

# HOUSE BILL No. 4128

February 4, 2009, Introduced by Rep. Hammel and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled  
"The general property tax act,"  
by amending section 27a (MCL 211.27a), as amended by 2006 PA 446.

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

1           Sec. 27a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
2 property shall be assessed at 50% of its true cash value under  
3 section 3 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963.

4           (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), for taxes  
5 levied in 1995 and for each year after 1995, the taxable value of  
6 each parcel of property is the lesser of the following:

7           (a) The property's taxable value in the immediately preceding  
8 year minus any losses, multiplied by the lesser of 1.05 or the  
9 inflation rate, plus all additions. **HOWEVER, FOR TAXES LEVIED IN**  
10 **2009 AND EACH YEAR AFTER 2009, IF A FRACTION THE NUMERATOR OF WHICH**

1 IS THE STATE EQUALIZED VALUE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR MINUS ADDITIONS  
2 AND THE DENOMINATOR OF WHICH IS THE STATE EQUALIZED VALUE FOR THE  
3 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR MINUS LOSSES IS LESS THAN BOTH 1.05 AND  
4 THE INFLATION RATE, FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION THE TAXABLE  
5 VALUE IS THE PRODUCT OF THE PROPERTY'S TAXABLE VALUE IN THE  
6 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR MINUS LOSSES, MULTIPLIED BY THAT  
7 FRACTION, PLUS ADDITIONS. For taxes levied in 1995, the property's  
8 taxable value in the immediately preceding year is the property's  
9 state equalized valuation in 1994.

10 (b) The property's current state equalized valuation.

11 (3) Upon a transfer of ownership of property after 1994, the  
12 property's taxable value for the calendar year following the year  
13 of the transfer is the property's state equalized valuation for the  
14 calendar year following the transfer.

15 (4) If the taxable value of property is adjusted under  
16 subsection (3), a subsequent increase in the property's taxable  
17 value is subject to the limitation set forth in subsection (2)  
18 until a subsequent transfer of ownership occurs. If the taxable  
19 value of property is adjusted under subsection (3) and the assessor  
20 determines that there had not been a transfer of ownership, the  
21 taxable value of the property shall be adjusted at the July or  
22 December board of review. Notwithstanding the limitation provided  
23 in section 53b(1) on the number of years for which a correction may  
24 be made, the July or December board of review may adjust the  
25 taxable value of property under this subsection for the current  
26 year and for the 3 immediately preceding calendar years. A  
27 corrected tax bill shall be issued for each tax year for which the

1 taxable value is adjusted by the local tax collecting unit if the  
2 local tax collecting unit has possession of the tax roll or by the  
3 county treasurer if the county has possession of the tax roll. For  
4 purposes of section 53b, an adjustment under this subsection shall  
5 be considered the correction of a clerical error.

6 (5) Assessment of property, as required in this section and  
7 section 27, is inapplicable to the assessment of property subject  
8 to the levy of ad valorem taxes within voted tax limitation  
9 increases to pay principal and interest on limited tax bonds issued  
10 by any governmental unit, including a county, township, community  
11 college district, or school district, before January 1, 1964, if  
12 the assessment required to be made under this act would be less  
13 than the assessment as state equalized prevailing on the property  
14 at the time of the issuance of the bonds. This inapplicability  
15 shall continue until levy of taxes to pay principal and interest on  
16 the bonds is no longer required. The assessment of property  
17 required by this act shall be applicable for all other purposes.

18 (6) As used in this act, "transfer of ownership" means the  
19 conveyance of title to or a present interest in property, including  
20 the beneficial use of the property, the value of which is  
21 substantially equal to the value of the fee interest. Transfer of  
22 ownership of property includes, but is not limited to, the  
23 following:

24 (a) A conveyance by deed.

25 (b) A conveyance by land contract. The taxable value of  
26 property conveyed by a land contract executed after December 31,  
27 1994 shall be adjusted under subsection (3) for the calendar year

1 following the year in which the contract is entered into and shall  
2 not be subsequently adjusted under subsection (3) when the deed  
3 conveying title to the property is recorded in the office of the  
4 register of deeds in the county in which the property is located.

5 (c) A conveyance to a trust after December 31, 1994, except if  
6 the settlor or the settlor's spouse, or both, conveys the property  
7 to the trust and the sole present beneficiary or beneficiaries are  
8 the settlor or the settlor's spouse, or both.

9 (d) A conveyance by distribution from a trust, except if the  
10 distributee is the sole present beneficiary or the spouse of the  
11 sole present beneficiary, or both.

12 (e) A change in the sole present beneficiary or beneficiaries  
13 of a trust, except a change that adds or substitutes the spouse of  
14 the sole present beneficiary.

15 (f) A conveyance by distribution under a will or by intestate  
16 succession, except if the distributee is the decedent's spouse.

17 (g) A conveyance by lease if the total duration of the lease,  
18 including the initial term and all options for renewal, is more  
19 than 35 years or the lease grants the lessee a bargain purchase  
20 option. As used in this subdivision, "bargain purchase option"  
21 means the right to purchase the property at the termination of the  
22 lease for not more than 80% of the property's projected true cash  
23 value at the termination of the lease. After December 31, 1994, the  
24 taxable value of property conveyed by a lease with a total duration  
25 of more than 35 years or with a bargain purchase option shall be  
26 adjusted under subsection (3) for the calendar year following the  
27 year in which the lease is entered into. This subdivision does not

1 apply to personal property except buildings described in section  
2 14(6) and personal property described in section 8(h), (i), and  
3 (j). This subdivision does not apply to that portion of the  
4 property not subject to the leasehold interest conveyed.

5 (h) A conveyance of an ownership interest in a corporation,  
6 partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company,  
7 limited liability partnership, or other legal entity if the  
8 ownership interest conveyed is more than 50% of the corporation,  
9 partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company,  
10 limited liability partnership, or other legal entity. Unless  
11 notification is provided under subsection (10), the corporation,  
12 partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company,  
13 limited liability partnership, or other legal entity shall notify  
14 the assessing officer on a form provided by the state tax  
15 commission not more than 45 days after a conveyance of an ownership  
16 interest that constitutes a transfer of ownership under this  
17 subdivision.

18 (i) A transfer of property held as a tenancy in common, except  
19 that portion of the property not subject to the ownership interest  
20 conveyed.

21 (j) A conveyance of an ownership interest in a cooperative  
22 housing corporation, except that portion of the property not  
23 subject to the ownership interest conveyed.

24 (7) Transfer of ownership does not include the following:

25 (a) The transfer of property from 1 spouse to the other spouse  
26 or from a decedent to a surviving spouse.

27 (b) A transfer from a husband, a wife, or a husband and wife

1 creating or disjoining a tenancy by the entireties in the grantors  
2 or the grantor and his or her spouse.

3 (c) A transfer of that portion of property subject to a life  
4 estate or life lease retained by the transferor, until expiration  
5 or termination of the life estate or life lease. That portion of  
6 property transferred that is not subject to a life lease shall be  
7 adjusted under subsection (3).

8 (d) A transfer through foreclosure or forfeiture of a recorded  
9 instrument under chapter 31, 32, or 57 of the revised judicature  
10 act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3101 to ~~600.3280~~ **600.3285** and MCL  
11 600.5701 to 600.5759, or through deed or conveyance in lieu of a  
12 foreclosure or forfeiture, until the mortgagee or land contract  
13 vendor subsequently transfers the property. If a mortgagee does not  
14 transfer the property within 1 year of the expiration of any  
15 applicable redemption period, the property shall be adjusted under  
16 subsection (3).

17 (e) A transfer by redemption by the person to whom taxes are  
18 assessed of property previously sold for delinquent taxes.

19 (f) A conveyance to a trust if the settlor or the settlor's  
20 spouse, or both, conveys the property to the trust and the sole  
21 present beneficiary of the trust is the settlor or the settlor's  
22 spouse, or both.

23 (g) A transfer pursuant to a judgment or order of a court of  
24 record making or ordering a transfer, unless a specific monetary  
25 consideration is specified or ordered by the court for the  
26 transfer.

