

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1251

By: Greenwood, Mitchell, Bonny,  
Adair, Case, Sullivan,  
Worthen, Cargill and  
Coleman of the House

and

Morgan, Robinson, Reynolds,  
Branan, Coffee, Coates,  
Monson, Wilcoxson, Lawler  
and Aldridge of the Senate

An Act relating to tornado relief; amending 47 O.S. 2001, Section 1132.3, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 454, O.S.L. 2002 (47 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1132.3), which relates to the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act; allowing credit against vehicle registration fees for certain vehicles which are replacements for vehicles destroyed by certain tornado; amending 68 O.S. 2001, Sections 1362 and 1367.1, which relate to sales tax; providing that sales tax not be due on certain donated property; allowing vendor deduction on certain delinquent reports or tax payments; amending 68 O.S. 2001, Sections 2103.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002, 2357.29, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002, 2888, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002, 2892, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002 and 2902, as last amended by Section 72 of Enrolled House Bill No. 1816 of the 1st Session of the 49th Oklahoma Legislature (68 O.S. Supp. 2002, Sections 2103.1, 2357.29, 2888 and 2892), which relate to income taxes and ad valorem taxes; modifying vehicles to which certain motor vehicle excise tax credit applies; allowing certain income tax credit for owners of residential real property damaged or destroyed by certain tornado; specifying tax years for which such credit allowed; specifying qualifications therefor; specifying record owner of property under certain conditions; modifying date that application for homestead exemption may be filed under certain circumstances; clarifying status of certain exemption; waiving requirement for certain number of jobs for a certain time period in order to maintain exemption; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 1132.3, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 454, O.S.L. 2002 (47 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1132.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1132.3 A. There shall be a credit allowed with respect to the fee for registration of a vehicle which is a replacement for a vehicle which was destroyed by a tornado on May 3, 1999, and which was registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 1132 of this title on such date. The credit shall be a prorated amount based on the fee paid for the registration of the destroyed vehicle for the period of registration remaining as of May 3, 1999, and shall be applied to the registration fee for the replacement vehicle pursuant to the provisions of Section 1132 of this title. In no event will the credit be refunded.

B. There shall be a credit allowed with respect to the fee for registration of a vehicle which is a replacement for a vehicle which was destroyed by a tornado on October 9, 2001, and which was registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 1132 of this title on such date. The credit shall be a prorated amount based on the fee paid for the registration of the destroyed vehicle for the period of registration remaining as of October 9, 2001, and shall be applied to the registration fee for the replacement vehicle pursuant to the provisions of Section 1132 of this title. In no event will the credit be refunded.

C. There shall be a credit allowed with respect to the fee for registration of a vehicle which is a replacement for a vehicle which was destroyed by a tornado on May 8 or 9, 2003, and which was registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 1132 of this title on such date. The credit shall be a prorated amount based on the fee paid for the registration of the destroyed vehicle for the period of registration remaining as of May 8 or 9, 2003, and shall be applied to the registration fee for the replacement vehicle pursuant to the provisions of Section 1132 of this title. In no event will the credit be refunded.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 1362, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1362. A. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of Section 1361 of this title, the tax levied pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code, Section 1350 et seq. of this title, shall be remitted or paid to the Oklahoma Tax Commission by the vendor of tangible personal property, services, privileges, admissions, dues, fees, or any other item subject to the tax levied pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code.

B. The amount of tax to be collected by the vendor or to be remitted by the holder of a direct payment permit on each sale shall be the applicable percentage of the gross receipts or gross proceeds thereof as provided by Section 1354 of this title. For the convenience of the vendor or direct payment permit holder, the Tax Commission is hereby authorized to establish and revise, when necessary, bracket system guidelines to be followed in collecting the tax levied pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code, any municipal sales tax, or county sales tax.

The use of bracket system guidelines does not relieve the vendor or direct payment permit holder from the duty and liability to remit

to the Tax Commission, an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from all sales during the taxable period as provided by Section 1354 of this title.

C. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of Section 1361 of this title, each person required pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code to make a sales tax report shall include in the gross proceeds derived from sales to consumers or users, the sales value of all tangible personal property which has been purchased for resale, manufacturing, or further processing, and withdrawn from stock in trade for use or consumption during the taxable period covered by such report, and shall pay the tax on the sales value of this tangible personal property withdrawn from stock in trade for consumption or use; provided, such tax shall not be due on such tangible personal property which has been donated for the purpose of assisting persons affected by the tornadoes occurring May 3, 1999, or May 8 or 9, 2003.

