

Act No. 140
Public Acts of 2003
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
92ND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2003**

**Introduced by Senators McManus, Cassis, Garcia, Bishop, Birkholz, Toy, Van Woerkom, Goschka,
Kuipers, Allen and Jelinek**

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 133

AN ACT to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled "An act to provide for the assessment of rights and interests, including leasehold interests, in property and the levy and collection of taxes on property, and for the collection of taxes levied; making those taxes a lien on the property taxed, establishing and continuing the lien, providing for the sale or forfeiture and conveyance of property delinquent for taxes, and for the inspection and disposition of lands bid off to the state and not redeemed or purchased; to provide for the establishment of a delinquent tax revolving fund and the borrowing of money by counties and the issuance of notes; to define and limit the jurisdiction of the courts in proceedings in connection with property delinquent for taxes; to limit the time within which actions may be brought; to prescribe certain limitations with respect to rates of taxation; to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain officers, departments, agencies, and political subdivisions of this state; to provide for certain reimbursements of certain expenses incurred by units of local government; to provide penalties for the violation of this act; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 7u, 7cc, 7dd, 9, 24c, 27d, and 120 (MCL 211.7u, 211.7cc, 211.7dd, 211.9, 211.24c, 211.27d, and 211.120), sections 7u and 24c as amended by 2002 PA 620, section 7cc as amended by 2002 PA 624, section 7dd as amended and section 27d as added by 1996 PA 476, section 9 as amended by 1996 PA 582, and section 120 as added by 1995 PA 74.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 7u. (1) The principal residence of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under this act. This section does not apply to the property of a corporation.

(2) To be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall do all of the following on an annual basis:

(a) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.

(b) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review on a form provided by the local assessing unit, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year. The filing of a claim under this subsection constitutes an appearance before the board of review for the purpose of preserving the claimant's right to appeal the decision of the board of review regarding the claim.

(c) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.

(d) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if required by the supervisor or board of review.

(e) Meet the federal poverty guidelines updated annually in the federal register by the United States department of health and human services under authority of section 673 of subtitle B of title VI of the omnibus budget reconciliation act of 1981, Public Law 97-35, 42 U.S.C. 9902, or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing unit provided the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.

(3) The application for an exemption under this section shall be filed after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.

(4) The governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines the local assessing unit uses for the granting of exemptions under this section. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

(5) The board of review shall follow the policy and guidelines of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption under this section unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and guidelines and the substantial and compelling reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

(6) A person who files a claim under this section is not prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property for which that claim is made before the board of review in the same year.

(7) As used in this section, "principal residence" means principal residence or qualified agricultural property as those terms are defined in section 7dd.

Sec. 7cc. (1) A principal residence is exempt from the tax levied by a local school district for school operating purposes to the extent provided under section 1211 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1211, if an owner of that principal residence claims an exemption as provided in this section. Notwithstanding the tax day provided in section 2, for taxes levied before January 1, 2004, the status of property as a principal residence shall be determined on the date an affidavit claiming an exemption is filed under subsection (2). For taxes levied after December 31, 2003, the status of property as a principal residence shall be determined on the tax day provided in section 2.

(2) An owner of property may claim an exemption under this section by filing an affidavit on or before May 1 for taxes levied before January 1, 2004 and the tax day as provided in section 2 for taxes levied after December 31, 2003 with the local tax collecting unit in which the property is located. The affidavit shall state that the property is owned and occupied as a principal residence by that owner of the property on the date that the affidavit is signed. The affidavit shall be on a form prescribed by the department of treasury. One copy of the affidavit shall be retained by the owner, 1 copy shall be retained by the local tax collecting unit until any appeal or audit period under this act has expired, and 1 copy shall be forwarded to the department of treasury pursuant to subsection (4), together with all information submitted under subsection (27) for a cooperative housing corporation. The affidavit shall require the owner claiming the exemption to indicate if that owner or that owner's spouse has claimed another exemption on property in this state that is not rescinded or a substantially similar exemption, deduction, or credit on property in another state that is not rescinded. If the affidavit requires an owner to include a social security number, that owner's number is subject to the disclosure restrictions in 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31. If an owner of property filed an affidavit for an exemption under this section before January 1, 2004, that affidavit shall be considered the affidavit required under this subsection for a principal residence exemption and that exemption shall remain in effect until rescinded as provided in this section.

(3) A husband and wife who are required to file or who do file a joint Michigan income tax return are entitled to not more than 1 exemption under this section. A person is not entitled to an exemption under this section if any of the following conditions occur:

(a) That person has claimed a substantially similar exemption, deduction, or credit on property in another state that is not rescinded.

(b) Subject to subdivision (a), that person or his or her spouse owns property in a state other than this state for which that person or his or her spouse claims an exemption, deduction, or credit substantially similar to the exemption provided under this section, unless that person and his or her spouse file separate income tax returns.

(c) That person has filed a nonresident Michigan income tax return, except active duty military personnel stationed in this state with his or her principal residence in this state.

(d) That person has filed an income tax return in a state other than this state as a resident, except active duty military personnel stationed in this state with his or her principal residence in this state.

(4) Upon receipt of an affidavit filed under subsection (2) and unless the claim is denied under this section, the assessor shall exempt the property from the collection of the tax levied by a local school district for school operating purposes to the extent provided under section 1211 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1211, as provided in subsection (1) until December 31 of the year in which the property is transferred or is no longer a principal residence as defined in section 7dd. The local tax collecting unit shall forward copies of affidavits to the department of treasury according to a schedule prescribed by the department of treasury.

(5) Not more than 90 days after exempted property is no longer used as a principal residence by the owner claiming an exemption, that owner shall rescind the claim of exemption by filing with the local tax collecting unit a rescission form prescribed by the department of treasury. An owner who fails to file a rescission as required by this subsection is subject to a penalty of \$5.00 per day for each separate failure beginning after the 90 days have elapsed, up to a maximum of \$200.00. This penalty shall be collected under 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31, and shall be deposited in the state school aid fund established in section 11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963. This penalty may be waived by the department of treasury.

(6) If the assessor of the local tax collecting unit believes that the property for which an exemption is claimed is not the principal residence of the owner claiming the exemption, the assessor may deny a new or existing claim by notifying the owner and the department of treasury in writing of the reason for the denial and advising the owner that the denial may be appealed to the residential and small claims division of the Michigan tax tribunal within 35 days after the date of the notice. The assessor may deny a claim for exemption for the current year and for the 3 immediately preceding calendar years. If the assessor denies an existing claim for exemption, the assessor shall remove the exemption of the property and, if the tax roll is in the local tax collecting unit's possession, amend the tax roll to reflect the denial and the local treasurer shall within 30 days of the date of the denial issue a corrected tax bill for previously unpaid taxes with interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest or penalty. If the tax roll is in the county treasurer's possession, the tax roll shall be amended to reflect the denial and the county treasurer shall within 30 days of the date of the denial prepare and submit a supplemental tax bill for any additional taxes, together with interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest or penalty. Additional interest on any tax set forth in a corrected or supplemental tax bill shall begin to accrue 60 days after the date the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued at the rate of 1.25% per month. Taxes levied in a corrected or supplemental tax bill shall be returned as delinquent on the March 1 in the year immediately succeeding the year in which the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued. If the assessor denies an existing claim for exemption, the interest due shall be distributed as provided in subsection (24). However, if the property has been transferred to a bona fide purchaser before additional taxes were billed to the seller as a result of the denial of a claim for exemption, the taxes, interest, and penalties shall not be a lien on the property and shall not be billed to the bona fide purchaser, and the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll shall notify the department of treasury of the amount of tax due, interest, and penalties through the date of that notification. The department of treasury shall then assess the owner who claimed the exemption under this section for the tax, interest, and penalties accruing as a result of the denial of the claim for exemption, if any, as for unpaid taxes provided under 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31, and shall deposit any tax or penalty collected into the state school aid fund and shall distribute any interest collected as provided in subsection (24). The denial shall be made on a form prescribed by the department of treasury. If the property for which the assessor has denied a claim for exemption under this subsection is located in a county in which the county treasurer or the county equalization director have elected to audit exemptions under subsection (10), the assessor shall notify the county treasurer or the county equalization director of the denial under this subsection.

(7) If the assessor of the local tax collecting unit believes that the property for which the exemption is claimed is not the principal residence of the owner claiming the exemption and has not denied the claim, the assessor shall include a recommendation for denial with any affidavit that is forwarded to the department of treasury or, for an existing claim, shall send a recommendation for denial to the department of treasury, stating the reasons for the recommendation.

(8) The department of treasury shall determine if the property is the principal residence of the owner claiming the exemption. The department of treasury may review the validity of exemptions for the current calendar year and for the 3 immediately preceding calendar years. If the department of treasury determines that the property is not the principal residence of the owner claiming the exemption, the department shall send a notice of that determination to the local tax collecting unit and to the owner of the property claiming the exemption, indicating that the claim for exemption is denied, stating the reason for the denial, and advising the owner claiming the exemption of the right to appeal the determination to the department of treasury and what those rights of appeal are. The department of treasury may issue a notice denying a claim if an owner fails to respond within 30 days of receipt of a request for information from that department. An owner may appeal the denial of a claim of exemption to the department of treasury within 35 days of receipt of the notice of denial. An appeal to the department of treasury shall be conducted according to the provisions for an informal conference in section 21 of 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.21. Within 10 days after acknowledging an appeal of a denial of a claim of exemption, the department of treasury shall notify the assessor and the treasurer for the county in which the property is located that an appeal has been filed. Upon receipt of a notice that the department of treasury has denied a claim for exemption, the assessor shall remove the exemption of the property and, if the tax roll is in the local tax collecting unit's possession, amend the tax roll to reflect the denial and the local treasurer shall within 30 days of the date of the denial issue a corrected tax bill for previously unpaid taxes with interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest and penalty. If the tax roll is in the county treasurer's possession, the tax roll shall be amended to reflect the denial and the county treasurer shall within 30 days of the date of the denial prepare and submit a supplemental tax bill for any additional taxes, together with interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties computed from the date the taxes were last payable without

interest or penalty. Additional interest on any tax set forth in a corrected or supplemental tax bill shall begin to accrue 60 days after the date the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued at the rate of 1.25% per month. Taxes levied in a corrected or supplemental tax bill shall be returned as delinquent on the March 1 in the year immediately succeeding the year in which the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued. If the department of treasury denies an existing claim for exemption, the interest due shall be distributed as provided in subsection (24). However, if the property has been transferred to a bona fide purchaser before additional taxes were billed to the seller as a result of the denial of a claim for exemption, the taxes, interest, and penalties shall not be a lien on the property and shall not be billed to the bona fide purchaser, and the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll shall notify the department of treasury of the amount of tax due and interest through the date of that notification. The department of treasury shall then assess the owner who claimed the exemption under this section for the tax and interest plus penalty accruing as a result of the denial of the claim for exemption, if any, as for unpaid taxes provided under 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31, and shall deposit any tax or penalty collected into the state school aid fund and shall distribute any interest collected as provided in subsection (24).

(9) The department of treasury may enter into an agreement regarding the implementation or administration of subsection (8) with the assessor of any local tax collecting unit in a county that has not elected to audit exemptions claimed under this section as provided in subsection (10). The agreement may specify that for a period of time, not to exceed 120 days, the department of treasury will not deny an exemption identified by the department of treasury in the list provided under subsection (11).

(10) A county may elect to audit the exemptions claimed under this section in all local tax collecting units located in that county as provided in this subsection. The election to audit exemptions shall be made by the county treasurer, or by the county equalization director with the concurrence by resolution of the county board of commissioners. The initial election to audit exemptions shall require an audit period of 2 years. Subsequent elections to audit exemptions shall be made every 2 years and shall require 2 annual audit periods. An election to audit exemptions shall be made by submitting an election to audit form to the assessor of each local tax collecting unit in that county and to the department of treasury not later than October 1 in the year in which an election to audit is made. The election to audit form required under this subsection shall be in a form prescribed by the department of treasury. If a county elects to audit the exemptions claimed under this section, the department of treasury may continue to review the validity of exemptions as provided in subsection (8). If a county does not elect to audit the exemptions claimed under this section as provided in this subsection, the department of treasury shall conduct an audit of exemptions claimed under this section in the initial 2-year audit period for each local tax collecting unit in that county unless the department of treasury has entered into an agreement with the assessor for that local tax collecting unit under subsection (9).

(11) If a county elects to audit the exemptions claimed under this section as provided in subsection (10) and the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee believes that the property for which an exemption is claimed is not the principal residence of the owner claiming the exemption, the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee may deny an existing claim by notifying the owner, the assessor of the local tax collecting unit, and the department of treasury in writing of the reason for the denial and advising the owner that the denial may be appealed to the residential and small claims division of the Michigan tax tribunal within 35 days after the date of the notice. The county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee may deny a claim for exemption for the current year and for the 3 immediately preceding calendar years. If the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee denies an existing claim for exemption, the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee shall direct the assessor of the local tax collecting unit in which the property is located to remove the exemption of the property from the assessment roll and, if the tax roll is in the local tax collecting unit's possession, direct the assessor of the local tax collecting unit to amend the tax roll to reflect the denial and the treasurer of the local tax collecting unit shall within 30 days of the date of the denial issue a corrected tax bill for previously unpaid taxes with interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest and penalty. If the tax roll is in the county treasurer's possession, the tax roll shall be amended to reflect the denial and the county treasurer shall within 30 days of the date of the denial prepare and submit a supplemental tax bill for any additional taxes, together with interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest or penalty. Additional interest on any tax set forth in a corrected or supplemental tax bill shall begin to accrue 60 days after the date the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued at the rate of 1.25% per month. Taxes levied in a corrected or supplemental tax bill shall be returned as delinquent on the March 1 in the year immediately succeeding the year in which the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued. If the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee denies an existing claim for exemption, the interest due shall be distributed as provided in subsection (24). However, if the property has been transferred to a bona fide purchaser before additional taxes were billed to the seller as a result of the denial of a claim for exemption, the taxes, interest, and penalties shall not be a lien on the property and shall not be billed to the bona fide purchaser, and the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll shall notify the department of treasury of the amount of tax due and interest through the date of that notification. The department of treasury shall then assess the owner who claimed the exemption under this section for the tax and

interest plus penalty accruing as a result of the denial of the claim for exemption, if any, as for unpaid taxes provided under 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31, and shall deposit any tax or penalty collected into the state school aid fund and shall distribute any interest collected as provided in subsection (24). The department of treasury shall annually provide the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee a list of parcels of property located in that county for which an exemption may be erroneously claimed. The county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee shall forward copies of the list provided by the department of treasury to each assessor in each local tax collecting unit in that county within 10 days of receiving the list.

(12) If a county elects to audit exemptions claimed under this section as provided in subsection (10), the county treasurer or the county equalization director may enter into an agreement with the assessor of a local tax collecting unit in that county regarding the implementation or administration of this section. The agreement may specify that for a period of time, not to exceed 120 days, the county will not deny an exemption identified by the department of treasury in the list provided under subsection (11).

(13) An owner may appeal a denial by the assessor of the local tax collecting unit under subsection (6), a final decision of the department of treasury under subsection (8), or a denial by the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee under subsection (11) to the residential and small claims division of the Michigan tax tribunal within 35 days of that decision. An owner is not required to pay the amount of tax in dispute in order to appeal a denial of a claim of exemption to the department of treasury or to receive a final determination of the residential and small claims division of the Michigan tax tribunal. However, interest at the rate of 1.25% per month and penalties shall accrue and be computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest and penalty. If the residential and small claims division of the Michigan tax tribunal grants an owner's appeal of a denial and that owner has paid the interest due as a result of a denial under subsection (6), (8), or (11), the interest received after a distribution was made under subsection (24) shall be refunded.

(14) For taxes levied after December 31, 2005, for each county in which the county treasurer or the county equalization director does not elect to audit the exemptions claimed under this section as provided in subsection (10), the department of treasury shall conduct an annual audit of exemptions claimed under this section for the current calendar year.

(15) An affidavit filed by an owner for the exemption under this section rescinds all previous exemptions filed by that owner for any other property. The department of treasury shall notify the assessor of the local tax collecting unit in which the property for which a previous exemption was claimed is located that the previous exemption is rescinded by the subsequent affidavit. Upon receipt of notice that an exemption is rescinded, the assessor of the local tax collecting unit shall remove the exemption effective December 31 of the year in which the property is transferred or is no longer a principal residence as defined in section 7dd. The assessor of the local tax collecting unit in which that property is located shall notify the treasurer in possession of the tax roll for a year for which the exemption is rescinded. If the tax roll is in the local tax collecting unit's possession, the tax roll shall be amended to reflect the rescission and the local treasurer shall prepare and issue a corrected tax bill for previously unpaid taxes with interest and penalties computed based on the interest and penalties that would have accrued from the date the taxes were originally levied if there had not been an exemption for that year. If the tax roll is in the county treasurer's possession, the tax roll shall be amended to reflect the rescission and the county treasurer shall prepare and submit a supplemental tax bill for any additional taxes, together with any interest and penalties. However, if the property has been transferred to a bona fide purchaser, the taxes, interest, and penalties shall not be billed to the bona fide purchaser, and the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll shall notify the department of treasury of the amount of tax due and interest through the date of that notification. The department of treasury shall then assess the owner who received the exemption under this section when the property was not a principal residence as defined in section 7dd for the tax and interest plus penalty accruing, if any, as for unpaid taxes provided under 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31, and shall deposit any tax, interest, or penalty collected into the state school aid fund.

(16) An owner of property for which a claim of exemption is rescinded may appeal that rescission with either the July or December board of review in either the year for which the exemption is rescinded or in the immediately succeeding year. If an appeal of a rescission of a claim for exemption is received not later than 5 days prior to the date of the December board of review, the local tax collecting unit shall convene a December board of review and consider the appeal pursuant to this section and section 53b. An owner of property for which a claim of exemption is rescinded may appeal the decision of the board of review to the residential and small claims division of the Michigan tax tribunal within 35 days of that decision.

(17) If the principal residence is part of a unit in a multiple-unit dwelling or a dwelling unit in a multiple-purpose structure, an owner shall claim an exemption for only that portion of the total taxable value of the property used as the principal residence of that owner in a manner prescribed by the department of treasury. If a portion of a parcel for which the owner claims an exemption is used for a purpose other than as a principal residence, the owner shall claim an exemption for only that portion of the taxable value of the property used as the principal residence of that owner in a manner prescribed by the department of treasury.

(18) When a county register of deeds records a transfer of ownership of a property, he or she shall notify the local tax collecting unit in which the property is located of the transfer.

(19) The department of treasury shall make available the affidavit forms and the forms to rescind an exemption, which may be on the same form, to all city and township assessors, county equalization officers, county registers of deeds, and closing agents. A person who prepares a closing statement for the sale of property shall provide affidavit and rescission forms to the buyer and seller at the closing and, if requested by the buyer or seller after execution by the buyer or seller, shall file the forms with the local tax collecting unit in which the property is located. If a closing statement preparer fails to provide exemption affidavit and rescission forms to the buyer and seller, or fails to file the affidavit and rescission forms with the local tax collecting unit if requested by the buyer or seller, the buyer may appeal to the department of treasury within 30 days of notice to the buyer that an exemption was not recorded. If the department of treasury determines that the buyer qualifies for the exemption, the department of treasury shall notify the assessor of the local tax collecting unit that the exemption is granted and the assessor of the local tax collecting unit or, if the tax roll is in the possession of the county treasurer, the county treasurer shall correct the tax roll to reflect the exemption. This subsection does not create a cause of action at law or in equity against a closing statement preparer who fails to provide exemption affidavit and rescission forms to a buyer and seller or who fails to file the affidavit and rescission forms with the local tax collecting unit when requested to do so by the buyer or seller.

(20) An owner who owned and occupied a principal residence on May 1 for taxes levied before January 1, 2004 and the tax day as provided in section 2 for taxes levied after December 31, 2003 for which the exemption was not on the tax roll may file an appeal with the July board of review or December board of review in the year for which the exemption was claimed or the immediately succeeding 3 years. If an appeal of a claim for exemption that was not on the tax roll is received not later than 5 days prior to the date of the December board of review, the local tax collecting unit shall convene a December board of review and consider the appeal pursuant to this section and section 53b.

(21) If the assessor or treasurer of the local tax collecting unit believes that the department of treasury erroneously denied a claim for exemption, the assessor or treasurer may submit written information supporting the owner's claim for exemption to the department of treasury within 35 days of the owner's receipt of the notice denying the claim for exemption. If, after reviewing the information provided, the department of treasury determines that the claim for exemption was erroneously denied, the department of treasury shall grant the exemption and the tax roll shall be amended to reflect the exemption.

