the
2 product of the difference between the total state equalized valu-
3 ation for the immediately preceding year minus losses multiplied
4 by the inflation rate and the denominator of the fraction shall
5 be the total state equalized valuation for the current year minus
6 additions. For ad valorem property taxes that are levied after
7 December 31, 1994, the numerator of the fraction shall be the
8 product of the difference between the total taxable value for the
9 immediately preceding year minus losses multiplied by the infla-
10 tion rate and the denominator of the fraction shall be the total
11 taxable value for the current year minus additions. For each
12 year after 1993, a millage reduction fraction shall not exceed
13 1.

14 (8) The compounded millage reduction fraction for each year
15 after 1980 shall be calculated by multiplying the local unit's
16 previous year's compounded millage reduction fraction by the cur-
17 rent year's millage reduction fraction. Beginning with 1980 tax
18 levies, the compounded millage reduction fraction for the year
19 shall be multiplied by the maximum millage rate authorized by law
20 or charter for the unit of local government for the year, except
21 as provided by subsection (9). A compounded millage reduction
22 fraction shall not exceed 1.

23 (9) The millage reduction shall be determined separately for
24 authorized millage approved by the voters. The limitation on
25 millage authorized by the voters on or before May 31 of a year
26 shall be calculated beginning with the millage reduction fraction
27 for that year. Millage authorized by the voters after May 31

1 shall not be subject to a millage reduction until the year
2 following the voter authorization which shall be calculated
3 beginning with the millage reduction fraction for the year fol-
4 lowing the authorization. The first millage reduction fraction
5 used in calculating the limitation on millage approved by the
6 voters after January 1, 1979 shall not exceed 1.

7 (10) A millage reduction fraction shall be applied sepa-
8 rately to the aggregate maximum millage rate authorized by a
9 charter and to each maximum millage rate authorized by state law
10 for a specific purpose.

11 (11) A unit of local government may submit to the voters for
12 their approval the levy in that year of a tax rate in excess of
13 the limit set by this section. The ballot question shall ask the
14 voters to approve the levy of a specific number of mills in
15 excess of the limit. The provisions of this section do not allow
16 the levy of a millage rate in excess of the maximum rate autho-
17 rized by law or charter. If the authorization to levy millage
18 expires after 1993 and a local governmental unit is asking voters
19 to renew the authorization to levy the millage, the ballot ques-
20 tion shall ask for renewed authorization for the number of expir-
21 ing mills as reduced by the millage reduction required by this
22 section. If the election occurs before June 1 of a year, the
23 millage reduction is based on the immediately preceding year's
24 millage reduction applicable to that millage. If the election
25 occurs after May 31 of a year, the millage reduction shall be
26 based on that year's millage reduction applicable to that millage
27 had it not expired.

1 (12) A reduction or limitation under this section shall not
2 be applied to taxes imposed for the payment of principal and
3 interest on bonds or other evidence of indebtedness or for the
4 payment of assessments or contract obligations in anticipation of
5 which bonds are issued that were authorized before December 23,
6 1978, as provided by former section 4 of chapter I of the municipi-
7 pal finance act, ~~Act No. 202 of the Public Acts of 1943~~ 1943
8 PA 202, or to taxes imposed for the payment of principal and
9 interest on bonds or other evidence of indebtedness or for the
10 payment of assessments or contract obligations in anticipation of
11 which bonds are issued that are approved by the voters after
12 December 22, 1978.

13 (13) If it is determined subsequent to the levy of a tax
14 that an incorrect millage reduction fraction has been applied,
15 the amount of additional tax revenue or the shortage of tax reve-
16 nue shall be deducted from or added to the next regular tax levy
17 for that unit of local government after the determination of the
18 authorized rate pursuant to this section.

19 (14) If as a result of an appeal of county equalization or
20 state equalization the taxable value of a unit of local govern-
21 ment changes, the millage reduction fraction for the year shall
22 be recalculated. The financial officer shall effectuate an addi-
23 tion or reduction of tax revenue in the same manner as prescribed
24 in subsection (13).

25 (15) The fractions calculated pursuant to this section shall
26 be rounded to 4 decimal places, except that the inflation rate
27 shall be computed by the state tax commission and shall be

1 rounded to 3 decimal places. The state tax commission shall
2 publish the inflation rate before March 1 of each year.

3 (16) Beginning with taxes levied in 1994, the millage reduc-
4 tion required by section 31 of article IX of the state constitu-
5 tion of 1963 shall permanently reduce the maximum rate or rates
6 authorized by law or charter. The reduced maximum authorized
7 rate or rates for 1994 shall equal the product of the maximum
8 rate or rates authorized by law or charter before application of
9 this section multiplied by the ~~compound~~ COMPOUNDED millage
10 reduction applicable to that millage in 1994 pursuant to subsec-
11 tions (8) to (12). The reduced maximum authorized rate or rates
12 for 1995 and each year after 1995 shall equal the product of the
13 immediately preceding year's reduced maximum authorized rate or
14 rates multiplied by the current year's millage reduction fraction
15 and shall be adjusted for millage for which authorization has
16 expired and new authorized millage approved by the voters pursu-
17 ant to subsections (8) to (12).