

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1059

By: Pope (Clay)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 2817, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 405, O.S.L. 1998 (68 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 2817), which relates to valuation and assessment of property; setting forth exception; defining term; requiring certain vegetative filter strips to meet certain criteria; establishing ad valorem value of certain land; requiring conservation district to assist taxpayer; requiring certified document to certify certain information; directing certain document to be filed in certain county; requiring creation of certain conservation plan; providing exception; requiring certain report; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 2817, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 405, O.S.L. 1998 (68 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 2817), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2817. A. All taxable personal property, except intangible personal property, personal property exempt from ad valorem taxation, or household personal property, shall be listed and assessed each year at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale, as of January 1.

The fair cash value of household personal property shall be valued at ten percent (10%) of the appraised value of the improvement to the residential real property within which such personal property is located as of January 1 each year. The assessment of household personal property as provided by this section may be altered by the taxpayer listing such property at its actual fair cash value. For purposes of establishing the value of

household personal property, pursuant to the requirement of Section 8 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, the percentage of value prescribed by this section for the household personal property shall be presumed to constitute the fair cash value of the personal property.

All unmanufactured farm products shall be assessed and valued as of the preceding May 31. Every person, firm, company, association, or corporation, in making the assessment, shall assess all unmanufactured farm products owned by the person, firm, company, association or corporation on the preceding May 31, at its fair cash value on that date instead of January 1.

Stocks of goods, wares and merchandise shall be assessed at the value of the average amount on hand during the preceding year, or the average amount on hand during the part of the preceding year the stock of goods, wares or merchandise was at its January 1 location.

B. All taxable real property shall be assessed annually as of January 1, at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale for:

1. The highest and best use for which the property was actually used during the preceding calendar year; or

2. The highest and best use for which the property was last classified for use if not actually used during the preceding calendar year.

The Ad Valorem Division of the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall be responsible for the promulgation of rules which shall be followed by each county assessor of the state, for the purposes of providing for the equitable use valuation of locally assessed real property in this state. ~~Agricultural~~ Except for vegetative filter strips as provided in Section 2 of this act, agricultural land and nonresidential improvements necessary or convenient for agricultural purposes shall be assessed for ad valorem taxation based upon the highest and best use for which the property was actually used, or

was previously classified for use, during the calendar year next preceding January 1 on which the assessment is made.

C. The use value of agricultural land shall be based on the income capitalization approach using cash rent. The rental income shall be calculated using the direct capitalization method based upon factors including, but not limited to:

1. Soil types, as depicted on soil maps published by the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture;

2. Soil productivity indices approved by the Ad Valorem Division of the Tax Commission;

3. The specific agricultural purpose of the soil based on use categories approved by the Ad Valorem Division of the Tax Commission; and

4. A capitalization rate to be determined annually by the Ad Valorem Division of the Tax Commission based on the sum of the average first mortgage interest rate charged by the Federal Land Bank for the immediately preceding five (5) years, weighted with the prevailing rate or rates for additional loans or equity, and the effective tax rate.

The final use value will be calculated using the soil productivity indices and the agricultural use classification as defined by rules promulgated by the State Board of Equalization. This subsection shall not be construed in a manner which is inconsistent with the duties, powers and authority of the Board as to valuation of the counties as fixed and defined by Section 21 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

D. The use value of nonresidential improvements on agricultural land shall be based on the cost approach to value estimation using currently updated cost manuals published by the Marshall and Swift Company or similar cost manuals approved by the Ad Valorem Division of the Tax Commission. The use value estimates for the nonresidential improvements shall take obsolescence and depreciation

into consideration in addition to necessary adjustments for local variations in the cost of labor and materials. This section shall not be construed in a manner which is inconsistent with the duties, powers and authority of the Board as to equalization of valuation of the counties as determined and defined by Section 21 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

The use value of facilities used for poultry production shall be determined according to the following procedures:

1. The Ad Valorem Division of the Tax Commission is hereby directed to develop a standard system of valuation of both real and personal property of such facilities, which shall be used by all county assessors in this state, under which valuation based on the following shall be presumed to be the fair cash value of the property:

- a. for real property, a ten-year depreciation schedule, at the end of which the residual value is twenty percent (20%) of the value of the facility during its first year of operation, and
- b. for personal property, a five-year depreciation schedule, at the end of which the residual value is zero;

2. Such facilities shall be valued only in comparison to other facilities used exclusively for poultry production. Such a facility which is no longer used for poultry production shall be deemed to have no productive use;

3. During the first year such a facility is placed on the tax rolls, its fair cash value shall be presumed to be the lesser of the actual purchase price or the actual documented cost of construction; and

4. For the purpose of determining the valuation of nonresidential improvements used for poultry production, the

provisions of this subsection shall be applicable and such improvements shall not be considered to be commercial property.

E. The transfer of real property without a change in its use classification shall not require a reassessment thereof based exclusively upon the sale value of the property. However, if the county assessor determines:

1. That by reason of the transfer of a property there is a change in the actual use or classification of the property; or

2. That by reason of the amount of the sales consideration it is obvious that the use classification prior to the transfer of the property is not commensurate with and would not justify the amount of the sales consideration of the property;

then the assessor shall, in either event, reassess the property for the new use classification for which the property is being used, or, the highest and best use classification for which the property may, by reason of the transfer, be classified for use.

F. When the term "fair cash value" or the language "fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale" is used in the Ad Valorem Tax Code, in connection with and in relation to the assessment of real property, it is defined to mean and shall be given the meaning ascribed and assigned to it in this section and when the term or language is used in the Code in connection with the assessment of personal property it shall be given its ordinary or literal meaning.

G. Where any real property is zoned for a use by a proper zoning authority, and is not being used for any higher or better use classification, the purpose for which the property is zoned shall be considered the highest and best use classification of the property for determining its value for assessment purposes; however, the zoning classification for assessment purposes shall only apply in the event that the rezoning occurs by reason of the application of the landowner or the agent of the landowner. Any reassessment

required shall be effective January 1 following the change in use or classification and upon a transfer of ownership of the rezoned property. Taxable real property need not be listed annually with the county assessor.

H. If any real property shall become taxable after January 1 of any year, the county assessor shall assess the same and place it upon the tax rolls for the next ensuing year. When any improvements or buildings having value are placed upon real estate after January 1 of any year, the value of the improvements shall be added by the county assessor to the assessed valuation for the next ensuing year; however, in case the improvements or buildings are new construction for single family residential purposes only, the improvements or buildings shall be deemed completed and to have a value for assessment purposes when the improvements or buildings shall have been conveyed to a bona fide purchaser or when they have been occupied, whichever shall first occur before January 1 of the initial assessment year. In the event that the single family residential improvements were not conveyed to a bona fide purchaser, occupied or completed within the year prior to January 1 of the initial assessment year, the county assessor shall assess the improvements based on the fair market value of the materials used therein. The county assessor shall continue to assess the improvements or buildings based upon the fair market value of the materials used therein until the single family residential improvements are conveyed to a bona fide purchaser or occupied. In case the improvements, other than buildings, are made in anticipation of residential or commercial development and the property is not conveyed or leased within the year prior to January 1 of the year that the improvements would initially be assessed, fair cash value of the property shall be deemed to be the lesser of the fair cash value of the property with the improvements or the fair cash value of the property immediately prior to the

improvements being made. The county assessor shall continue to assess the property based upon such fair cash value until the property is leased or conveyed.

I. In case improvements on land or personal property located therein or thereon are destroyed by fire, lightning, storm, winds, floodwaters, overflow of streams or other cause, or the value of land is impaired, damaged or destroyed by fire, lightning, storm, winds, floodwaters, overflow of streams or other cause, after January 1 and before the adjournment of the county board of equalization during any year, the county board of equalization, in cooperation with the county assessor, shall determine the amount of damage, and shall make an order directing the assessment of the property for that year at the fair cash value of the property, as defined herein, taking into account the damage occasioned by fire, lightning, storm, winds, floodwaters, overflow of streams or other causes.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2817.2 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For purposes of this section, the term "vegetative filter strip" means any land that:

1. Is located between land used for agricultural purposes and an area to be protected, including, but not limited to, surface water, a stream, a river, or a sinkhole; and

2. Meets the requirements of subsection B of this section.

B. Vegetative filter strips shall be at least sixteen (16) feet in width and contain vegetation that:

1. Has a dense top growth;

2. Forms a uniform ground cover;

3. Has a heavy fibrous root system; and

4. Tolerates pesticides applied to the land used for agricultural purposes.

C. For purposes of valuation and assessment as provided in Section 2817 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a vegetative filter strip shall be valued at one-sixth (1/6) of its fair cash value.

D. 1. The conservation district in which the land is located shall assist the taxpayer in completing a uniform certified document as prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission in cooperation with the Conservation Commission that certifies:

- a. that the property meets the requirements established under this section for vegetative filter strips, and
- b. the acreage or square footage of property that qualifies for assessment as a vegetative filter strip.

2. The document shall be filed by the applicant with the county assessor of the county in which the land is located.

E. The conservation district shall create a conservation plan for the creation of the vegetative filter strip. The plan shall be kept on file in the conservation district office.

F. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any taxpayer to have vegetative filter strips.

G. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Conservation Commission, shall file a report concerning the effect and impact of vegetative filter strips on soil and water quality improvements to the Oklahoma Legislature by March 1, 2001.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

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