

# HOUSE BILL No. 5678

January 31, 2008, Introduced by Reps. Elsenheimer, Sheltrown, Palsrok, Walker, Booher, Hansen, Ball, Stahl and Mayes and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled  
"The general property tax act,"  
by amending section 9 (MCL 211.9), as amended by 2006 PA 550.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 9. (1) The following personal property, and real property  
2 described in subdivision (j)(i), is exempt from taxation:

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

1 than the residents is exempt.

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

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

11 (d) Pensions receivable from the United States.

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

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

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

25 (h) The working tools of a mechanic of not more than \$500.00  
26 in taxable value. "Mechanic", as used in this subdivision, means a  
27 person skilled in a trade pertaining to a craft or in the

1 construction or repair of machinery if the person's employment by  
2 others is dependent on his or her furnishing the tools.

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

5 (j) Property actually used in agricultural operations and farm  
6 implements held for sale or resale by retail servicing dealers for  
7 use in agricultural production. As used in this subdivision,  
8 "agricultural operations" means farming in all its branches,  
9 including cultivation of the soil, growing and harvesting of an  
10 agricultural, horticultural, or floricultural commodity, **MAPLE**  
11 **SYRUP PRODUCTION**, dairying, raising of livestock, bees, fur-bearing  
12 animals, or poultry, turf and tree farming, raising and harvesting  
13 of fish, and any practices performed by a farmer or on a farm as an  
14 incident to, or in conjunction with, farming operations, but  
15 excluding retail sales and food processing operations. Property  
16 used in agricultural operations includes all of the following:

17 (i) A methane digester and a methane digester electric  
18 generating system if the person claiming the exemption complies  
19 with all of the following:

20 (A) After the construction of the methane digester or the  
21 methane digester electric generating system is completed, the  
22 person claiming the exemption submits to the local tax collecting  
23 unit an application for the exemption and a copy of certification  
24 from the department of agriculture that it has verified that the  
25 farm operation on which the methane digester or methane digester  
26 electric generating system is located is in compliance with the  
27 appropriate system of the Michigan agriculture environmental

1 assurance program in the year immediately preceding the year in  
2 which the affidavit is submitted. Three years after an application  
3 for exemption is approved and every 3 years thereafter, the person  
4 claiming the exemption shall submit to the local tax collecting  
5 unit an affidavit attesting that the department of agriculture has  
6 verified that the farm operation on which the methane digester or  
7 methane digester electric generating system is located is in  
8 compliance with the appropriate system of the Michigan agriculture  
9 environmental assurance program. The application for the exemption  
10 under this subparagraph shall be in a form prescribed by the  
11 department of treasury and shall be provided to the person claiming  
12 the exemption by the local tax collecting unit.

13 (B) When the application is submitted to the local tax  
14 collecting unit, the person claiming the exemption also submits  
15 certification provided by the department of environmental quality  
16 that he or she is not currently being investigated for a violation  
17 of part 31 of the natural resources and environmental protection  
18 act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.3101 to 324.3133, that within a 3-year  
19 period immediately preceding the date the application is submitted  
20 to the local tax collecting unit, he or she has not been found  
21 guilty of a criminal violation under part 31 of the natural  
22 resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL  
23 324.3101 to 324.3133, and that within a 1-year period immediately  
24 preceding the date the application is submitted to the local tax  
25 collecting unit, he or she has not been found responsible for a  
26 civil violation that resulted in a civil fine of \$10,000.00 or more  
27 under part 31 of the natural resources and environmental protection

1 act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.3101 to 324.3133.

2 (C) The person claiming an exemption cooperates by allowing  
3 access for not more than 2 universities to collect information  
4 regarding the effectiveness of the methane digester and the methane  
5 digester electric generating system in generating electricity and  
6 processing animal waste and production area waste. Information  
7 collected under this sub-subparagraph shall not be provided to the  
8 public in a manner that would identify the owner of the methane  
9 digester or the methane digester electric generating system or the  
10 farm operation on which the methane digester or the methane  
11 digester electric generating system is located. The identity of the  
12 owner of the methane digester or the methane digester electric  
13 generating system and the identity of the owner and location of the  
14 farm operation on which the methane digester or the methane  
15 digester electric generating system is located are exempt from  
16 disclosure under the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL  
17 15.231 to 15.246. As used in this sub-subparagraph, "university"  
18 means a public 4-year institution of higher education created under  
19 article VIII of the state constitution of 1963.

20 (D) The person claiming the exemption ensures that the methane  
21 digester and methane digester electric generating system are  
22 operated under the specific supervision and control of persons  
23 certified by the department of agriculture as properly qualified to  
24 operate the methane digester, methane digester electric generating  
25 system, and related waste treatment and control facilities. The  
26 department of agriculture shall consult with the department of  
27 environmental quality and the Michigan state university cooperative

1 extension service in developing the operator certification program.