D. All persons, either within or without the state, selling merchandise or other tangible personal property in this state through peddlers, solicitors, or other salespersons who do not have established places of business in this state, shall remit or pay the tax levied pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code and shall be required to file reports and pay the taxes due on all sales made to consumers or users by themselves or by their peddlers, solicitors, or other salespersons.

E. All persons defined as Group Five vendors remitting sales tax based upon use of motor fuel or diesel fuel as a sale shall include in a monthly sales tax report the number of gallons of fuel so used and the sales price of the motor fuel or diesel fuel. The amount of tax to be remitted by the Group Five vendor shall be the applicable percentage as provided by Section 1354 of this title, of the sales price of the fuel used during the applicable reporting period.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 1367.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1367.1 A. For the purpose of compensating the seller or vendor in keeping sales tax records, filing reports and remitting the tax when due, a seller or vendor shall be allowed a deduction of two and one-fourth percent (2 1/4%) of the tax due under the applicable provisions of this title. Such deduction shall not be allowed with respect to a direct payment permit.

B. No deductions from tax shall be allowed if any such report or payment of tax is delinquent; provided, the deduction shall be allowed if the Oklahoma Tax Commission determines that the reason that such report or payment of tax was delinquent was due to the tornadoes occurring May 3, 1999, or May 8 or 9, 2003.

C. Notwithstanding the formula provided by subsection A of this section, the deduction provided by this section shall be limited to a maximum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$3,300.00) per month per sales tax permit. No such sales tax permit holder may change sales tax permit status in order to avoid the provisions of this subsection.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount equal to the excess of the amount calculated by the formula provided by subsection A of this section over the Three-Thousand-Three-Hundred-Dollar limit provided by subsection C of this section shall be retained by the state as an administrative expense and deposited to the General Revenue Fund.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2103.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002 (68 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 2103.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2103.1 There shall be a credit allowed with respect to the excise tax paid for a vehicle which is:

1. A replacement for a vehicle which was destroyed by a tornado on May 3, 1999, and upon which excise tax had been paid pursuant to the provisions of Section 2103 of this title on or after May 3, 1998; ~~or~~

2. A replacement for a vehicle which was destroyed by a tornado on October 9, 2001, and upon which excise tax had been paid pursuant to the provisions of Section 2103 of this title on or after October 9, 2000; or

3. A replacement for a vehicle which was destroyed by a tornado on May 8 or 9, 2003, and upon which excise tax had been paid pursuant to the provisions of Section 2103 of this title on or after May 8 or 9, 2002.

The credit shall be in the amount of the excise tax which was paid for the destroyed vehicle and shall be applied to the excise tax due on the replacement vehicle. In no event shall the credit be refunded.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2357.29, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002 (68 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 2357.29), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2357.29 A. For tax years beginning after December 31, 1999, there shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Section 2355 of this title for owners of residential real property whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the May 3, 1999, tornado. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2001, there shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Section 2355 of this title for owners of residential real property whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the October 9, 2001, tornado. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2003, there shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Section 2355 of this title for owners of residential real property whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the May 8 or 9, 2003, tornado. The amount of the credit shall be the difference between the ad valorem property tax paid on such property and improvements in the year prior to the tornado damage or destruction and the amount of ad valorem property tax paid on the property and improvements the first year after the improvement is completely or fully repaired or rebuilt. For purposes of this credit, the amount of ad valorem property tax paid the first year after the improvement is repaired or rebuilt shall be based on the same or similar square footage as the improvement which was damaged or destroyed.

B. The credit shall be a refundable credit. Eligible taxpayers shall be entitled to claim this credit for five (5) consecutive years. After the first year the credit is claimed, the amount of the credit shall be eighty percent (80%) of the previous year's credit. If the taxpayer has no income tax liability, or if the credit exceeds the amount of the income tax liability of the taxpayer, then the credit, or balance thereof, shall be paid out in the same manner and out of the same fund as refunds of income taxes are paid and so much of the fund as is necessary for such purposes is hereby appropriated.

