Act No. 191
Public Acts of 2007
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
94TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2007

Introduced by Rep. Calley

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5494

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 7hh and 8a (MCL 211.7hh and 211.8a), section 7hh as added by 2004 PA 252 and section 8a as amended by 1998 PA 537.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 7hh. (1) Notwithstanding the tax day provided in section 2 and except as limited in subsection (5) and otherwise provided in subsection (7), for taxes levied after December 31, 2004, real and personal property of a qualified start-up business is exempt from taxes levied under this act for each tax year in which all of the following occur:

(a) The qualified start-up business applies for the exemption as provided in subsection (2) or (3).

(b) The governing body of the local tax collecting unit adopts a resolution approving the exemption as provided in subsection (4).

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), a qualified start-up business may claim the exemption under this section by filing an affidavit on or before May 1 in each tax year with the assessor of the local tax collecting unit. The affidavit shall be in a form prescribed by the state tax commission. The affidavit shall state that the qualified start-up business was eligible for and claimed the qualified start-up business credit under section 31a of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.31a, or section 415 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1415, for the applicant's last tax year ending before May 1. The affidavit shall include all of the following:

(a) A copy of the qualified start-up business's annual return filed under the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.1 to 208.145, or the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1101 to 208.1601, in which the qualified start-up business claimed the qualified start-up business credit under section 31a of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.31a, or section 415 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1415.

(b) A statement authorizing the department of treasury to release information contained in the qualified start-up business's annual return filed under the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.1 to 208.145, or the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1101 to 208.1601, that pertains to the qualified start-up business credit claimed under section 31a of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.31a, or section 415 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1415.

(3) If a qualified start-up business applies for an extension for filing its annual single business tax return under section 73 of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.73, or section 505 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1505, the qualified start-up business may claim the exemption under this section after May 1 if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The governing body of the local tax collecting unit adopts a resolution under subsection (4)(b) approving the exemption for all qualified start-up businesses that apply for an extension for filing the annual single business tax return under section 73 of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.73, or section 505 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1505.

(b) The qualified start-up business submits a copy of its application for an extension for filing its annual single business tax return under section 73 of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.73, or section 505 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1505, and the affidavit described in subsection (2) to the December board of review provided in section 53b. For purposes of section 53b, an exemption granted under this subsection shall be considered the correction of a clerical error.

(4) On or before its last meeting in May in each tax year, the governing body of a local tax collecting unit may adopt a resolution approving the exemption provided in this section. The clerk of the local tax collecting unit shall notify in writing the assessor of the local tax collecting unit and the legislative body of each taxing unit that levies ad valorem property taxes in the local tax collecting unit. Before acting on the resolution, the governing body of the local tax collecting unit shall afford the assessor and a representative of the affected taxing units an opportunity for a hearing. A resolution approving the exemption provided in this section may be for 1 or both of the following:

(a) One or more of the individual qualified start-up businesses that claim the exemption under this section by filing an affidavit on or before May 1 as provided in subsection (2).

(b) All qualified start-up businesses that claim the exemption under this section after May 1 as provided in subsection (3).

(5) A qualified start-up business shall not receive the exemption under this section for more than a total of 5 tax years. A qualified start-up business may receive the exemption under this section in nonconsecutive tax years.

(6) If an exemption under this section is erroneously granted, the tax rolls shall be corrected for the current tax year and the 3 immediately preceding tax years. 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. If an owner pays the corrected tax bill issued under this subsection within 60 days after the corrected tax bill is issued, that owner is not liable for any penalty or interest on the additional tax. If an owner pays a corrected tax bill issued under this subsection more than 60 days after the corrected tax bill is issued, the owner 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.

(7) Real and personal property of a qualified start-up business is not exempt from collection of the following:

(a) A special assessment levied by the local tax collecting unit in which the property is located.

(b) Ad valorem property taxes specifically levied for the payment of principal and interest of obligations approved by the electors or obligations pledging the unlimited taxing power of the local governmental unit.

