

Act No. 210  
Public Acts of 2005  
Approved by the Governor  
November 17, 2005  
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November 17, 2005  
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**93RD LEGISLATURE**  
**REGULAR SESSION OF 2005**

Introduced by Reps. Amos, Taub and Garfield

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4369**

AN ACT to provide for the establishment of commercial rehabilitation districts in certain local governmental units; to provide for the exemption from certain taxes; to levy and collect a specific tax upon the owners of certain qualified facilities; to provide for the disposition of the tax; to provide for the obtaining and transferring of an exemption certificate and to prescribe the contents of those certificates; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain local governmental officials; and to provide penalties.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “commercial rehabilitation act”.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) “Commercial property” means land improvements classified by law for general ad valorem tax purposes as real property including real property assessable as personal property pursuant to sections 8(d) and 14(6) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.8 and 211.14, the primary purpose and use of which is the operation of a commercial business enterprise. Commercial property shall also include facilities related to a commercial business enterprise under the same ownership at that location, including, but not limited to, office, engineering, research and development, warehousing, parts distribution, retail sales, and other commercial activities. Commercial property also includes a building or group of contiguous buildings previously used for industrial purposes that will be converted to the operation of a commercial business enterprise. Commercial property does not include any of the following:

(i) Land.

(ii) Property of a public utility.

(b) “Commercial rehabilitation district” or “district” means an area not less than 75 acres in size of a qualified local governmental unit established as provided in section 3.

(c) “Commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate” or “certificate” means the certificate issued under section 6.

(d) “Commercial rehabilitation tax” means the specific tax levied under this act.

(e) “Commission” means the state tax commission created by 1927 PA 360, MCL 209.101 to 209.107.

(f) “Department” means the department of treasury.

(g) “Qualified facility” means a building or group of contiguous buildings of commercial property consisting of 1,000,000 or more square feet of space that is 40% or more vacant for 12 or more consecutive months immediately preceding the date of application for the certificate and that is 15 years old or older. A qualified facility does not include

property that is to be used as a professional sports stadium. A qualified facility does not include property that is to be used as a casino. As used in this subdivision, "casino" means a casino or a parking lot, hotel, motel, or retail store owned or operated by a casino, an affiliate, or an affiliated company, regulated by this state pursuant to the Michigan gaming control and revenue act, the Initiated Law of 1996, MCL 432.201 to 432.226.

(h) "Qualified local governmental unit" means a city, village, or township.

(i) "Rehabilitation" means changes to a qualified facility that are required to restore or modify the property, together with all appurtenances, to an economically efficient condition. Rehabilitation includes major renovation and modification including, but not necessarily limited to, the improvement of floor loads, correction of deficient or excessive height, new or improved fixed building equipment, including heating, ventilation, and lighting, reducing multistory facilities to 1 or 2 stories, improved structural support including foundations, improved roof structure and cover, floor replacement, improved wall placement, improved exterior and interior appearance of buildings, and other physical changes required to restore or change the obsolete property to an economically efficient condition. Rehabilitation shall not include improvements aggregating less than 10% of the true cash value of the property at commencement of the rehabilitation of the qualified facility.

(j) "Taxable value" means the value determined under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27a.

Sec. 3. (1) A qualified local governmental unit, by resolution of its legislative body, may establish 1 or more qualified rehabilitation districts that may consist of 1 or more parcels or tracts of land or a portion of a parcel or tract of land, if at the time the resolution is adopted, the parcel or tract of land or portion of a parcel or tract of land within the district is a qualified facility.

(2) The legislative body of a qualified local governmental unit may establish a commercial rehabilitation district on its own initiative or upon a written request filed by the owner or owners of property comprising at least 50% of all taxable value of the property located within a proposed commercial rehabilitation district. The written request must be filed with the clerk of the qualified local governmental unit.

(3) Before adopting a resolution establishing a commercial rehabilitation district, the legislative body shall give written notice by certified mail to the county in which the proposed district is to be located and the owners of all real property within the proposed commercial rehabilitation district and shall afford an opportunity for a hearing on the establishment of the commercial rehabilitation district at which any of those owners and any other resident or taxpayer of the qualified local governmental unit may appear and be heard. The legislative body shall give public notice of the hearing not less than 10 days or more than 30 days before the date of the hearing.

