

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2011

By: Holt

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Sections 2902, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993, and Section 3, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993 (68 O.S. Supp. 1993, Sections 2902 and 2902.1), which relate to exemption from ad valorem tax for manufacturing facilities; modifying date for filing applications for certain exemption; modifying date for hearing certain protests; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993 (68 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 2902), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2902. A. A qualifying manufacturing concern, as defined by Section 6B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, and as further defined herein, shall be exempt from the levy of any ad valorem taxes upon new, expanded or acquired manufacturing facilities, including facilities engaged in research and development, for a period of five (5) years. Such facilities are hereby classified for the purposes of taxation as provided in

Section 22 of Article X of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma.

B. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Manufacturing facilities" shall mean facilities engaged in the mechanical or chemical transformation of materials or substances into new products and shall include:

- a. establishments as defined or classified under Division D of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, latest revision,
- b. facilities, including repair and replacement parts, primarily engaged in aircraft repair, building and rebuilding whether or not on a factory basis,
- c. establishments primarily engaged in computer services and data processing as defined under Industrial Group Numbers 7372 and 7373 of the SIC Manual, latest revision, and which derive at least fifty percent (50%) of their annual gross revenues from the sale of a product or service to an out-of-state buyer or consumer, and as defined under Industrial Group Number 7374 of the SIC Manual, latest revision, which derive at least eighty percent (80%) of their annual gross revenues from the sale of a product or service to an out-of-state buyer or consumer. Eligibility as a manufacturing facility pursuant to this subparagraph shall be established, subject to review by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, by annually filing an affidavit with the Oklahoma Tax Commission stating that the facility so qualifies and such other information as required by the Commission. For purposes of determining whether annual gross revenues are derived from sales to out-of-state buyers, all

sales to the federal government shall be considered to be an out-of-state buyer, or

- d. establishments primarily engaged in distribution as defined under Industrial Group Number 4221, 4222, 4225 or 4226 or Major Group Number 50 or 51 of the SIC Manual, latest revision, and which were constructed with an initial capital investment of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) and which employ at least one hundred (100) full-time-equivalent employees, as certified by the Employment Security Commission. Eligibility as a manufacturing facility pursuant to this subparagraph shall be established, subject to review by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, by annually filing an affidavit with the Oklahoma Tax Commission stating that the facility so qualifies and such other information as required by the Commission. The exemption provided for in this subparagraph shall apply only to an establishment for which construction of the facility has commenced prior to October 1, 1993.

Provided, eating and drinking places, as well as other retail establishments, shall not qualify as manufacturing facilities for purposes of this section, nor shall publicly regulated utilities;

2. For tax years beginning after December 31, 1992, "manufacturing facilities" shall mean those facilities as defined in paragraph 1 of this subsection for which the investment cost of the construction, acquisition or expansion of the manufacturing facility is Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) or more;

3. "Facility" and "facilities" shall mean and include the land, buildings, structures, improvements, machinery, fixtures, equipment and other personal property used directly and exclusively in the manufacturing process; and

4. "Research and development" shall mean activities directly related to and conducted for the purpose of discovering, enhancing, increasing or improving future or existing products or processes or productivity.

C. For applications for a five-year exemption submitted on or before December 31, ~~1993~~ 1994, the exemption herein provided for shall apply to new or acquired manufacturing facilities as defined by Section 6B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution and to the expansion of existing facilities on the same site. Any exemption as to expansions of existing facilities shall be limited to the increase in ad valorem taxes directly attributable to the expansion. Provided further, any exemption as to equipment used in the manufacturing process for manufacturing facilities which qualify pursuant to subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section shall be granted only if such equipment results in a net increase in the number of full-time-equivalent employees of the facility in the year for which the exemption is initially granted and in each of the four (4) subsequent years only if the level of new employees is maintained in the subsequent year. Calculation of the number of new employees shall be made in the same manner as required under Section 2357.4 of this title for an investment tax credit.

D. For applications for a five-year exemption submitted after December 31, ~~1993~~ 1994, the following provisions shall apply:

1. A manufacturing concern shall be entitled to the exemption herein provided for each new manufacturing facility constructed, each existing manufacturing facility acquired and the expansion of existing manufacturing facilities on the same site, as such terms are defined by Section 6B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution and by this section;

2. No manufacturing concern shall receive more than one five-year exemption for any one manufacturing facility unless the

expansion which qualifies the manufacturing facility for an additional five-year exemption meets the requirements of paragraph 4 of this subsection, provided the employment level established for any previous exemption is maintained;

3. Any exemption as to the expansion of an existing manufacturing facility shall be limited to the increase in ad valorem taxes directly attributable to the expansion;

4. Except as provided in paragraph 5 of this subsection, any exemption for a new, acquired or expanded manufacturing facility shall be granted only if:

- a. the construction, acquisition or expansion results in a net increase of fifteen (15) or more full-time-equivalent employees of said manufacturing facility in the year for which the exemption is initially granted and in each of the four (4) subsequent years only if the level of new employees is maintained in the subsequent year, and
- b. the facility offers, or will offer within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of employment, a basic health benefits plan which meets the requirements of Section 6506 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or which is certified by the Oklahoma Basic Health Benefits Board as being substantially equivalent to meeting such requirements, to the full-time-equivalent employees of the facility.