2 (ii) A biomass gasification system. As used in this  
3 subparagraph, "biomass gasification system" means apparatus and  
4 equipment that thermally decomposes agricultural, food, or animal  
5 waste at high temperatures and in an oxygen-free or a controlled  
6 oxygen-restricted environment into a gaseous fuel and the equipment  
7 used to generate electricity or heat from the gaseous fuel or store  
8 the gaseous fuel for future generation of electricity or heat.

9 (iii) A thermal depolymerization system. As used in this  
10 subparagraph, "thermal depolymerization system" means apparatus and  
11 equipment that use heat to break down natural and synthetic  
12 polymers and that can accept only organic waste.

13 (iv) Machinery used to prepare the crop for market operated  
14 incidental to a farming operation that does not substantially alter  
15 the form, shape, or substance of the crop and is limited to  
16 cleaning, cooling, washing, pitting, grading, sizing, sorting,  
17 drying, bagging, boxing, crating, and handling if not less than 33%  
18 of the volume of the crops processed in the year ending on the  
19 applicable tax day or in at least 3 of the immediately preceding 5  
20 years were grown by the farmer in Michigan who is the owner or user  
21 of the crop processing machinery.

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

26 (l) The products, materials, or goods processed or otherwise  
27 and in whatever form, but expressly excepting alcoholic beverages,

1 located in a public warehouse, United States customs port of entry  
2 bonded warehouse, dock, or port facility on December 31 of each  
3 year, if those products, materials, or goods are designated as in  
4 transit to destinations outside this state pursuant to the  
5 published tariffs of a railroad or common carrier by filing the  
6 freight bill covering the products, materials, or goods with the  
7 agency designated by the tariffs, entitling the shipper to  
8 transportation rate privileges. Products in a United States customs  
9 port of entry bonded warehouse that arrived from another state or a  
10 foreign country, whether awaiting shipment to another state or to a  
11 final destination within this state, are considered to be in  
12 transit and temporarily at rest, and not subject to the collection  
13 of taxes under this act. To obtain an exemption for products,  
14 materials, or goods under this subdivision, the owner shall file a  
15 sworn statement with, and in the form required by, the assessing  
16 officer of the tax district in which the warehouse, dock, or port  
17 facility is located, at a time between the tax day, December 31,  
18 and before the assessing officer closes the assessment rolls  
19 describing the products, materials, or goods, and reporting their  
20 cost and value as of December 31 of each year. The status of  
21 persons and products, materials, or goods for which an exemption is  
22 requested is determined as of December 31, which is the tax day.  
23 Any property located in a public warehouse, dock, or port facility  
24 on December 31 of each year that is exempt from taxation under this  
25 subdivision but that is not shipped outside this state pursuant to  
26 the particular tariff under which the transportation rate privilege  
27 was established shall be assessed upon the immediately succeeding

1 or a subsequent assessment roll by the assessing officer and taxed  
2 at the same rate of taxation as other taxable property for the year  
3 or years for which the property was exempted to the owner at the  
4 time of the omission unless the owner or person entitled to  
5 possession of the products, materials, or goods is a resident of,  
6 or authorized to do business in, this state and files with the  
7 assessing officer, with whom statements of taxable property are  
8 required to be filed, a statement under oath that the products,  
9 materials, or goods are not for sale or use in this state and will  
10 be shipped to a point or points outside this state. If a person,  
11 firm, or corporation claims exemption by filing a sworn statement,  
12 the person, firm, or corporation shall append to the statement of  
13 taxable property required to be filed in the immediately succeeding  
14 year or, if a statement of taxable property is not filed for the  
15 immediately succeeding year, to a sworn statement filed on a form  
16 required by the assessing officer, a complete list of the property  
17 for which the exemption was claimed with a statement of the manner  
18 of shipment and of the point or points to which the products,  
19 materials, or goods were shipped from the public warehouse, dock,  
20 or port facility. The assessing officer shall assess the products,  
21 materials, or goods not shipped to a point or points outside this  
22 state upon the immediately succeeding assessment roll or on a  
23 subsequent assessment roll and the products, materials, or goods  
24 shall be taxed at the same rate of taxation as other taxable  
25 property for the year or years for which the property was exempted  
26 to the owner at the time of the omission. The records, accounts,  
27 and books of warehouses, docks, or port facilities, individuals,