(4) The legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit, in its resolution establishing a commercial rehabilitation district, shall set forth a finding and determination that the district meets the requirements set forth in subsection (1) and shall provide a copy of the resolution by certified mail to the county in which the district is located.

(5) Within 28 days after receiving a copy of the resolution establishing a commercial rehabilitation district, the county may reject the establishment of the district by 1 of the following methods:

(a) If the county has an elected county executive, by written notification to the qualified local governmental unit.

(b) If the county does not have an elected county executive, by a resolution of the county board of commissioners provided to the qualified local governmental unit.

Sec. 4. (1) If a commercial rehabilitation district is established under section 3, the owner of a qualified facility may file an application for a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate with the clerk of the qualified local governmental unit that established the commercial rehabilitation district. The application shall be filed in the manner and form prescribed by the commission. The application shall contain or be accompanied by a general description of the qualified facility, a general description of the proposed use of the qualified facility, the general nature and extent of the rehabilitation to be undertaken, a descriptive list of the fixed building equipment that will be a part of the qualified facility, a time schedule for undertaking and completing the rehabilitation of the qualified facility, a statement of the economic advantages expected from the exemption, including the number of jobs to be retained or created as a result of rehabilitating the qualified facility, including expected construction employment, and information relating to the requirements in section 8.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate, the clerk of the qualified local governmental unit shall notify in writing the assessor of the local tax collecting unit in which the qualified facility is located, and the legislative body of each taxing unit that levies ad valorem property taxes in the qualified local governmental unit in which the qualified facility is located. Before acting upon the application, the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit shall hold a public hearing on the application and give public notice to the applicant, the assessor, a representative of the affected taxing units, and the general public. The hearing on each application shall be held separately from the hearing on the establishment of the commercial rehabilitation district.

Sec. 5. The legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit, not more than 60 days after receipt of the application by the clerk, shall by resolution either approve or disapprove the application for a commercial rehabilitation

exemption certificate in accordance with section 8 and the other provisions of this act. The clerk shall retain the original of the application and resolution. If approved, the clerk shall forward a copy of the application and resolution to the commission. If disapproved, the reasons shall be set forth in writing in the resolution, and the clerk shall send, by certified mail, a copy of the resolution to the applicant and to the assessor. A resolution is not effective unless approved by the commission as provided in section 6.

Sec. 6. (1) Not more than 60 days after receipt of a copy of the application and resolution adopted under section 5, the commission shall approve or disapprove the resolution.

(2) Following approval of the application by the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit and the commission, the commission shall issue to the applicant a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate in the form the commission determines, which shall contain all of the following:

(a) A legal description of the real property on which the qualified facility is located.

(b) A statement that unless revoked as provided in this act the certificate shall remain in force for the period stated in the certificate.

(c) A statement of the taxable value of the qualified facility, separately stated for real and personal property, for the tax year immediately preceding the effective date of the certificate after deducting the taxable value of the land and personal property other than personal property assessed pursuant to sections 8(d) and 14(6) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.8 and 211.14.

(d) A statement of the period of time authorized by the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit within which the rehabilitation shall be completed.

(e) If the period of time authorized by the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit pursuant to subdivision (b) is less than 10 years, the exemption certificate shall contain the factors, criteria, and objectives, as determined by the resolution of the qualified local governmental unit, necessary for extending the period of time, if any.

(3) The effective date of the certificate is the December 31 immediately following the date of issuance of the certificate.

(4) The commission shall file with the clerk of the qualified local governmental unit a copy of the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate, and the commission shall maintain a record of all certificates filed. The commission shall also send, by certified mail, a copy of the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate to the applicant and the assessor of the local tax collecting unit in which the qualified facility is located.

Sec. 7. (1) A qualified facility for which a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate is in effect, but not the land on which the rehabilitated facility is located, or personal property other than personal property assessed pursuant to sections 8(d) and 14(6) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.8 and 211.14, for the period on and after the effective date of the certificate and continuing so long as the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate is in force, is exempt from ad valorem property taxes collected under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157.