For purposes of this section, calculation of the number of new employees shall be measured from the start of initial construction or expansion to the completion of such construction or expansion or for three (3) years from the start of initial construction or expansion, whichever occurs first. The manufacturing concern shall submit an affidavit to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, signed by an officer, stating that the construction, acquisition or expansion of

the facility will result in a net increase in the number of full-time-equivalent employees as required by this paragraph and that such employees are or will be offered a basic health benefits plan as required by this paragraph. If, after the completion of such construction or expansion or after three (3) years from the start of initial construction or expansion, whichever occurs first, the construction, acquisition or expansion has not resulted in a net increase in the number of full-time-equivalent employees or has not met any other qualification specified in this paragraph, the manufacturing concern shall pay an amount equal to the amount of any exemption granted, including penalties and interest thereon, to the county treasurer, who shall cause such amount to be remitted to the Oklahoma Tax Commission for deposit to the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund; and

5. Any new, acquired or expanded automotive final assembly manufacturing facility which does not meet the requirements of paragraph 4 of this subsection shall be granted an exemption only if all other requirements of this section are met and only if the investment costs of the construction, acquisition or expansion of the manufacturing facility is Seventy-five Million Dollars (\$75,000,000.00) or more and the manufacturing facility retains employment of two thousand five hundred (2,500) or more full-time-equivalent employees in the year in which the exemption is initially granted and in each of the four (4) subsequent years only if employment of two thousand five hundred (2,500) or more full-time-equivalent employees is maintained in the subsequent year. Calculation of the number of employees shall be made in the same manner as required under Section 2357.4 of this title for an investment tax credit. As used in this paragraph, "expand" and "expansion" shall mean and include any increase to the size or scope of a facility as well as any renovation, restoration, replacement or

remodeling of a facility which permits the manufacturing of a new or redesigned product.

E. Any person, firm or corporation claiming the exemption herein provided for shall file each year for which exemption is claimed, an application therefor with the county assessor of the county in which the new, expanded or acquired facility is located. Said application shall be on a form or forms prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, and shall be filed before March 15, except as provided in Section ~~3~~ 2902.1 of this ~~act~~ title, of each year in which the facility desires to take the exemption or within thirty (30) days from and after receipt by such person, firm or corporation of notice of valuation increase, whichever is later. In a case where completion of the facility or facilities will occur after January 1 of a given year, a facility may apply to claim the ad valorem tax exemption for said year. If such facility is found to be qualified for exemption, the ad valorem tax exemption provided for herein shall be granted for that entire year and shall apply to the ad valorem valuation as of January 1st of that given year. For applicants which qualify under the provisions of subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section, the application shall include a copy of the affidavit and any other information required to be filed with the Oklahoma Tax Commission pursuant to said provisions.

F. Said application shall be examined by the county assessor and approved or rejected by him in the same manner as provided by law for approval or rejection of claims for homestead exemptions. The taxpayer shall have the same right of review by and appeal from the county board of equalization, in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as provided by law for review and appeals concerning homestead exemption claims. Approved applications shall be filed by the county assessor with the Oklahoma Tax Commission no later than June 15, except as provided in Section ~~3~~ 2902.1 of this

~~act~~ title, of the year in which the facility desires to take the exemption. Incomplete applications and applications filed after said date will be declared null and void by the Commission.

G. Nothing herein shall in any manner affect, alter or impair any law relating to the assessment of property, and all property, real or personal, which may be entitled to exemption hereunder shall be valued and assessed as is other like property and as provided by law. The valuation and assessment of property for which an exemption is granted hereunder shall be performed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

H. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall have the authority and duty to prescribe forms and to promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out and administer the terms and provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993 (68 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 2902.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2902.1 In order to administer subsection C of Section 2902 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the following dates and activities shall apply:

1. Any person, firm or corporation claiming the exemption herein provided pursuant to subsection C of Section 2902 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall file, each year for which the exemption is claimed, an application therefor with the county assessor of the county in which the new, expanded or acquired facility is located. Said application shall be on a form or forms prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission and shall be filed before July 1, ~~1993~~ 1994; and, thereafter subsequent years of application for the exemption shall be filed by March 15 of the calendar year in which the facility desires to take the exemption.

Provided, for those person, firms or corporations qualifying pursuant to subsection C of Section 2902 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma

Statutes, the exemption from ad valorem taxes shall continue in effect for the four (4) following years upon application as long as all requirements in subsection C of Section 2902 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes are met; and

2. Said application shall be examined by the county assessor and approved or rejected by him in the same manner as provided by law for approval or rejection of claims for homestead exemptions. Any applicants rejected by him whose applications were received before July 1, ~~1993~~ 1994, may protest any rejection to the county equalization board which shall conduct hearings to protest in the manner prescribed pursuant to Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. In the event the county equalization board has adjourned and so is unable to conduct a review of the county assessor's rejection in tax year ~~1993~~ 1994, the board shall hear the protest in ~~1994~~ 1995. Provided, applicants must appeal within thirty (30) days of rejection. The applicant shall not be required to pay the tax until appeal is heard by the county equalization board. In the event payment is determined to be due by the county equalization board, the company shall pay said tax, but no interest or penalty shall be assessed or due. Approved applications shall be filed by the county assessor with the Oklahoma Tax Commission no later than August 1, ~~1993~~ 1994. Incomplete applications and applications filed after said date will be declared null and void by the Commission.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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