1 partnerships, corporations, owners, or those in possession of  
2 tangible personal property shall be open to and available for  
3 inspection, examination, or auditing by assessing officers. A  
4 warehouse, dock, port facility, individual, partnership,  
5 corporation, owner, or person in possession of tangible personal  
6 property shall report within 90 days after shipment of products,  
7 materials, or goods in transit, for which an exemption under this  
8 section was claimed or granted, the destination of shipments or  
9 parts of shipments and the cost value of those shipments or parts  
10 of shipments to the assessing officer. A warehouse, dock, port  
11 facility, individual, partnership, corporation, or owner is subject  
12 to a fine of \$100.00 for each failure to report the destination and  
13 cost value of shipments or parts of shipments as required in this  
14 subdivision. A person, firm, individual, partnership, corporation,  
15 or owner failing to report products, materials, or goods located in  
16 a warehouse, dock, or port facility to the assessing officer is  
17 subject to a fine of \$100.00 and a penalty of 50% of the final  
18 amount of taxes found to be assessable for the year on property not  
19 reported, the assessable taxes and penalty to be spread on a  
20 subsequent assessment roll in the same manner as general taxes on  
21 personal property. For the purpose of this subdivision, a public  
22 warehouse, dock, or port facility means a warehouse, dock, or port  
23 facility owned or operated by a person, firm, or corporation  
24 engaged in the business of storing products, materials, or goods  
25 for hire for profit who issues a schedule of rates for storage of  
26 the products, materials, or goods and who issues warehouse receipts  
27 pursuant to 1909 PA 303, MCL 443.50 to 443.55. A United States

1 customs port of entry bonded warehouse means a customs warehouse  
2 within a classification designated by 19 CFR 19.1 and that is  
3 located in a port of entry, as defined by 19 CFR 101.1. A portion  
4 of a public warehouse, United States customs port of entry bonded  
5 warehouse, dock, or port facility leased to a tenant or a portion  
6 of any premises owned or leased or operated by a consignor or  
7 consignee or an affiliate or subsidiary of the consignor or  
8 consignee is not a public warehouse, dock, or port facility.

9 (m) Personal property owned by a bank or trust company  
10 organized under the laws of this state, a national banking  
11 association, or an incorporated bank holding company as defined in  
12 section 1841 of the bank holding company act of 1956, 12 USC 1841,  
13 that controls a bank, national banking association, trust company,  
14 or industrial bank subsidiary located in this state. Buildings  
15 owned by a state or national bank, trust company, or incorporated  
16 bank holding company and situated upon ~~lands of which~~ **REAL PROPERTY**  
17 **THAT** the state or national bank, trust company, or incorporated  
18 bank holding company is not the owner of the fee are considered  
19 real property and are not exempt ~~from taxation~~ **UNDER THIS SECTION.**  
20 Personal property owned by a state or national bank, trust company,  
21 or incorporated bank holding company that is leased, loaned, or  
22 otherwise made available to and used by a private individual,  
23 association, or corporation in connection with a business conducted  
24 for profit is not exempt ~~from taxation~~ **UNDER THIS SECTION.**

25 (n) Farm products, processed or otherwise, the ultimate use of  
26 which is for human or animal consumption as food, except wine,  
27 beer, and other alcoholic beverages regularly placed in storage in

1 a public warehouse, dock, or port facility while in storage are  
2 considered in transit and only temporarily at rest and are not  
3 subject to ~~personal property taxation~~ **THE COLLECTION OF TAXES UNDER**  
4 **THIS ACT**. The assessing officer is the determining authority as to  
5 what constitutes, is defined as, or classified as, farm products as  
6 used in this subdivision. The records, accounts, and books of  
7 warehouses, docks, or port facilities, individuals, partnerships,  
8 corporations, owners, or those in possession of farm products shall  
9 be open to and available for inspection, examination, or auditing  
10 by assessing officers.

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

13 (p) The personal property of a parent cooperative preschool.  
14 As used in this subdivision and section 7z, "parent cooperative  
15 preschool" means a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory educational  
16 institution maintained as a community service and administered by  
17 parents of children currently enrolled in the preschool, that  
18 provides an educational and developmental program for children  
19 younger than compulsory school age, that provides an educational  
20 program for parents, including active participation with children  
21 in preschool activities, that is directed by qualified preschool  
22 personnel, and that is licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to  
23 722.128.

24 (q) All equipment used exclusively in wood harvesting, but not  
25 including portable or stationary sawmills or other equipment used  
26 in secondary processing operations. As used in this subdivision,  
27 "wood harvesting" means clearing land for forest management

1 purposes, planting trees, all forms of cutting or chipping trees,  
2 and loading trees on trucks for removal from the harvest area.

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

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

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

14 (2) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Biogas" means a mixture of gases composed primarily of  
16 methane and carbon dioxide.

17 (b) "Methane digester" means a system designed to facilitate  
18 the production, recovery, and storage of biogas from the anaerobic  
19 microbial digestion of animal or food waste.

20 (c) "Methane digester electric generating system" means a  
21 methane digester and the apparatus and equipment used to generate  
22 electricity or heat from biogas or to store biogas for the future  
23 generation of electricity or heat.