(22) If granting the exemption under this section results in an overpayment of the tax, a rebate, including any interest paid, shall be made to the taxpayer by the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or by the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll within 30 days of the date the exemption is granted. The rebate shall be without interest.

(23) If an exemption under this section is erroneously granted for an affidavit filed before October 1, 2003, an owner may request in writing that the department of treasury withdraw the exemption. The request to withdraw the exemption shall be received not later than November 1, 2003. If an owner requests that an exemption be withdrawn, the department of treasury shall issue an order notifying the local assessor that the exemption issued under this section has been denied based on the owner's request. If an exemption is withdrawn, the property that had been subject to that exemption shall be immediately placed on the tax roll by the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or by the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll as though the exemption had not been granted. A corrected tax bill shall be issued for the tax year being adjusted by the local tax collecting unit if the local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or by the county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll. Unless a denial has been issued prior to July 1, 2003, if an owner requests that an exemption under this section be withdrawn and that owner pays the corrected tax bill issued under this subsection within 30 days after the corrected tax bill is issued, that owner is not liable for any penalty or interest on the additional tax. An owner who pays a corrected tax bill issued under this subsection more than 30 days after the corrected tax bill is issued is liable for the penalties and interest that would have accrued if the exemption had not been granted from the date the taxes were originally levied.

(24) Subject to subsection (25), interest at the rate of 1.25% per month collected under subsection (6), (8), or (11) shall be distributed as follows:

(a) If the assessor of the local tax collecting unit denies the exemption under this section, as follows:

(i) To the local tax collecting unit, 70%.

(ii) To the department of treasury, 10%.

(iii) To the county in which the property is located, 20%.

(b) If the department of treasury denies the exemption this section, as follows:

(i) To the local tax collecting unit, 20%.

(ii) To the department of treasury, 70%.

(iii) To the county in which the property is located, 10%.

(c) If the county treasurer or his or her designee or the county equalization director or his or her designee denies the exemption under this section, as follows:

(i) To the local tax collecting unit, 20%.

(ii) To the department of treasury, 10%.

(iii) To the county in which the property is located, 70%.

(25) Interest distributed under subsection (24) is subject to the following conditions:

(a) Interest distributed to a county shall be deposited into a restricted fund to be used solely for the administration of exemptions under this section. Money in that restricted fund shall lapse to the county general fund on the December 31 in the year 3 years after the first distribution of interest to the county under subsection (24) and on each succeeding December 31 thereafter.

(b) Interest distributed to the department of treasury shall be deposited into the principal residence property tax exemption audit fund, which is created within the state treasury. The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments. Money in the fund shall be considered a work project account and at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund. Money from the fund shall be expended, upon appropriation, only for the purpose of auditing exemption affidavits.

(26) Interest distributed under subsection (24) is in addition to and shall not affect the levy or collection of the county property tax administration fee established under this act.

(27) A cooperative housing corporation is entitled to a full or partial exemption under this section for the tax year in which the cooperative housing corporation files all of the following with the local tax collecting unit in which the cooperative housing corporation is located if filed on or before May 1 for taxes levied before January 1, 2004 and the tax day as provided in section 2 for taxes levied after December 31, 2003:

(a) An affidavit form.

(b) A statement of the total number of units owned by the cooperative housing corporation and occupied as the principal residence of a tenant stockholder as of the date of the filing under this subsection.

(c) A list that includes the name, address, and social security number of each tenant stockholder of the cooperative housing corporation occupying a unit in the cooperative housing corporation as his or her principal residence as of the date of the filing under this subsection.

(d) A statement of the total number of units of the cooperative housing corporation on which an exemption under this section was claimed and that were transferred in the tax year immediately preceding the tax year in which the filing under this section was made.

(28) Before May 1, 2004 and before May 1, 2005, the treasurer of each county shall forward to the department of education a statement of the taxable value of each school district and fraction of a school district within the county for the preceding 4 calendar years. This requirement is in addition to the requirement set forth in section 151 of the state school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1751.

Sec. 7dd. As used in sections 7cc and 7ee:

(a) "Owner" means any of the following:

(i) A person who owns property or who is purchasing property under a land contract.

(ii) A person who is a partial owner of property.

(iii) A person who owns property as a result of being a beneficiary of a will or trust or as a result of intestate succession.

(iv) A person who owns or is purchasing a dwelling on leased land.

(v) A person holding a life lease in property previously sold or transferred to another.

(vi) A grantor who has placed the property in a revocable trust or a qualified personal residence trust.

(vii) A cooperative housing corporation.

(viii) A facility registered under the living care disclosure act, 1976 PA 440, MCL 554.801 to 554.844.

(b) "Person", for purposes of defining owner as used in section 7cc, means an individual and for purposes of defining owner as used in section 7ee means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, or other legal entity.

(c) "Principal residence" means the 1 place where an owner of the property has his or her true, fixed, and permanent home to which, whenever absent, he or she intends to return and that shall continue as a principal residence until another principal residence is established. Principal residence includes only that portion of a dwelling or unit in a multiple-unit dwelling that is subject to ad valorem taxes and that is owned and occupied by an owner of the dwelling or unit. Principal residence also includes all of an owner's unoccupied property classified as residential that is adjoining

or contiguous to the dwelling subject to ad valorem taxes and that is owned and occupied by the owner. Contiguity is not broken by a road, a right-of-way, or property purchased or taken under condemnation proceedings by a public utility for power transmission lines if the 2 parcels separated by the purchased or condemned property were a single parcel prior to the sale or condemnation. Principal residence also includes any portion of a dwelling or unit of an owner that is rented or leased to another person as a residence as long as that portion of the dwelling or unit that is rented or leased is less than 50% of the total square footage of living space in that dwelling or unit. Principal residence also includes a life care facility registered under the living care disclosure act, 1976 PA 440, MCL 554.801 to 554.844. Principal residence also includes property owned by a cooperative housing corporation and occupied by tenant stockholders.

(d) "Qualified agricultural property" means unoccupied property and related buildings classified as agricultural, or other unoccupied property and related buildings located on that property devoted primarily to agricultural use as defined in section 36101 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.36101. Related buildings include a residence occupied by a person employed in or actively involved in the agricultural use and who has not claimed a principal residence exemption on other property. Property used for commercial storage, commercial processing, commercial distribution, commercial marketing, or commercial shipping operations or other commercial or industrial purposes is not qualified agricultural property. A parcel of property is devoted primarily to agricultural use only if more than 50% of the parcel's acreage is devoted to agricultural use. An owner shall not receive an exemption for that portion of the total state equalized valuation of the property that is used for a commercial or industrial purpose or that is a residence that is not a related building.

Sec. 9. The following personal property is exempt from taxation:

(a) The personal property of charitable, educational, and scientific institutions incorporated under the laws of this state. This exemption does not apply to secret or fraternal societies, but the personal property of all charitable homes of secret or fraternal societies and nonprofit corporations that own and operate facilities for the aged and chronically ill in which the net income from the operation of the nonprofit corporations or secret or fraternal societies does not inure to the benefit of a person other than the residents is exempt.

(b) The property of all library associations, circulating libraries, libraries of reference, and reading rooms owned or supported by the public and not used for gain.

(c) The property of posts of the grand army of the republic, sons of veterans' unions, and of the women's relief corps connected with them, of young men's Christian associations, women's Christian temperance union associations, young people's Christian unions, a boy or girl scout or camp fire girls organization, 4-H clubs, and other similar associations.

(d) Pensions receivable from the United States.

(e) The property of Indians who are not citizens.

(f) The personal property owned and used by a householder such as customary furniture, fixtures, provisions, fuel, and other similar equipment, wearing apparel including personal jewelry, family pictures, school books, library books of reference, and allied items. Personal property is not exempt under this subdivision if it is used to produce income, if it is held for speculative investment, or if it constitutes an inventory of goods for sale in the regular course of trade.

(g) Household furnishings, provisions, and fuel of not more than \$5,000.00 in taxable value, of each social or professional fraternity, sorority, and student cooperative house recognized by the educational institution at which it is located.

(h) The working tools of a mechanic of not more than \$500.00 in taxable value. "Mechanic", as used in this subdivision, means a person skilled in a trade pertaining to a craft or in the construction or repair of machinery if the person's employment by others is dependent on his or her furnishing the tools.

(i) Fire engines and other implements used in extinguishing fires owned or used by an organized or independent fire company.

(j) Property actually used in agricultural operations and farm implements held for sale or resale by retail servicing dealers for use in agricultural production. As used in this subdivision, "agricultural operations" means farming in all its branches, including cultivation of the soil, growing and harvesting of an agricultural, horticultural, or floricultural commodity, dairying, raising of livestock, bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry, turf and tree farming, raising and harvesting of fish, and any practices performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to, or in conjunction with, farming operations, but excluding retail sales and food processing operations. Property used in agricultural operations includes machinery used to prepare the crop for market operated incidental to a farming operation that does not substantially alter the form, shape, or substance of the crop and is limited to cleaning, cooling, washing, pitting, grading, sizing, sorting, drying, bagging, boxing, crating, and handling if not less than 33% of the volume of the crops processed in the year ending on the applicable tax day or in at least 3 of the immediately preceding 5 years were grown by the farmer in Michigan who is the owner or user of the crop processing machinery.

(k) Personal property of not more than \$500.00 in taxable value used by a householder in the operation of a business in the householder's dwelling or at 1 other location in the city, township, or village in which the householder resides.

(l) The products, materials, or goods processed or otherwise and in whatever form, but expressly excepting alcoholic beverages, located in a public warehouse, United States customs port of entry bonded warehouse, dock, or port facility on December 31 of each year, if those products, materials, or goods are designated as in transit to destinations outside this state pursuant to the published tariffs of a railroad or common carrier by filing the freight bill covering the products, materials, or goods with the agency designated by the tariffs, entitling the shipper to transportation rate privileges. Products in a United States customs port of entry bonded warehouse that arrived from another state or a foreign country, whether awaiting shipment to another state or to a final destination within this state, are considered to be in transit and temporarily at rest, and not subject to the collection of taxes under this act. To obtain an exemption for products, materials, or goods under this subdivision, the owner shall file a sworn statement with, and in the form required by, the assessing officer of the tax district in which the warehouse, dock, or port facility is located, at a time between the tax day, December 31, and before the assessing officer closes the assessment rolls describing the products, materials, or goods, and reporting their cost and value as of December 31 of each year. The status of persons and products, materials, or goods for which an exemption is requested is determined as of December 31, which is the tax day. Any property located in a public warehouse, dock, or port facility on December 31 of each year that is exempt from taxation under this subdivision but that is not shipped outside this state pursuant to the particular tariff under which the transportation rate privilege was established shall be assessed upon the immediately succeeding or a subsequent assessment roll by the assessing officer and taxed at the same rate of taxation as other taxable property for the year or years for which the property was exempted to the owner at the time of the omission unless the owner or person entitled to possession of the products, materials, or goods is a resident of, or authorized to do business in, this state and files with the assessing officer, with whom statements of taxable property are required to be filed, a statement under oath that the products, materials, or goods are not for sale or use in this state and will be shipped to a point or points outside this state. If a person, firm, or corporation claims exemption by filing a sworn statement, the person, firm, or corporation shall append to the statement of taxable property required to be filed in the immediately succeeding year or, if a statement of taxable property is not filed for the immediately succeeding year, to a sworn statement filed on a form required by the assessing officer, a complete list of the property for which the exemption was claimed with a statement of the manner of shipment and of the point or points to which the products, materials, or goods were shipped from the public warehouse, dock, or port facility. The assessing officer shall assess the products, materials, or goods not shipped to a point or points outside this state upon the immediately succeeding assessment roll or on a subsequent assessment roll and the products, materials, or goods shall be taxed at the same rate of taxation as other taxable property for the year or years for which the property was exempted to the owner at the time of the omission. The records, accounts, and books of warehouses, docks, or port facilities, individuals, partnerships, corporations, owners, or those in possession of tangible personal property shall be open to and available for inspection, examination, or auditing by assessing officers. A warehouse, dock, port facility, individual, partnership, corporation, owner, or person in possession of tangible personal property shall report within 90 days after shipment of products, materials, or goods in transit, for which an exemption under this section was claimed or granted, the destination of shipments or parts of shipments and the cost value of those shipments or parts of shipments to the assessing officer. A warehouse, dock, port facility, individual, partnership, corporation, or owner is subject to a fine of \$100.00 for each failure to report the destination and cost value of shipments or parts of shipments as required in this subdivision. A person, firm, individual, partnership, corporation, or owner failing to report products, materials, or goods located in a warehouse, dock, or port facility to the assessing officer is subject to a fine of \$100.00 and a penalty of 50% of the final amount of taxes found to be assessable for the year on property not reported, the assessable taxes and penalty to be spread on a subsequent assessment roll in the same manner as general taxes on personal property. For the purpose of this subdivision, a public warehouse, dock, or port facility means a warehouse, dock, or port facility owned or operated by a person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of storing products, materials, or goods and who issues warehouse receipts pursuant to 1909 PA 303, MCL 443.50 to 443.55. A United States customs port of entry bonded warehouse means a customs warehouse within a classification designated by 19 C.F.R. 19.1 and that is located in a port of entry, as defined by 19 C.F.R. 101.1. A portion of a public warehouse, United States customs port of entry bonded warehouse, dock, or port facility leased to a tenant or a portion of any premises owned or leased or operated by a consignor or consignee or an affiliate or subsidiary of the consignor or consignee is not a public warehouse, dock, or port facility.

(m) Personal property owned by a bank or trust company organized under the laws of this state, a national banking association, or an incorporated bank holding company as defined in section 2 of the bank holding company act of 1956, chapter 240, 70 Stat. 133, 12 U.S.C. 1841, that controls a bank, national banking association, trust company, or industrial bank subsidiary located in this state. Buildings owned by a state or national bank, trust company, or incorporated bank holding company and situated upon lands of which the state or national bank, trust company, or incorporated bank holding company is not the owner of the fee are considered real property and are not exempt from taxation. Personal property owned by a state or national bank, trust company, or incorporated bank holding company that is leased, loaned, or otherwise made available to and used by a private individual, association, or corporation in connection with a business conducted for profit is not exempt from taxation.

(n) Farm products, processed or otherwise, the ultimate use of which is for human or animal consumption as food, except wine, beer, and other alcoholic beverages regularly placed in storage in a public warehouse, dock, or port facility while in storage are considered in transit and only temporarily at rest and are not subject to personal property taxation. The assessing officer is the determining authority as to what constitutes, is defined as, or classified as, farm products as used in this subdivision. The records, accounts, and books of warehouses, docks, or port facilities, individuals, partnerships, corporations, owners, or those in possession of farm products shall be open to and available for inspection, examination, or auditing by assessing officers.

(o) Sugar, in solid or liquid form, produced from sugar beets, dried beet pulp, and beet molasses if owned or held by processors.

(p) The personal property of a parent cooperative preschool. As used in this subdivision and section 7z, "parent cooperative preschool" means a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory educational institution maintained as a community service and administered by parents of children currently enrolled in the preschool, that provides an educational and developmental program for children younger than compulsory school age, that provides an educational program for parents, including active participation with children in preschool activities, that is directed by qualified preschool personnel, and that is licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.

(q) All equipment used exclusively in wood harvesting, but not including portable or stationary sawmills or other equipment used in secondary processing operations. As used in this subdivision, "wood harvesting" means clearing land for forest management purposes, planting trees, all forms of cutting or chipping trees, and loading trees on trucks for removal from the harvest area.

(r) Liquefied petroleum gas tanks located on residential or agricultural property used to store liquefied petroleum gas for residential or agricultural property use.

(s) Water conditioning systems used for a residential dwelling.

(t) For taxes levied after December 31, 2000, aircraft excepted from the registration provisions of the aeronautics code of the state of Michigan, 1945 PA 327, MCL 259.1 to 259.208, and all other aircraft operating under the provisions of a certificate issued under 14 C.F.R. part 121, and all spare parts for such aircraft.

Sec. 24c. (1) The assessor shall give to each owner or person or persons listed on the assessment roll of the property a notice by first-class mail of an increase in the tentative state equalized valuation or the tentative taxable value for the year. The notice shall specify each parcel of property, the tentative taxable value for the current year, and the taxable value for the immediately preceding year. The notice shall also specify the time and place of the meeting of the board of review. The notice shall also specify the difference between the property's tentative taxable value in the current year and the property's taxable value in the immediately preceding year.

(2) The notice shall include, in addition to the information required by subsection (1), all of the following:

(a) The state equalized valuation for the immediately preceding year.

(b) The tentative state equalized valuation for the current year.

(c) The net change between the tentative state equalized valuation for the current year and the state equalized valuation for the immediately preceding year.

(d) The classification of the property as defined by section 34c.

(e) The inflation rate for the immediately preceding year as defined in section 34d.

(f) A statement provided by the state tax commission explaining the relationship between state equalized valuation and taxable value. If the assessor believes that a transfer of ownership has occurred in the immediately preceding year, the statement shall state that the ownership was transferred and that the taxable value of that property is the same as the state equalized valuation of that property.

(3) When required by the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.1 to 206.532, the assessment notice shall include or be accompanied by information or forms prescribed by the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.1 to 206.532.

(4) The assessment notice shall be addressed to the owner according to the records of the assessor and mailed not less than 10 days before the meeting of the board of review. The failure to send or receive an assessment notice does not invalidate an assessment roll or an assessment on that property.

(5) The tentative state equalized valuation shall be calculated by multiplying the assessment by the tentative equalized valuation multiplier. If the assessor has made assessment adjustments that would have changed the tentative multiplier, the assessor may recalculate the multiplier for use in the notice.

(6) The state tax commission shall prepare a model assessment notice form that shall be made available to local units of government.

(7) Beginning in 1995 through 2003, the assessment notice under subsection (1) shall include the following statement:

"If you purchased your homestead after May 1 last year, to claim the homestead exemption, if you have not already done so, you are required to file an affidavit before May 1."

(8) Beginning in 2004, the assessment notice under subsection (1) shall include the following statement:

“If you purchased your principal residence after December 31 last year, to claim the principal residence exemption for next year, if you have not already done so, you are required to file an affidavit on or before December 31 this year.”.

(9) For taxes levied after December 31, 2003, the assessment notice under subsection (1) shall separately state the state equalized valuation and taxable value for any leasehold improvements.

Sec. 27d. Not later than the fourth Monday in June in each year, the county equalization director for each county shall report all of the following to the state tax commission on a form prepared by the state tax commission:

(a) Total taxable value of all property in the county as of the fourth Monday in May in that year.

(b) Taxable value for each separately equalized class of property.

(c) Total taxable value of all property in the county for which a principal residence exemption is granted under section 7cc or a qualified agricultural property exemption is granted under section 7ee.

(d) Total taxable value of all property in the county for which a principal residence exemption has not been granted under section 7cc and a qualified agricultural property exemption has not been granted under section 7ee.

Sec. 120. (1) A person claiming an exemption under section 7cc shall not do any of the following:

(a) Make a false or fraudulent affidavit claiming an exemption or a false statement on an affidavit claiming an exemption.

(b) Aid, abet, or assist another in an attempt to wrongfully obtain an exemption.

(c) Make or permit to be made for himself or herself or for any other person a false affidavit claiming an exemption or a false statement on an affidavit claiming an exemption, either in whole or in part.

(d) Fail to rescind an exemption after the property subject to that exemption is no longer a principal residence as defined in section 7dd.

(2) A person who violates a provision of subsection (1) with the intent to wrongfully obtain or attempt to obtain an exemption under section 7cc is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than 1 year and punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or public service of not more than 1,500 hours, or both.

(3) In addition to the penalties provided in subsection (2), a person who knowingly swears to or verifies an affidavit claiming an exemption under section 7cc, or an affidavit claiming any exemption under section 7cc that contains a false or fraudulent statement, with the intent to aid, abet, or assist in defrauding this state or a political subdivision of this state, is guilty of perjury, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than 1 year and punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or public service of not more than 1,500 hours, or both.

(4) A person who does not violate a provision of subsection (1), but who knowingly violates any other provision of this act with the intent to defraud this state or a political subdivision of this state, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or public service of not more than 500 hours, or both.

(5) The attorney general and the prosecuting attorney of each county of this state have concurrent power to enforce this act.

(6) The penalty provisions set forth in subsections (2), (3), and (4) do not apply to a violation of subsection (1) or any other provision of this act occurring before December 31, 1995.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect January 1, 2004.

Enacting section 2. Section 9(t) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.9, as added by this amendatory act is retroactive and is effective for taxes levied after December 31, 2000.

Enacting section 3. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 92nd Legislature are enacted into law:

(a) Senate Bill No. 129.

(b) Senate Bill No. 130.

(c) Senate Bill No. 131.

(d) Senate Bill No. 132.

(e) Senate Bill No. 134.

(f) Senate Bill No. 135.

(g) House Bill No. 4192.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Sam E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved _____

Governor