27 (h) A transfer creating or terminating a joint tenancy between

1 2 or more persons if at least 1 of the persons was an original  
2 owner of the property before the joint tenancy was initially  
3 created and, if the property is held as a joint tenancy at the time  
4 of conveyance, at least 1 of the persons was a joint tenant when  
5 the joint tenancy was initially created and that person has  
6 remained a joint tenant since the joint tenancy was initially  
7 created. A joint owner at the time of the last transfer of  
8 ownership of the property is an original owner of the property. For  
9 purposes of this subdivision, a person is an original owner of  
10 property owned by that person's spouse.

11 (i) A transfer for security or an assignment or discharge of a  
12 security interest.

13 (j) A transfer of real property or other ownership interests  
14 among members of an affiliated group. As used in this subsection,  
15 "affiliated group" means 1 or more corporations connected by stock  
16 ownership to a common parent corporation. Upon request by the state  
17 tax commission, a corporation shall furnish proof within 45 days  
18 that a transfer meets the requirements of this subdivision. A  
19 corporation that fails to comply with a request by the state tax  
20 commission under this subdivision is subject to a fine of \$200.00.

21 (k) Normal public trading of shares of stock or other  
22 ownership interests that, over any period of time, cumulatively  
23 represent more than 50% of the total ownership interest in a  
24 corporation or other legal entity and are traded in multiple  
25 transactions involving unrelated individuals, institutions, or  
26 other legal entities.

27 (l) A transfer of real property or other ownership interests

1 among corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies,  
2 limited liability partnerships, or other legal entities if the  
3 entities involved are commonly controlled. Upon request by the  
4 state tax commission, a corporation, partnership, limited liability  
5 company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity shall  
6 furnish proof within 45 days that a transfer meets the requirements  
7 of this subdivision. A corporation, partnership, limited liability  
8 company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity that  
9 fails to comply with a request by the state tax commission under  
10 this subdivision is subject to a fine of \$200.00.

11 (m) A direct or indirect transfer of real property or other  
12 ownership interests resulting from a transaction that qualifies as  
13 a tax-free reorganization under section 368 of the internal revenue  
14 code, 26 USC 368. Upon request by the state tax commission, a  
15 property owner shall furnish proof within 45 days that a transfer  
16 meets the requirements of this subdivision. A property owner who  
17 fails to comply with a request by the state tax commission under  
18 this subdivision is subject to a fine of \$200.00.

19 (n) A transfer of qualified agricultural property, if the  
20 person to whom the qualified agricultural property is transferred  
21 files an affidavit with the assessor of the local tax collecting  
22 unit in which the qualified agricultural property is located and  
23 with the register of deeds for the county in which the qualified  
24 agricultural property is located attesting that the qualified  
25 agricultural property shall remain qualified agricultural property.  
26 The affidavit under this subdivision shall be in a form prescribed  
27 by the department of treasury. An owner of qualified agricultural



1 property shall inform a prospective buyer of that qualified  
2 agricultural property that the qualified agricultural property is  
3 subject to the recapture tax provided in the agricultural property  
4 recapture act, 2000 PA 261, MCL 211.1001 to 211.1007, if the  
5 qualified agricultural property is converted by a change in use. If  
6 property ceases to be qualified agricultural property at any time  
7 after being transferred, all of the following shall occur:

8 (i) The taxable value of that property shall be adjusted under  
9 subsection (3) as of the December 31 in the year that the property  
10 ceases to be qualified agricultural property.

11 (ii) The property is subject to the recapture tax provided for  
12 under the agricultural property recapture act, 2000 PA 261, MCL  
13 211.1001 to 211.1007.

14 (o) A transfer of qualified forest property, if the person to  
15 whom the qualified forest property is transferred files an  
16 affidavit with the assessor of the local tax collecting unit in  
17 which the qualified forest property is located and with the  
18 register of deeds for the county in which the qualified forest  
19 property is located attesting that the qualified forest property  
20 shall remain qualified forest property. The affidavit under this  
21 subdivision shall be in a form prescribed by the department of  
22 treasury. An owner of qualified forest property shall inform a  
23 prospective buyer of that qualified forest property that the  
24 qualified forest property is subject to the recapture tax provided  
25 in the qualified forest property recapture tax act, 2006 PA 379,  
26 MCL 211.1031 to 211.1036, if the qualified forest property is  
27 converted by a change in use. If property ceases to be qualified

1 forest property at any time after being transferred, all of the  
2 following shall occur:

3 (i) The taxable value of that property shall be adjusted under  
4 subsection (3) as of the December 31 in the year that the property  
5 ceases to be qualified forest property.

6 (ii) The property is subject to the recapture tax provided for  
7 under the qualified forest property recapture tax act, 2006 PA 379,  
8 MCL 211.1031 to 211.1036.

9 (p) Beginning on the effective date of the amendatory act that  
10 added this subdivision, a transfer of land, but not buildings or  
11 structures located on the land, which meets 1 or more of the  
12 following requirements:

13 (i) The land is subject to a conservation easement under  
14 subpart 11 of part 21 of the natural resources and environmental  
15 protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.2140 to 324.2144. As used in  
16 this subparagraph, "conservation easement" means that term as  
17 defined in section 2140 of the natural resources and environmental  
18 protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.2140.

19 (ii) A transfer of ownership of the land or a transfer of an  
20 interest in the land is eligible for a deduction as a qualified  
21 conservation contribution under section 170(h) of the internal  
22 revenue code, 26 USC 170.

23 (8) If all of the following conditions are satisfied, the  
24 local tax collecting unit shall revise the taxable value of  
25 qualified agricultural property taxable on the tax roll in the  
26 possession of that local tax collecting unit to the taxable value  
27 that qualified agricultural property would have had if there had

1 been no transfer of ownership of that qualified agricultural  
2 property since December 31, 1999 and there had been no adjustment  
3 of that qualified agricultural property's taxable value under  
4 subsection (3) since December 31, 1999:

5 (a) The qualified agricultural property was qualified  
6 agricultural property for taxes levied in 1999 and each year after  
7 1999.

8 (b) The owner of the qualified agricultural property files an  
9 affidavit with the assessor of the local tax collecting unit under  
10 subsection (7) (n).

11 (9) If the taxable value of qualified agricultural property is  
12 adjusted under subsection (8), the owner of that qualified  
13 agricultural property shall not be entitled to a refund for any  
14 property taxes collected under this act on that qualified  
15 agricultural property before the adjustment under subsection (8).

16 (10) The register of deeds of the county where deeds or other  
17 title documents are recorded shall notify the assessing officer of  
18 the appropriate local taxing unit not less than once each month of  
19 any recorded transaction involving the ownership of property and  
20 shall make any recorded deeds or other title documents available to  
21 that county's tax or equalization department. Unless notification  
22 is provided under subsection (6), the buyer, grantee, or other  
23 transferee of the property shall notify the appropriate assessing  
24 office in the local unit of government in which the property is  
25 located of the transfer of ownership of the property within 45 days  
26 of the transfer of ownership, on a form prescribed by the state tax  
27 commission that states the parties to the transfer, the date of the

1 transfer, the actual consideration for the transfer, and the  
2 property's parcel identification number or legal description. Forms  
3 filed in the assessing office of a local unit of government under  
4 this subsection shall be made available to the county tax or  
5 equalization department for the county in which that local unit of  
6 government is located. This subsection does not apply to personal  
7 property except buildings described in section 14(6) and personal  
8 property described in section 8(h), (i), and (j).

9 (11) As used in this section:

10 (a) "Additions" means that term as defined in section 34d.

11 (b) "Beneficial use" means the right to possession, use, and  
12 enjoyment of property, limited only by encumbrances, easements, and  
13 restrictions of record.

14 (c) "Converted by a change in use" means that term as defined  
15 in the agricultural property recapture act, 2000 PA 261, MCL  
16 211.1001 to 211.1007.

17 (d) "Inflation rate" means that term as defined in section  
18 34d.

19 (e) "Losses" means that term as defined in section 34d.

20 (f) "Qualified agricultural property" means that term as  
21 defined in section 7dd.

22 (g) "Qualified forest property" means that term as defined in  
23 section 7jj[1].

24 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
25 unless Senate Joint Resolution \_\_\_\_ or House Joint Resolution E  
26 (request no. 00484'09) of the 95th Legislature becomes a part of  
27 the state constitution of 1963 as provided in section 1 of article

1 XII of the state constitution of 1963.