C. In order to qualify for this credit:

1. The property shall have been damaged or destroyed by ~~the~~ a tornado or similar cyclonic winds on May 3, 1999, ~~or~~ October 9, 2001, or May 8 or 9, 2003;

2. The property shall be within an area which has been declared a federal disaster area;

3. The property shall be the primary residence of the owner both prior to and after the tornado;

4. The owner shall have been granted a homestead exemption or be eligible to claim a homestead exemption both prior to and after the tornado;

5. The primary residence shall be repaired or rebuilt on the same property as it existed prior to the tornado; and

6. The primary residence shall be repaired or rebuilt and used as the primary residence no later than December 31, 2001, with respect to the May 3, 1999, tornado, ~~or~~ no later than December 31, 2003, with respect to the October 9, 2001, tornado, or no later than December 31, 2005, with respect to the May 8 or 9, 2003, tornado.

D. The credit shall not be allowed if the property is transferred or title is changed or conveyed as defined in Section 2802.1 of this title. Any credit claimed and allowed prior to the transfer of the property or the change or conveyance of title shall not be affected.

E. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall promulgate any necessary rules and develop any necessary forms to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2888, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002 (68 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 2888), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2888. A. 1. The term "homestead", as used in the provisions of the Ad Valorem Tax Code governing homestead exemptions, shall mean and include the actual residence of a natural person who is a citizen of the State of Oklahoma, provided the record actual ownership of such residence be vested in such natural person residing and domiciled thereon. Any single person of legal age, married couple and their minor child or children, or the minor child or children of a deceased person, whether residing together or separated, or surviving spouse shall be allowed under Section 2801 et seq. of this title only one homestead exemption in this state. No person or the family of such person shall be required to be

domiciled thereon if such person is in the armed service of the United States in time of war or during a state of national emergency as declared by the Congress or the President of the United States, and such person shall not be required to be domiciled thereon in order to assert or claim the exemption provided in Section 2889 of this title, and such exemption may be claimed by any agent of, or member of the family of, such person. The surviving spouse and/or minor children of a deceased person shall be considered record owners of the homestead where the title of record in the office of the county clerk on January 1 is in the name of the deceased, but in all other cases the deed or other evidence of ownership must be of record in the office of the county clerk on January 1 in order for any person to be qualified as the record owner. However, a natural person actually owning, residing and domiciled in the residence on January 1 shall be deemed to be the record owner of the residence on January 1, within the meaning of this section, if the deed or other evidence of ownership of such person, executed on or before January 1, be of record in the office of the county clerk on or before February 1 immediately following. Despite any provision to the contrary in this section, if a parent or parents residing and domiciled in the residence own the residence jointly with one or more of their children, whether residing together or separated, and where the record joint ownership of the property is recorded in the office of the county clerk in accordance with the provisions of this section, the parent or parents residing and domiciled in the residence shall be entitled to the entire homestead exemption. A rural homestead shall not include more than one hundred sixty (160) acres of land and the improvements thereon. An urban homestead shall not include any land except the lot or lots, or the unplatted tract, upon which are located the dwelling, garage, barn and/or other outbuildings necessary or convenient for family use.

2. Despite any provision to the contrary in this section, the person actually owning, residing and domiciled in the residence on May 15, 2000, shall be deemed to be the record owner of the residence on May 15, 2000, within the meaning of this section, if the deed or other evidence of ownership of such person, executed on or before May 15, 2000, be of record in the office of the county clerk on or before such date. However, the provisions of this paragraph shall only apply to any person who is eligible to claim the income tax credit pursuant to Section 2357.29 of this title with respect to the May 3, 1999, tornado, or to any person whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the May 3, 1999, tornado and who purchased or built a new primary residence at a location within this state other than the location of the damaged or destroyed residence.

3. Despite any provision to the contrary in this section, the person actually owning, residing and domiciled in the residence on May 15, 2004, shall be deemed to be the record owner of the residence on May 15, 2004, within the meaning of this section, if the deed or other evidence of ownership of such person, executed on or before May 15, 2004, be of record in the office of the county clerk on or before such date. However, the provisions of this paragraph shall only apply to any person who is eligible to claim the income tax credit pursuant to Section 2357.29 of this title with respect to the May 8 or 9, 2003, tornado or to any person whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the May 8 or 9, 2003, tornado and who purchased or built a new primary residence at a location within this state other than the location of the damaged or destroyed residence.

