

**TAX TRIBUNAL ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 186 of 1973**

CHAPTER 6

**205.761 Residential property and small claims division; creation; composition; duties of hearing officers and referees; authority to contract with other persons or referees; consideration of proposed decision.**

Sec. 61. (1) A residential property and small claims division of the tribunal is created and consists of 1 or more members of the tribunal appointed and serving pursuant to this act and those hearing officers and referees appointed by the tribunal who shall hear and decide proceedings before the residential property and small claims division.

(2) The tribunal may contract with qualified persons other than tribunal employees to act as referees to hear and decide proceedings before the residential property and small claims division.

(3) In matters before the residential property and small claims division, a proposed decision of a hearing officer or referee shall be considered and decided by 1 or more members of the tribunal.

**History:** 1973, Act 186, Eff. July 1, 1974;—Am. 1976, Act 365, Imd. Eff. Dec. 23, 1976;—Am. 1992, Act 172, Imd. Eff. July 21, 1992;—Am. 2008, Act 126, Imd. Eff. May 9, 2008.

**205.762 Residential property and small claims division; jurisdiction; "inflation rate" defined; election to proceed; exceptions to proposed order; modification; rehearing; location of proceeding; form for filing of residential property and small claims appeals; filing fee; "residential property" defined.**

Sec. 62. (1) The residential property and small claims division created in section 61 has jurisdiction over a proceeding, otherwise cognizable by the tribunal, in which residential property is exclusively involved. Property other than residential property may be included in a proceeding before the residential property and small claims division if the amount of that property's taxable value or state equalized valuation in dispute is not more than \$100,000.00. The residential property and small claims division also has jurisdiction over a proceeding involving an appeal of any other tax over which the tribunal has jurisdiction if the amount of the tax in dispute is \$20,000.00 or less, adjusted annually by the inflation rate. As used in this subsection, "inflation rate" means the ratio of the general price level for the state fiscal year ending in the calendar year immediately preceding the current year divided by the general price level for the state fiscal year ending in the calendar year before the year immediately preceding the current year.

(2) A person or legal entity entitled to proceed under section 31, and whose proceeding meets the jurisdictional requirements of subsection (1), may elect to proceed before either the residential property and small claims division or the entire tribunal. A formal record of residential property and small claims division proceedings is not required. Within 20 days after a hearing officer or referee issues a proposed order, a party may file exceptions to the proposed order. The tribunal shall review the exceptions to determine if the proposed order should be adopted as a final order. Upon a showing of good cause or at the tribunal's discretion, the tribunal may modify the proposed order and issue a final order or hold a rehearing by a tribunal member. A rehearing is not limited to the evidence presented before the hearing officer or referee.

(3) The residential property and small claims division may conduct hearings and rehearsings telephonically, by videoconferencing, or in person. For in-person hearings, the tribunal shall meet in the county in which the property in question is located or in a county contiguous to the county in which the property in question is located. A petitioner-appellant must not be required to travel more than 100 miles from the location of the property in question to the in-person hearing site, except that an in-person rehearing by a tribunal member must be at a site determined by the tribunal. Upon request by 1 of the parties, an in-person hearing may take place at a location mutually agreed upon by all parties.

(4) The tribunal shall make a short form for the simplified filing of residential property and small claims appeals.

(5) In a proceeding before the residential property and small claims division for property other than residential property, if the amount of taxable value or state equalized valuation in dispute is greater than \$20,000.00, or in nonproperty matters if the amount in dispute is greater than \$1,000.00, the filing fee is the amount that would have been paid if the proceeding was brought before the entire tribunal and not the residential property and small claims division.

(6) As used in this chapter, "residential property" means any of the following:

(a) Real property exempt under section 7cc of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7cc.

(b) Real property classified as residential real property under section 34c of the general property tax act,

1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34c.

(c) Real property with fewer than 4 rental units.

(d) Real property classified as agricultural real property under section 34c of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34c.

**History:** 1973, Act 186, Eff. July 1, 1974;—Am. 1976, Act 365, Imd. Eff. Dec. 23, 1976;—Am. 1980, Act 437, Imd. Eff. Jan. 14, 1981;—Am. 1992, Act 172, Imd. Eff. July 21, 1992;—Am. 1993, Act 21, Imd. Eff. Apr. 14, 1993;—Am. 1995, Act 232, Imd. Eff. Dec. 19, 1995;—Am. 2008, Act 128, Imd. Eff. May 9, 2008;—Am. 2024, Act 129, Imd. Eff. Oct. 8, 2024.

**205.762a Appeal of final determination of claim for exemption of principal residence or qualified agricultural property; jurisdiction; filing.**

Sec. 62a. (1) The residential property and small claims division created under section 61 has exclusive jurisdiction over an appeal of a final determination of a claim for exemption of a principal residence by the department of treasury or of qualified agricultural property under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, from taxes levied under section 1211 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1211.

(2) An appeal of a final determination of a claim for exemption of a principal residence under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, shall be filed not later than 35 days after the department of treasury determines a claim for exemption. An appeal is considered filed if it is postmarked by first-class mail or delivered in person within 35 days after the department of treasury denies a claim for exemption.

(3) An appeal of a final determination of a claim for exemption of qualified agricultural property under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, shall be filed not later than 30 days after the July or December board of review determines a claim for exemption. An appeal is considered filed if it is postmarked by first-class mail or delivered in person within 30 days after the July or December board of review denies a claim for exemption.

**History:** Add. 1994, Act 254, Imd. Eff. July 5, 1994;—Am. 2003, Act 131, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

**205.762b Informal settlement conference; manner; stipulation for judgment; appeal; section not applicable to claim for exemption of principal residence.**

Sec. 62b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, after a petitioner has filed a petition under this chapter and the residential property and small claims division has issued notice of the docket number assigned to the petition and before a hearing for the petition has been scheduled, the petitioner or the respondent local tax collecting unit may request an informal settlement conference as provided in this section.

(2) A petitioner shall submit a written request for an informal settlement conference to the local tax collecting unit and shall file a copy of that written request with the residential property and small claims division. A local tax collecting unit shall submit a written request for an informal settlement conference to the petitioner and shall file a copy of that written request with the residential property and small claims division. A written request shall include a statement attesting to the service of the written request on the petitioner or local tax collecting unit, as appropriate. The statement shall identify the person upon whom the request was served and the date and method by which the written request was served on that person.

(3) If a petitioner has requested an informal settlement conference under subsection (2), the local tax collecting unit shall schedule and hold an informal settlement conference within 60 days after receipt of the written request. The informal settlement conference shall be held telephonically or at the offices of the local tax collecting unit. If the local tax collecting unit does not schedule and hold an informal settlement conference within 60 days after receipt of the written request, the petitioner may file a motion with the residential property and small claims division for an order to compel the informal settlement conference. If the residential and small claims division issues an order compelling an informal settlement conference, the local tax collecting unit shall conduct an informal settlement conference as required by the order. If the local tax collecting unit does not schedule and hold an informal settlement conference as required by the order to compel the informal settlement conference, the residential property and small claims division shall schedule an expedited default hearing.

(4) If a local tax collecting unit has requested an informal settlement conference under subsection (2), the local tax collecting unit shall schedule and hold an informal settlement conference within 60 days after delivery of the written request to the petitioner. The informal settlement conference shall be held telephonically or at the offices of the local tax collecting unit. A petitioner is not required to respond to the local tax collecting unit's request for an informal settlement conference or to attend the informal settlement conference. If a petitioner does not respond to the local tax collecting unit's request for an informal settlement conference or attend the informal settlement conference, the petitioner's appeal shall continue as provided in

this act.

(5) At the informal settlement conference, the petitioner and the local tax collecting unit may enter into a stipulation for judgment. The stipulation for judgment shall be filed with the residential property and small claims division. The residential property and small claims division shall review the stipulation for judgment to determine if the stipulation for judgment shall be adopted as a final order. Upon a showing of good cause or at the residential property and small claims division's discretion, the residential property and small claims division may reject the proposed stipulation for judgment.

(6) If the petitioner and the local tax collecting unit do not agree to a stipulation for judgment or if the residential property and small claims division rejects the proposed stipulation for judgment, the petitioner's appeal shall continue as provided in this act.

(7) This section does not apply to the denial of a claim for exemption of a principal residence under section 7cc(8) or (11) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7cc.

**History:** Add. 2012, Act 463, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 2012.

### **205.763 Appearances.**

Sec. 63. A person or legal entity may appear before the division in his own behalf, or may be represented by an attorney or by such other person as the appellant may choose.

**History:** 1973, Act 186, Eff. July 1, 1974.

### **205.764 Referral of proceedings; transfer of matter for hearing and decision; fees, costs, and expenses.**

Sec. 64. (1) With the permission of the petitioner-appellant, the division or the chairperson may refer a proceeding to the tribunal for its decision.

(2) A party or an intervening party may request a transfer of a matter to the tribunal for hearing and decision. If the request is granted the party requesting the transfer shall pay:

- (a) The fees and costs related to the transfer.
- (b) The reasonable expenses incurred by the other parties incidental to the transfer from the division.
- (c) Costs resulting from subsequent appeals if the other party prevails.

**History:** 1973, Act 186, Eff. July 1, 1974;—Am. 1976, Act 365, Imd. Eff. Dec. 23, 1976;—Am. 1980, Act 437, Imd. Eff. Jan. 14, 1981.

### **205.765 Decision as precedent; designation.**

Sec. 65. A decision of the division is not a precedent unless so designated by the tribunal.

**History:** 1973, Act 186, Eff. July 1, 1974;—Am. 1980, Act 437, Imd. Eff. Jan. 14, 1981.

### **205.766 Repealed. 2008, Act 129, Imd. Eff. May 9, 2008.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section pertained to evening hearing of the tax tribunal.