STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 1384

By: Smaligo, Braddock, Benge, Covey, Gilbert, Lamons, McCarter, Adkins and Rousselot of the House

and

Adelson, Eason McIntyre, Lawler, Barrington, Pruitt, Crain, Williamson, Lerblance, Myers, Ford, Mazzei, Riley and Easley of the Senate

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 116 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2060 of the 1st Session of the 50th Oklahoma Legislature, which relates to exemptions for certain qualifying manufacturing concerns; modifying requirements for eligibility for ad valorem tax exemption for certain manufacturing concern; prescribing conditions related to application for exemption; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 116 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2060 of the 1st Session of the 50th Oklahoma Legislature, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2902. A. Except as otherwise provided by subsection H of Section 3658 of this 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. The provisions of Section 6B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution requiring an existing facility to have been unoccupied for a period of twelve (12) months prior to acquisition shall be construed as a qualification for a facility to initially receive an exemption, and shall not be deemed to be a qualification for that facility to continue to receive an exemption in each of the four (4) years following the initial year for which the exemption was granted. 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 Oklahoma Employment Security Commission,

(3) payment of wages or salaries to its employees at a wage which equals or exceeds one hundred seventy-five percent (175%) of the federally mandated minimum wage, as certified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, and

(4) commencement of construction prior to December 31, 2006, 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 June 6, 2003, 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; provided, if a facility has initially qualified for an exemption pursuant to the provisions of this section on or after January 1, 1999, and ownership of the facility changes during the five-year period of the exemption, the exemption shall continue

in effect for the balance of the five-year period as long as all other qualifications provided in this section are met;

2. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 5 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 and 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, 6 and 7 of this subsection, all initial applications for any exemption for a new, acquired or expanded manufacturing facility shall be granted only if:

a. (i) for applications approved by a county assessor on or before July 1, 2003, 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, or

(ii) for applications approved by a county assessor after July 1, 2003, there is:

(1) a net increase in annualized payroll at the facility of at least Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000.00) if the facility is located in a county with a population of fewer than fifty thousand (50,000), according to the most recent federal decennial census, ~~or~~

(2) at least One Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00) if the facility is located in a county with a population of fifty thousand (50,000) or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census, or

(3) regardless of county population, a net increase in annualized payroll at the facility of at least Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000.00), if the application is made by an oil refinery, as described by Industry No. 324110 of the North American Industry Classification System and the facility for which the application is made is used wholly for the desulphurization of gasoline or diesel fuel as defined in Section 2817.3 of this title.

The Tax Commission shall verify all payroll information through the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. Payroll shall be verified by the 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 June 6, 2002, 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;

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;

6. Any new, acquired, or expanded computer data processing, data preparation, or information processing services provider classified in Industrial Group Number 7374 of the SIC Manual, latest revision, and U.S. Industry Number 514210 of the North American

Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Manual, latest revision, which has made an initial application pursuant to paragraph 4 of this subsection on or after January 1, 2003, and before July 1, 2003, which application has been approved by the county assessor, may apply for additional exemptions under this section for each year in which new, acquired, or expanded capital improvements to the facility are made if:

a. there is a net increase in annualized payroll at the facility of at least Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000.00) attributable to the capital improvements or a net increase of Seven Million Dollars ($7,000,000.00) or more in capital improvements while maintaining or increasing payroll, and

b. the facility offers, or will offer within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of employment of new employees attributable to the capital improvements, 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; and

7. An entity engaged in electric power generation by means of wind, as described by the North American Industry Classification System, No. 221119, shall be subject to the requirements for obtaining and maintaining the exemption authorized by this section which were effective as law prior to the amendments contained in Section 1, Chapter 458, O.S.L. 2003, and shall not be subject to the requirements imposed pursuant to the amendments contained in Section 1, Chapter 458, O.S.L. 2003.

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. If a taxpayer fails to claim the exemption for a year in which it was otherwise qualified, the taxpayer may file a claim for exemption for an additional year within two (2) years of the end of the original five-year period.

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 on or 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 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.

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