(c) A tax levied under section 705 or 1212 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.705 and 380.1212.

(8) As used in this section, “qualified start-up business” means that term as defined in section 31a of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.31a, or section 415 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1415.

Sec. 8a. (1) Qualified personal property made available by a person that is a qualified business for use by another person shall not be assessed to the qualified business and instead is assessable and taxable to the user who acquires or possesses the qualified personal property to the extent provided for in this section. Property assessed under this section shall not be required to be assessed separately from other personal property assessed to the user.

(2) A person who is a qualified business that makes available qualified personal property shall file the statement required by section 19 not later than February 1. A person to whom qualified personal property is taxable as provided in this section shall file the statement required by section 19 by February 20 and shall include the qualified personal property on that statement. The statement filed by the qualified business shall include, itemized for each user, all of the following for all qualified personal property:

(a) The name of the qualified business.

(b) The user responsible for payment of the tax.

(c) The type of property.

(d) The location of the property, as indicated in the records of the qualified business.

(e) The purchase price including sales tax, freight, and installation.

(f) The year the property was purchased.

(g) If the qualified business is the manufacturer of the property, the original selling price, and if there is no original selling price, then the original cost.

(h) The amount and frequency of periodic payments required of the user.

(i) An affirmation that the person making the statement is a qualified business and that property included in the statement is qualified personal property as defined in this section.

(3) A user of qualified personal property may request from the assessor, and the assessor shall provide, a copy of that portion of the statement filed by the qualified business by February 1 that includes qualified personal property for that user. If a good faith statement is not filed by February 1, or if property is not included in the statement required to be filed by February 1, then that property omitted or not reported is assessable and taxable to the person who makes the property available regardless of whether the person is a qualified business or the property is qualified personal property.

(4) A designee of the local tax collecting unit who is a certified assessor may examine the books and records of a person who files the statement required by section 19 that are necessary to determine if property included in the statement required by section 19 is qualified personal property. A person is not required to be a certified personal property examiner to examine books and records pursuant to this subsection.

(5) The state tax commission shall develop additions to the statement required by section 19 necessary to assure that property reported pursuant to subsection (2) is certified under oath to be qualified personal property reported by a person to whom qualified personal property is taxable.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) "Employee" means a person who performs a service for wages or other remuneration under a contract of hire, written or oral, express or implied.

(b) "Qualified business" means a for-profit business that obtains services relating to that business from 30 or fewer employees or employees of independent contractors performing services substantially similar to employees during a random week in the year ending on the tax day. If a person is a unified business group as that term is defined in section 117 of the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1117, the number of employees from whom services are obtained includes all employees of the unitary business group and employees of independent contractors of the unitary business group rendering services to the qualified business.

(c) "Qualified personal property" means property on which a retail sales tax has been paid or liability accrued contemporaneous with the user acquiring possession of the property, or on which sales tax would be payable if the property was not exempt, and that is subject to an agreement entered into after December 31, 1993 to which all of the following apply:

(*i*) A party engaged in a for-profit business obtains the right to use or possess personal property in exchange for making periodic payments for a noncancelable term of 12 months or more.

(*ii*) The party making periodic payments can obtain legal title to the property by making all the periodic payments or all of the periodic payments and a final payment that is less than the true cash value of the property determined using state tax commission cost multipliers for personal property.

(*iii*) The written agreement between the qualified business and the party making periodic payments requires that party to report the property as qualified personal property pursuant to section 19 and to pay taxes assessed against the property.

(d) "Random week" means a 7-day period during a calendar year beginning on a Monday and ending on a Sunday that is selected at random. Not later than January 15 each year, the state tax commission shall establish the random week for the immediately preceding year.

(7) This section does not affect the requirements for reporting or assessing personal property acquired or possessed by a nonprofit organization.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Richard J. Brown

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Approved ____________________

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Governor