B. The term "rural homestead" as used herein shall mean and include any homestead located outside a city or town or outside any platted subdivision or addition.

C. The term "urban homestead" as used herein shall mean and include any homestead located within any city or town whether incorporated or unincorporated, or located within a platted subdivision or addition, whether such subdivision or addition be a part of a city or town. In no case shall an urban homestead exceed in area one (1) acre.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2892, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 190, O.S.L. 2002 (68 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 2892), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2892. A. To receive a homestead exemption, a taxpayer shall be required to file an application with the county assessor. Such application may be filed at any time. However, the county assessor shall, if such applicant otherwise qualifies, grant a homestead exemption for a tax year only if the application is filed on or before March 15 of such year. Except as provided in this subsection, if an application for a homestead exemption is filed after March 15, the county assessor shall, if such applicant otherwise qualifies, grant the homestead exemption beginning with the following tax year. For any owner of real property who is eligible to claim the income tax credit pursuant to Section 2357.29 of this title with respect to the May 3, 1999, tornado, or for any owner of real property whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the May 3, 1999, tornado and who purchased or built a new primary residence at a location within this state other than the location of the damaged or destroyed residence, the application for a homestead exemption may be filed after March 15, 2000, but no later than June 1, 2000, and the homestead exemption shall be granted for such year. For any owner of real property who is eligible to claim the income tax credit pursuant to Section 2357.29 of this title with respect to the May 8 or 9, 2003, tornado or for any owner of real property whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed in the May 8 or 9, 2003, tornado and who purchased or built a new primary residence at a location within this state other than the location of the damaged or destroyed residence, the application for a homestead exemption may be filed after March 15, 2004, but no later than June 1, 2004, and the homestead exemption shall be granted for such year.

B. Any taxpayer who has been granted a homestead exemption and who continues to occupy such homestead property as a homestead, shall not be required to reapply for such homestead exemption.

C. Once granted, the homestead exemption shall remain in full force and effect for each succeeding year, so long as:

1. The record of actual property ownership is vested in the taxpayer;

2. The instrument of ownership is on record in the county clerk's office;

3. The owner-taxpayer is in all other respects entitled by law to the homestead exemption; and

4. The taxpayer has no delinquent accounts appearing on the personal property tax lien docket in the county treasurer's office. On October 1 of each year, the county treasurer will provide a copy of the personal property tax lien docket to the county assessor. Based upon the personal property tax lien docket, the county assessor shall act to cancel the homestead exemption of all property owners having delinquent personal property taxes. Such cancellation of the homestead exemption will become effective January 1 of the following year and will remain in effect for at least one (1) calendar year; however, such cancellation will not become effective January 1 of the following year if the taxpayer pays such delinquent personal property taxes prior to January 1. Cancellation of the homestead exemption will require the county assessor to notify each taxpayer no later than January 1 of the next calendar year whose homestead is canceled and will require the taxpayer to refile an application for homestead exemption by those dates so indicated in this section and the payment of all delinquent personal property taxes before the homestead can be reinstated.

D. Any purchaser or new owner of real property must file an application for homestead exemption as herein provided.

E. The application for homestead exemption shall be filed with the county assessor of the county in which the homestead is located.

A taxpayer applying for homestead exemption shall not be required to appear before the county assessor in person to submit such application.

F. The property owner shall sign and swear to the truthfulness and correctness of the application's contents. If the property owner is a minor or incompetent, the legal guardian shall sign and swear to the contents of the application.

G. The county assessor and duly appointed deputies are authorized and empowered to administer the required oaths.

H. The taxpayer shall notify the county assessor following any change in the use of property with homestead exemption thereon. The notice of change in homestead exemption status of property shall be in writing and may be filed with the county assessor at any time on or before March 15 of the next following year after which such change occurs. The filing of a deed or other instrument evidencing a change of ownership or use shall constitute sufficient notice to the county assessor.

I. Any single person of legal age, married couple and their minor child or children, or the minor child or children of a deceased person, whether residing together or separated, or surviving spouse shall be allowed under this Code only one homestead exemption in the State of Oklahoma.