(2) Unless earlier revoked as provided in section 12, a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate shall remain in force and effect for a period to be determined by the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit. The certificate may be issued for a period of at least 1 year, but not to exceed 10 years. If the number of years determined is less than 10, the certificate may be subject to review by the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit and the certificate may be extended. The total amount of time determined for the certificate including any extensions shall not exceed 10 years after the completion of the qualified facility. The certificate shall commence with its effective date and end on the December 31 immediately following the last day of the number of years determined. The date of issuance of a certificate of occupancy, if required by appropriate authority, shall be the date of completion of the qualified facility.

(3) If the number of years determined by the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit for the period a certificate remains in force is less than 10 years, the review of the certificate for the purpose of determining an extension shall be based upon factors, criteria, and objectives that shall be placed in writing, determined and approved at the time the certificate is approved by resolution of the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit and sent, by certified mail, to the applicant, the assessor of the local tax collecting unit in which the qualified facility is located, and the commission.

Sec. 8. (1) If the taxable value of the property proposed to be exempt pursuant to an application under consideration, considered together with the aggregate taxable value of property exempt under certificates previously granted and currently in force under this act or under 1974 PA 198, MCL 207.551 to 207.572, exceeds 5% of the taxable value of the qualified local governmental unit, the legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit shall make a separate finding and shall include a statement in its resolution approving the application that exceeding that amount shall not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the qualified local governmental unit or impairing the financial soundness of an affected taxing unit.

(2) The legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit shall not approve an application for a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate unless the applicant complies with all of the following requirements:

(a) The commencement of the rehabilitation of the qualified facility does not occur earlier than 6 months before the applicant files the application for the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate.

(b) The application relates to a rehabilitation program that when completed constitutes a qualified facility within the meaning of this act and that shall be situated within a commercial rehabilitation district established in a qualified local governmental unit eligible under this act.

(c) Completion of the qualified facility is calculated to, and will at the time of issuance of the certificate have the reasonable likelihood to, increase commercial activity, create employment, retain employment, prevent a loss of employment, revitalize urban areas, or increase the number of residents in the community in which the qualified facility is situated.

(d) The applicant states, in writing, that the rehabilitation of the qualified facility would not be undertaken without the applicant's receipt of the exemption certificate.

(e) The applicant is not delinquent in the payment of any taxes related to the qualified facility.

Sec. 9. The assessor of each qualified local governmental unit in which there is a qualified facility with respect to which 1 or more commercial rehabilitation exemption certificates have been issued and are in force shall determine annually as of December 31 the value and taxable value, both for real and personal property, of each qualified facility separately, having the benefit of a certificate and upon receipt of notice of the filing of an application for the issuance of a certificate, shall determine and furnish to the local legislative body the value and the taxable value of the property to which the application pertains and other information as may be necessary to permit the local legislative body to make the determinations required by section 8(2).

Sec. 10. (1) There is levied upon every owner of a qualified facility to which a commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate is issued a specific tax to be known as the commercial rehabilitation tax.

(2) The amount of the commercial rehabilitation tax, in each year, shall be determined by adding the results of both of the following calculations:

(a) Multiplying the total mills levied as ad valorem taxes for that year by all taxing units within which the qualified facility is located by the taxable value of the real and personal property of the qualified facility on the December 31 immediately preceding the effective date of the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate after deducting the taxable valuation of the land and of personal property other than personal property assessed pursuant to sections 8(d) and 14(6) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.8 and 211.14, for the tax year immediately preceding the effective date of the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate.

(b) Multiplying the mills levied for school operating purposes for that year under the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, and the state education tax act, 1993 PA 331, MCL 211.901 to 211.906, by the taxable value of the real and personal property of the qualified facility, after deducting all of the following:

(i) The taxable value of the land and of the personal property other than personal property assessed pursuant to sections 8(d) and 14(6) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.8 and 211.14.

(ii) The taxable value used to calculate the tax under subdivision (a).

(3) The commercial rehabilitation tax is an annual tax, payable at the same times, in the same installments, and to the same officer or officers as taxes imposed under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, are payable. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the officer or officers shall disburse the commercial rehabilitation tax payments received by the officer or officers each year to and among this state, cities, school districts, counties, and authorities, at the same times and in the same proportions as required by law for the disbursement of taxes collected under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157.

(4) For intermediate school districts receiving state aid under sections 56, 62, and 81 of the state school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1656, 388.1662, and 388.1681, of the amount of commercial rehabilitation tax that would otherwise be disbursed to an intermediate school district, all or a portion, to be determined on the basis of the tax rates being utilized to compute the amount of state aid, shall be paid to the state treasury to the credit of the state school aid fund established by section 11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963.

(5) The amount of commercial rehabilitation tax described in subsection (2)(a) that would otherwise be disbursed to a local school district for school operating purposes, and all of the amount described in subsection (2)(b), shall be paid instead to the state treasury and credited to the state school aid fund established by section 11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963.

(6) The officer or officers shall send a copy of the amount of disbursement made to each unit under this section to the commission on a form provided by the commission.

(7) A qualified facility located in a renaissance zone under the Michigan renaissance zone act, 1996 PA 376, MCL 125.2681 to 125.2696, is exempt from the commercial rehabilitation tax levied under this act to the extent and for the duration provided pursuant to the Michigan renaissance zone act, 1996 PA 376, MCL 125.2681 to 125.2696, except

for that portion of the commercial rehabilitation tax attributable to a special assessment or a tax described in section 7ff(2) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7ff. The commercial rehabilitation tax calculated under this subsection shall be disbursed proportionately to the taxing unit or units that levied the special assessment or the tax described in section 7ff(2) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7ff.

Sec. 11. The amount of the tax applicable to real property, until paid, is a lien upon the real property to which the certificate is applicable. Proceedings upon the lien as provided by law for the foreclosure in the circuit court of mortgage liens upon real property may commence only upon the filing by the appropriate collecting officer of a certificate of nonpayment of the commercial rehabilitation tax applicable to real property, together with an affidavit of proof of service of the certificate of nonpayment upon the owner of the qualified facility by certified mail, with the register of deeds of the county in which the qualified facility is situated.

Sec. 12. The legislative body of the qualified local governmental unit may, by resolution, revoke the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate of a facility if it finds that the completion of rehabilitation of the qualified facility has not occurred within the time authorized by the legislative body in the exemption certificate or a duly authorized extension of that time, or that the holder of the commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate has not proceeded in good faith with the operation of the qualified facility in a manner consistent with the purposes of this act and in the absence of circumstances that are beyond the control of the holder of the exemption certificate.

Sec. 13. A commercial rehabilitation exemption certificate may be transferred and assigned by the holder of the certificate to a new owner of the qualified facility if the qualified local governmental unit approves the transfer after application by the new owner.

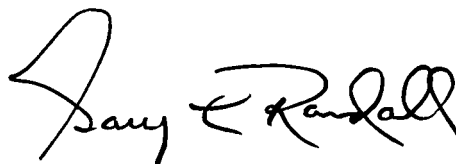
Sec. 14. Not later than October 15 each year, each qualified local governmental unit granting a commercial rehabilitation exemption shall report to the commission on the status of each exemption. The report must include the current value of the property to which the exemption pertains, the value on which the commercial rehabilitation tax is based, and a current estimate of the number of jobs retained or created by the exemption.

Sec. 15. (1) The department annually shall prepare and submit to the committees of the house of representatives and senate responsible for tax policy and economic development issues a report on the utilization of commercial rehabilitation districts, based on the information filed with the commission.

(2) After this act has been in effect for 3 years, the department shall prepare and submit to the committees of the house of representatives and senate responsible for tax policy and economic development issues an economic analysis of the costs and benefits of this act in the 3 qualified local governmental units in which it has been most heavily utilized.

Sec. 16. A new exemption shall not be granted under this act after December 31, 2015, but an exemption then in effect shall continue until the expiration of the exemption certificate.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor