

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 127

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BEARDEN, DEMPSEY, PORTWOOD, HUNTER, BURCHAM,
BEHNEN AND COOPER (Co-sponsors).

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ANNE C. WALKER, Chief Clerk

0514L.021

AN ACT

To repeal section 137.115, RSMo 2000, relating to property taxation, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject, with an effective date.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 137.115, RSMo 2000, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 137.115, to read as follows:

137.115. 1. All other laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the assessor or the assessor's deputies in all counties of this state including the city of St. Louis shall annually make a list of all real and tangible personal property taxable in the assessor's city, county, town or district. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of this section, the assessor shall annually assess all personal property at thirty-three and one-third percent of its true value in money as of January first of each calendar year. The assessor shall annually assess all real property, including any new construction and improvements to real property, and possessory interests in real property at the percent of its true value in money set in subsection 5 of this section. The assessor shall annually assess all real property in the following manner: new assessed values shall be determined as of January first of each odd-numbered year and shall be entered in the assessor's books; those same assessed values shall apply in the following even-numbered year, except for new construction and property improvements which shall be valued as though they had been completed as of January first of the preceding odd-numbered year. The assessor may call at the office, place of doing business, or residence of each person required by this chapter to list property, and require the person to make a correct statement of all taxable real property in the county owned by the person, or under his or her care, charge or management, and all taxable tangible personal property owned by the person or under his or her care, charge or management, taxable in the county. On or before January first of each even-numbered year, the assessor shall

19 prepare and submit a two-year assessment maintenance plan to the county governing body and
20 the state tax commission for their respective approval or modification. The county governing
21 body shall approve and forward such plan or its alternative to the plan to the state tax
22 commission by February first. If the county governing body fails to forward the plan or its
23 alternative to the plan to the state tax commission by February first, the assessor's plan shall be
24 considered approved by the county governing body. If the state tax commission fails to approve
25 a plan and if the state tax commission and the assessor and the governing body of the county
26 involved are unable to resolve the differences, in order to receive state cost-share funds outlined
27 in section 137.750, the county or the assessor shall petition the administrative hearing
28 commission, by May first, to decide all matters in dispute regarding the assessment maintenance
29 plan. Upon agreement of the parties, the matter may be stayed while the parties proceed with
30 mediation or arbitration upon terms agreed to by the parties. The final decision of the
31 administrative hearing commission shall be subject to judicial review in the circuit court of the
32 county involved. In the event a valuation of subclass (1) real property within any county of the
33 first classification with a charter form of government, or within a city not within a county, is
34 made by a computer, computer-assisted method or a computer program, the burden of proof,
35 supported by clear, convincing and cogent evidence to sustain such valuation, shall be on the
36 assessor at any hearing or appeal. In any such county, unless the assessor proves otherwise, there
37 shall be a presumption that the assessment was made by a computer, computer-assisted method
38 or a computer program. Such evidence shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

39 (1) The findings of the assessor based on an appraisal of the property by generally
40 accepted appraisal techniques; and

41 (2) The purchase prices from sales of at least three comparable properties and the address
42 or location thereof. As used in this paragraph, the word "comparable" means that:

43 (a) Such sale was closed at a date relevant to the property valuation; and

44 (b) Such properties are not more than one mile from the site of the disputed property,
45 except where no similar properties exist within one mile of the disputed property, the nearest
46 comparable property shall be used. Such property shall be within five hundred square feet in size
47 of the disputed property, and resemble the disputed property in age, floor plan, number of rooms,
48 and other relevant characteristics.

49 2. Assessors in each county of this state and the city of St. Louis may send personal
50 property assessment forms through the mail.

51 3. The following items of personal property shall each constitute separate subclasses of
52 tangible personal property and shall be assessed and valued for the purposes of taxation at the
53 following percents of their true value in money:

54 (1) Grain and other agricultural crops in an unmanufactured condition, one-half of one

55 percent;

56 (2) Livestock, twelve percent;

57 (3) Farm machinery, twelve percent;

58 (4) Motor vehicles which are eligible for registration as and are registered as historic
59 motor vehicles pursuant to section 301.131, RSMo, and aircraft which are at least twenty-five
60 years old and which are used solely for noncommercial purposes and are operated less than fifty
61 hours per year or aircraft that are home built from a kit, five percent;

62 (5) Poultry, twelve percent; and

63 (6) Tools and equipment used for pollution control and tools and equipment used in
64 retooling for the purpose of introducing new product lines or used for making improvements to
65 existing products by any company which is located in a state enterprise zone and which is
66 identified by any standard industrial classification number cited in subdivision (6) of section
67 135.200, RSMo, twenty-five percent.

68 4. The person listing the property shall enter a true and correct statement of the property,
69 in a printed blank prepared for that purpose. The statement, after being filled out, shall be signed
70 and either affirmed or sworn to as provided in section 137.155. The list shall then be delivered
71 to the assessor.

72 5. All subclasses of real property, as such subclasses are established in section 4(b) of
73 article X of the Missouri Constitution and defined in section 137.016, shall be assessed at the
74 following percentages of true value:

75 (1) For real property in subclass (1), nineteen percent;

76 (2) For real property in subclass (2), twelve percent; and

77 (3) For real property in subclass (3), thirty-two percent.

78 6. Manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, RSMo, which are actually used
79 as dwelling units shall be assessed at the same percentage of true value as residential real
80 property for the purpose of taxation. The percentage of assessment of true value for such
81 manufactured homes shall be the same as for residential real property. If the county collector
82 cannot identify or find the manufactured home when attempting to attach the manufactured home
83 for payment of taxes owed by the manufactured home owner, the county collector may request
84 the county commission to have the manufactured home removed from the tax books, and such
85 request shall be granted within thirty days after the request is made; however, the removal from
86 the tax books does not remove the tax lien on the manufactured home if it is later identified or
87 found. A manufactured home located in a manufactured home rental park, rental community or
88 on real estate not owned by the manufactured home owner shall be considered personal property.
89 A manufactured home located on real estate owned by the manufactured home owner may be
90 considered real property.

91 7. Each manufactured home assessed shall be considered a parcel for the purpose of
92 reimbursement pursuant to section 137.750, unless the manufactured home has been converted
93 to real property in compliance with section 700.111, RSMo, and assessed as a realty
94 improvement to the existing real estate parcel.

95 8. Any amount of tax due and owing based on the assessment of a manufactured home
96 shall be included on the personal property tax statement of the manufactured home owner unless
97 the manufactured home has been converted to real property in compliance with section 700.111,
98 RSMo, in which case the amount of tax due and owing on the assessment of the manufactured
99 home as a realty improvement to the existing real estate parcel shall be included on the real
100 property tax statement of the real estate owner.

101 9. The assessor of each county and each city not within a county shall use the trade-in
102 value published in the October issue of the National Automobile Dealers' Association Official
103 Used Car Guide, or its successor publication, as the recommended guide of information for
104 determining the true value of motor vehicles described in such publication. In the absence of a
105 listing for a particular motor vehicle in such publication, the assessor shall use such information
106 or publications which in the assessor's judgment will fairly estimate the true value in money of
107 the motor vehicle.

108 10. If the assessor increases the assessed valuation of any parcel of subclass (1) real
109 property by more than seventeen percent since the last assessment, excluding increases due to
110 new construction or improvements, then the assessor shall conduct a physical inspection of such
111 property.

112 **11. A homestead exemption pursuant to article X, section 6(a) of the Missouri**
113 **Constitution shall be allowed for certain real property pursuant to this subsection.**

114 **(1) The assessed value of real property satisfying the following criteria shall not be**
115 **increased by the annual assessments made of real property by the assessor:**

116 **(a) The real property is owned by a person sixty-five years of age or older, or**
117 **jointly owned by persons all of whom are sixty-five years of age or older;**

118 **(b) The real property is used by the owner as the owner's principal residence, or**
119 **when jointly owned the property is used by all joint owners as their principal residence;**

120 **(c) Any owner of the real property has a Missouri adjusted gross income not in**
121 **excess of twenty-five thousand dollars on the most recently filed single return or not in**
122 **excess of fifty thousand dollars on the most recently filed combined return; and**

123 **(d) The owner of the real property attests that the property shall, in the year for**
124 **which the homestead exemption is requested, have no improvements or new construction**
125 **made to such property which have a value equal to fifteen percent or greater of the**
126 **property's market value prior to the improvements or new construction;**

127 (2) The exemption shall be for that portion of the assessed valuation of the
128 homestead which exceeds the assessed valuation of the homestead in the year the owner
129 reaches sixty-five years of age or on the effective date of this section, whichever is later;

130 (3) An eligible property owner may file for such an exemption with the county clerk
131 on a form provided by the state tax commission by June first of the year preceding the first
132 year for which the exemption is to be made. The property owner filing the form shall sign
133 such form attesting to the truth of the information provided by such owner. If the
134 property for which the homestead exemption is sought has joint owners, then any such
135 joint owner may file for the exemption. When any joint owner has elected to file for an
136 exemption all other joint owners shall be bound by such election and the other joint owners
137 shall not subsequently be eligible to file for an exemption for the jointly owned property.
138 No provisions of this section shall be construed to deny the granting of an exemption to
139 property owned by married joint owners when only one of such owners is eligible for the
140 exemption. The applicant shall state on the request that all requirements of subdivision
141 (1) of this subsection are satisfied. The applicant shall file a copy of the person's birth
142 certificate with the county clerk to establish eligibility for the exemption. The applicant
143 shall also file as part of the request a copy of the applicant's most recent Missouri income
144 tax return. The applicant shall sign such request attesting to the truth of the information
145 provided. Once an exemption has been granted, the property owners who filed for the
146 exemption shall not be required to refile for any succeeding year and the property shall
147 remain exempted unless or until the property has a new owner or pursuant to subdivision
148 (6) of this subsection;

149 (4) The county clerk shall verify from the birth certificate and form that the
150 applicant is eligible for such exemption, and if the applicant is so eligible, the county clerk
151 shall notify the county assessor, county collector and the state tax commission. In addition,
152 the county clerk shall annually deliver to each political subdivision or other taxing
153 jurisdiction which has levied ad valorem property taxes on the properties for which
154 exemptions are granted under this section a listing of each parcel of real property for
155 which the exemptions are granted;

156 (5) Any exemption granted pursuant to this subsection shall have no effect on the
157 tax levied for the blind pension fund, pursuant to section 38(b) of article III of the Missouri
158 Constitution, on the property for which the exemption is granted. The tax, however, shall
159 not be collected from the person granted the exemption but a payment in lieu of such tax
160 shall be made by the county within which such property lies. The county shall be
161 reimbursed pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection for any revenues lost due to this
162 subdivision;

163 **(6) Pursuant to the requirements of sections 6(a) and 16 of article X of the Missouri**
164 **Constitution, any taxing jurisdiction or political subdivision shall recover the loss of**
165 **revenue caused by this subsection from the state. The state tax commission shall certify**
166 **to the commissioner of administration to issue vouchers to any such taxing jurisdiction or**
167 **political subdivision upon the availability of appropriations. Each calendar year beginning**
168 **in 2002 the state tax commission shall estimate the total loss of revenue to all taxing**
169 **jurisdictions and political subdivisions in the next succeeding year resulting from the**
170 **homestead exemptions granted in the current year. The state tax commission shall report**
171 **such estimate to the general assembly before February first of every year. If the general**
172 **assembly determines there will be insufficient total state revenues, as defined by section 17**
173 **of article X of the Missouri Constitution, for the taxing jurisdictions and political**
174 **subdivisions of the state to recover the estimated loss of revenue caused by the homestead**
175 **exemption the general assembly may declare that there will be no homestead exemption for**
176 **the succeeding year.**

Section B. Section A of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2002.