J. Any property owner who fails to give notice of change to the county assessor and permits the allowance of homestead exemption for any succeeding year where such homestead exemption is unlawful and improper shall owe the county treasurer:

1. An amount equal to twice the amount of the taxes lawfully due but not paid by reason of such unlawful and improper allowance of homestead exemption; and

2. The interest and penalty on such total sum as provided by statutes on delinquent ad valorem taxes. There shall be a lien on the property while such taxes are unpaid, but not for a period longer than that provided by statute for other ad valorem tax liens.

K. Any person who has intentionally or knowingly permitted the unlawful and improper allowance of homestead exemption shall forfeit the right to a homestead exemption on any property in this state for the two (2) succeeding years.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 72 of Enrolled House Bill No. 1816 of the 1st Session of the 49th Oklahoma Legislature, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2902. A. Except as otherwise provided by subsection H of Section ~~§ 3658~~ of this ~~act~~ title pursuant to which the exemption authorized by this section may not be claimed, 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.

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 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, 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 meet the following qualifications:
- (1) construction with an initial capital investment of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00),
  - (2) employment of at least one hundred (100) full-time-equivalent employees, as certified by the Employment Security Commission,
  - (3) payment of wages or salaries to its employees at a wage which equals or exceeds one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federally mandated minimum wage, as certified by the Employment Security Commission, and
  - (4) commencement of construction prior to December 31, 2002, with construction to be completed within three (3) years from the date of the commencement of construction.

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 containing such other information as required by the Tax Commission.

Provided, eating and drinking places, as well as other retail establishments, except as otherwise provided in subsection E of this section, 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 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 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, all initial applications for any exemption for a new, acquired or expanded manufacturing facility shall be granted only if:

- a. there is a net increase of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) or more in annualized payroll, or a net increase of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) or more in capital improvements while maintaining or increasing payroll. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall verify all payroll information through the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. Payroll shall be verified by the Oklahoma Tax Commission by using the average of the third and fourth quarter Oklahoma Employment Security Commission reports of the calendar year immediately preceding the year for which initial application is made for base-line payroll, 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 amount of increased payroll 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. For the facilities of any qualified manufacturing concern the construction or expansion of which began on or after January 1, 1996, and for which an application for the exemption authorized by this section was filed prior to the effective date of this act, the amount of increased payroll shall include payroll for full-time-equivalent employees in this state who are employed by an entity other than the facility which has previously or is currently qualified to receive an exemption pursuant to the provisions of this section and who are leased or otherwise provided to the facility, if such employment did not exist

in this state prior to the start of initial construction or expansion of the facility. 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 annualized payroll as required by this paragraph and that full-time-equivalent employees of the facility 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 amount of annualized payroll, if required, or any other qualification specified in this paragraph has not been met, the manufacturing concern shall pay an amount equal to the amount of any exemption granted, including penalties and interest thereon, to the Tax Commission for deposit to the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund; provided, for facilities having previously qualified for an exemption under this section, if the total amount of capital improvements made to the facility during any five-year period is at least Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), the requirements for a net increase in the amount of annualized payroll or for maintaining payroll and the requirements for increasing or maintaining payroll for previous years shall be deemed to have been met for purposes of this section for the entire five-year period of the exemption and payment to the Tax Commission shall not be required. In such event, the facility shall continue to receive the exemption for the entire original five-year period;

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 cost of the construction, acquisition or expansion of the manufacturing facility is Three Hundred Million Dollars (\$300,000,000.00) or more and the manufacturing facility retains an average employment of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) 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 an average employment of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) or more full-time-equivalent employees is maintained in the subsequent year. Any property installed to replace property damaged by the tornado or natural disaster that occurred May 8, 2003, may continue to receive the exemption provided in this paragraph for the full five-year period based on the value of the previously qualifying assets as of January 1, 2003. The exemption shall continue in effect as long as all other qualifications in this paragraph are met. If the average employment of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) or more full-time-equivalent employees is reduced as a result of temporary layoffs because of a tornado or natural disaster on May 8, 2003, then the average employment requirement shall be waived for year 2003 of the exemption period. 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.

D. The five-year period of exemption from ad valorem taxes for any qualifying manufacturing facility property shall begin on January 1 following the initial qualifying use of the property in 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 9. 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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 29th day of May, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 29th day of May, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate