

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. _____

By: Fisher

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 301, O.S.L. 1998, and Section 3, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 1993, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 379, O.S.L. 1998 (68 O.S. Supp. 1998, Sections 2902 and 3603), which relate to ad valorem taxation and the Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program Act; modifying establishments to which certain ad valorem tax exemption applies; modifying definition; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 467. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 301, O.S.L. 1998 (68 O.S. Supp. 1998, 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 Oklahoma 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 which have received a manufacturer exemption permit pursuant to the provisions of Section § 1359.2 of this ~~act~~ title,
- 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 Tax Commission stating that the facility so qualifies and such other information as required by the Tax 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,
- 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 Tax Commission, by annually filing an affidavit with the Tax Commission stating that the facility so qualifies and such other information as required by the Tax 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~~ June 30, 1999, or

- e. 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 three hundred (300) 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 Tax Commission, by annually filing an affidavit with the Tax Commission stating that the facility so qualifies and providing such other information as required by the Tax Commission. The exemption provided for in this subparagraph shall apply only to an establishment for which construction of the facility has commenced after June 9, 1995, but prior to December 1, 1997.

Provided, eating and drinking places, as well as other retail establishments, shall not qualify as manufacturing facilities for purposes of this section, nor shall centrally assessed properties;

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 in or on the manufacturing site as defined in paragraph 11 of Section 1352 of this title. However, for establishments specified in subparagraph e of paragraph 1 of this subsection, the terms "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, including but not limited to, fork lifts and fork lifts support equipment, conveyor systems and components, pallet jacks, storage or order filling racking, inventory control computers and other computer systems used in the distribution process, bar code readers, motorized vehicles for moving trailers and all other tangible personal property used in handling the items being distributed; 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, 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, 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. Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this subsection, 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 paragraphs 5 and 6 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 the 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 to the full-time-equivalent employees of the facility, which is determined by the Department of Commerce to consist of the elements specified in subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of subsection A of Section 3603 of this title or elements substantially equivalent thereto.

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 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 Tax Commission for deposit to the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund;

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; and

6. Any new, acquired or expanded manufacturing facility which does not meet the requirements of subparagraph a of paragraph 4 of this subsection shall be granted an exemption only if all other requirements of this section are met and only if:

- a. the investment cost of the construction, acquisition or expansion of the manufacturing facility is Two

Hundred Million Dollars (\$200,000,000.00) or more and such investment is made on or after July 1, 1997, and

b. the manufacturing facility retains employment of five hundred (500) or more full-time-equivalent employees in the year in which the exemption provided by this paragraph is granted and in each of the four (4) subsequent years only if employment of five hundred (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 or a technological enhancement of the manufacturing process.

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. The application shall be on a form or forms prescribed by the Tax Commission, and shall be filed before March 15, except as provided in Section 2902.1 of this 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 that 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 1 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 Tax Commission.

F. The application shall be examined by the county assessor and approved or rejected 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 Tax Commission no later than June 15, except as provided in Section 2902.1 of this title, of the year in which the facility desires to take the exemption. Incomplete applications and applications filed after June 15 will be declared null and void by the Tax Commission. In the event that a taxpayer qualified to receive an exemption pursuant to the provisions of this section shall make payment of ad valorem taxes in excess of the amount due, the county treasurer shall have the authority to credit the taxpayer's real or personal property tax overpayment against current taxes due. The county treasurer may establish a schedule of up to five (5) years of credit to resolve the overpayment.

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 Tax Commission.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 1993, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 379, O.S.L. 1998 (68 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 3603), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3603.

A. As used in Section 3601 et seq. of this title:

1. a. "Basic industry" means:

(1) manufacturing, as defined or classified under Division D of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, latest version,

(2) an activity related to electric services as described by Industry Number 4911 of Major Group 49, Division E of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, latest version, if:

(a) an establishment engaged therein qualifies as an exempt wholesale generator as defined by 15 U.S.C., Section 79z-5a,

(b) the exempt wholesale generator facility consumes from sources located within the state at least ninety percent (90%) of the total energy used to produce the electrical output which qualifies for the specialized treatment provided by the Energy Policy Act of 1992, P.L. 102-486, 106 Stat. 2776, as amended, and federal regulations adopted pursuant thereto,

(c) the exempt wholesale generator facility sells to purchasers located outside the state for consumption in activities located outside the state at least ninety percent

(90%) of the total electrical energy output which qualifies for the specialized treatment provided by the Energy Policy Act of 1992, P.L. 102-486, 106 Stat. 2776, as amended, and federal regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and

- (d) the facility is constructed on or after July 1, 1996,
- (3) administrative and auxiliary services that are assigned a one-digit auxiliary code in the SIC Manual, and are described therein as Central Administrative Offices, which means central centers that influence the environment in which data processing, customer service, credit accounting, telemarketing, claims processing and other administrative functions are accomplished,
- (4) Research, Development and Testing Laboratories,
- (5) an activity described by Industry Group Number 873 of Major Group 87, Division I of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, latest revision, Industry Numbers 8731, 8732, 8733 and 8734,
- (6) an activity related to research and development as described by Auxiliary Code Number 2 of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, latest revision,
- (7) warehouses which serve as distribution centers for retail or wholesale businesses, if seventy-five percent (75%) of the inventory processed through such warehouse is shipped out-of-state,
- (8) adjustment and collection services, as defined or classified under Industry Number 7322 of Major

Group 73 of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, latest version, if seventy-five percent (75%) of the loans to be serviced were made by out-of-state debtors,

- (9) (a) transportation by air, as defined or classified under Major Group 45 of the SIC Manual, latest version, if the following facilities are located in this state:
- (i) the corporate headquarters of an establishment classified therein, and
 - (ii) a facility or facilities at which reservations for transportation provided by such an establishment are processed, whether such services are performed by employees of the establishment, by employees of a subsidiary of or other entity affiliated with the establishment or by employees of an entity with whom the establishment has contracted for the performance of such services; provided, this provision shall not disqualify an establishment which uses an out-of-state entity or employees for some reservations services, or
- (b) transportation by air, as defined or classified under Major Group 45 of the SIC Manual, latest version, if an establishment classified therein has or will have within one (1) year sales of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its total sales, as determined by the Incentive Approval

Committee pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of this section, to out-of-state customers or buyers, to in-state customers or buyers if the product or service is resold by the purchaser to an out-of-state customer or buyer for ultimate use, or to the federal government, or

- (10) the following, if an establishment classified therein has or will have within one (1) year sales of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its total sales, as determined by the Incentive Approval Committee pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of this section, to out-of-state customers or buyers, to in-state customers or buyers if the product or service is resold by the purchaser to an out-of-state customer or buyer for ultimate use, or to the federal government:
- (a) motor freight transportation and warehousing, as defined or classified under Major Group 42 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
 - (b) arrangement of passenger transportation, as defined or classified under Industry Group 472 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
 - (c) arrangement of transportation of freight or cargo, as defined or classified under Industry Group 473 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
 - (d) insurance carriers, as defined or classified under Major Group 63 of the SIC Manual, latest version,

- (e) mailing, reproduction, commercial art and photography and stenographic services, as defined or classified under Industry Group 733 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (f) services to dwellings and other buildings, as defined or classified under Industry Group 734 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (g) miscellaneous equipment rental and leasing, as defined or classified under Industry Group 735 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (h) personnel supply services, as defined or classified under Industry Group 736 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (i) computer programming, data processing and other computer-related services, as defined or classified under Industry Group 737 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (j) miscellaneous business services, as defined or classified under Industry Group 738 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (k) medical and dental laboratories, as defined or classified under Industry Group 807 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (l) engineering and management services, as defined or classified under Major Group 87 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
- (m) communication services, as defined or classified under Industrial Number 4899 of Major Group 48 of the SIC Manual, latest version, ~~and~~
- (n) refuse systems, as defined or classified under Industrial Number 4953 of Major Group

49 of the SIC Manual, latest version,
provided that the establishment is primarily
engaged in the capture and distribution of
methane gas produced within a landfill, and
(o) general wholesale distribution of groceries,
as described in Industry Number 5141 of the
SIC Manual, latest version.

b. An establishment described in subparagraph a of this paragraph shall not be considered to be engaged in a basic industry unless it offers, or will offer within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date it receives the first incentive payment pursuant to the provisions of Section 3601 et seq. of this title, a basic health benefits plan to the individuals it employs in new direct jobs in this state which is determined by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to consist of the following elements or elements substantially equivalent thereto:

- (1) not less than fifty percent (50%) of the premium shall be paid by the employer,
- (2) coverage for basic hospital care,
- (3) coverage for physician care,
- (4) coverage for mental health care,
- (5) coverage for substance abuse treatment,
- (6) coverage for prescription drugs, and
- (7) coverage for prenatal care;

2. "New direct job" means full-time-equivalent employment in this state in an establishment which has qualified to receive an incentive payment pursuant to the provisions of Section 3601 et seq. of this title which did not exist in this state prior to the date of approval by the Department of the application of the establishment pursuant to the provisions of Section 3604 of this title;

3. "Estimated direct state benefits" means the tax revenues projected by the Department to accrue to the state as a result of new direct jobs;

4. "Estimated direct state costs" means the costs projected by the Department to accrue to the state as a result of new direct jobs. Such costs shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. the costs of education of new state resident children,
- b. the costs of public health, public safety and transportation services to be provided to new state residents,
- c. the costs of other state services to be provided to new state residents, and
- d. the costs of other state services;

5. "Estimated net direct state benefits" means the estimated direct state benefits less the estimated direct state costs;

6. "Net benefit rate" means the estimated net direct state benefits computed as a percentage of gross payroll; provided:

- a. except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the net benefit rate may be variable and shall not exceed five percent (5%),
- b. the net benefit rate shall not exceed six percent (6%) in connection with an establishment which is owned and operated by an entity which has been awarded a United States Department of Defense contract for which:
 - (1) bids were solicited and accepted by the United States Department of Defense from facilities located outside this state,
 - (2) the term is or is renewable for not less than twenty (20) years, and
 - (3) the average annual salary, excluding benefits which are not subject to Oklahoma income taxes, for new direct jobs created as a direct result of

the awarding of the contract is projected by the Department of Commerce to equal or exceed Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) within three (3) years of the date of the first incentive payment, and

- c. in no event shall incentive payments, cumulatively, exceed the estimated net direct state benefits;

7. "Gross payroll" means wages, as defined in Section 2385.1 of this title, for new direct jobs; and

- 8. a. "Establishment" means any business or governmental entity, no matter what legal form, including, but not limited to, a sole proprietorship; partnership; corporation or combination of corporations which have a central parent corporation which makes corporate management decisions such as those involving consolidation, acquisition, merger or expansion; federal agency; political subdivision of the State of Oklahoma; or trust authority; provided, distinct, identifiable subunits of such entities may be determined to be an establishment, for all purposes of Section 3601 et seq. of this title, by the Department subject to the following conditions:

- (1) the entity must have a minimum payroll of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) and the subunit must also have or will have a minimum payroll of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00),
- (2) the subunit is engaged in an activity or service or produces a product which is demonstratively independent and separate from the entity's other activities, services or products and could be

- conducted or produced in the absence of any other activity, service or production of the entity,
- (3) has an accounting system capable of tracking or facilitating an audit of the subunit's payroll, expenses, revenue and production. Limited interunit overlap of administrative and purchasing functions shall not disqualify a subunit from consideration as an establishment by the Department,
- (4) the entity has not previously had a subunit determined to be an establishment pursuant to this section; provided, the restriction set forth in this division shall not apply to subunits which qualify pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph b of paragraph 6 of this subsection, and
- (5) it is determined by the Department that the entity will have a probable net gain in total employment within the incentive period.

- b. The Department may promulgate rules to further limit the circumstances under which a subunit may be considered an establishment. The Department shall promulgate rules to determine whether a subunit of an entity achieves a net gain in total employment. The Department shall establish criteria for determining the period of time within which such gain must be demonstrated and a method for determining net gain in total employment.

B. The Incentive Approval Committee is hereby created and shall consist of the Director of State Finance, the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and one member of the Oklahoma Tax Commission appointed by the Tax Commission. It shall be the duty of

the Committee to determine, upon initial application on a form approved by the Committee, if an establishment is engaged in a basic industry as defined in subdivision (b) of division (9) or in subdivisions (a) through ~~(n)~~ (o) of division (10) of subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section or as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section.

C. For an establishment defined as a "basic industry" pursuant to division (5) or division (6) of subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section, the Incentive Approval Committee shall consist of the members provided by subsection B of this section and the President of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

SECTION 2. 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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