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March 3, 2021

SENATE BILL NO. 498

By: Thompson and McCortney of  
the Senate

and

## Fetgatter of the House

An Act relating to ad valorem tax; amending 68 O.S. 2011, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 258, O.S.L. 2019 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 2902), which relates to ad valorem tax exemption; providing waiver of certain payroll requirement relating to current and future exemptions for certain facilities; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 2902, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 258, O.S.L. 2019 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 2902), 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

1 research and development, for a period of five (5) years. The  
2 provisions of Section 6B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution  
3 requiring an existing facility to have been unoccupied for a period  
4 of twelve (12) months prior to acquisition shall be construed as a  
5 qualification for a facility to initially receive an exemption, and  
6 shall not be deemed to be a qualification for that facility to  
7 continue to receive an exemption in each of the four (4) years  
8 following the initial year for which the exemption was granted.

9 Such facilities are hereby classified for the purposes of taxation  
10 as provided in Section 22 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

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

13 1. "Manufacturing facilities" means facilities engaged in the  
14 mechanical or chemical transformation of materials or substances  
15 into new products and except as provided by paragraph 8 of  
16 subsection C of this section shall include:

- 17 a. establishments which have received a manufacturer  
18 exemption permit pursuant to the provisions of Section  
19 1359.2 of this title,
- 20 b. facilities, including repair and replacement parts,  
21 primarily engaged in aircraft repair, building and  
22 rebuilding whether or not on a factory basis,
- 23 c. establishments primarily engaged in computer services  
24 and data processing as defined under Industrial Group

Numbers 5112 and 5415, and U.S. Industry Number 334611 and 519130 of the NAICS 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 5142 of the NAICS 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. 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. Provided, "investment cost" shall not include

1 the cost of direct replacement, refurbishment, repair  
2 or maintenance of existing machinery or equipment,  
3 except that "investment cost" shall include capital  
4 expenditures for direct replacement, refurbishment,  
5 repair or maintenance of existing machinery or  
6 equipment that qualifies for depreciation and/or  
7 amortization pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of  
8 1986, as amended, and such expenditures shall be  
9 eligible as a part of an "expansion" that otherwise  
10 qualifies under this section, and

11 e. establishments primarily engaged in distribution as  
12 defined under Industry Numbers 49311, 49312, 49313 and  
13 49319 and Industry Sector Number 42 of the NAICS  
14 Manual, latest revision, and which meet the following  
15 qualifications:

- 16 (1) construction with an initial capital investment  
17 of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00),  
18 (2) employment of at least one hundred (100) full-  
19 time-equivalent employees, as certified by the  
20 Oklahoma Employment Security Commission,  
21 (3) payment of wages or salaries to its employees at  
22 a wage which equals or exceeds one hundred  
23 seventy-five percent (175%) of the federally  
24

1 mandated minimum wage, as certified by the  
2 Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, and  
3 (4) commencement of construction on or after November  
4 1, 2007, with construction to be completed within  
5 three (3) years from the date of the commencement  
6 of construction.

7 Eligibility as a manufacturing facility pursuant to this  
8 subparagraph shall be established, subject to review by the Tax  
9 Commission, by annually filing an affidavit with the Tax Commission  
10 stating that the facility so qualifies and containing such other  
11 information as required by the Tax Commission.

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

15 Eligibility as a manufacturing facility pursuant to this  
16 subparagraph shall be established, subject to review by the Tax  
17 Commission, by annually filing an application with the Tax  
18 Commission stating that the facility so qualifies and containing  
19 such other information as required by the Tax Commission;

20 2. "Facility" and "facilities" means and includes the land,  
21 buildings, structures, improvements, machinery, fixtures, equipment  
22 and other personal property used directly and exclusively in the  
23 manufacturing process; and  
24

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

5        C. The following provisions shall apply:

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

12        2. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 5 of this  
13 subsection, no manufacturing concern shall receive more than one  
14 five-year exemption for any one manufacturing facility unless the  
15 expansion which qualifies the manufacturing facility for an  
16 additional five-year exemption meets the requirements of paragraph 4  
17 of this subsection and the employment level established for any  
18 previous exemption is maintained;

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

22        4. Except as provided in paragraphs 5 ~~and~~, 6 and 10 of this  
23 subsection, all initial applications for any exemption for a new,  
24

1 acquired or expanded manufacturing facility shall be granted only  
2 if:

- 3           a.    there is a net increase in annualized base payroll  
4                   over the initial payroll of at least Two Hundred Fifty  
5                   Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) if the facility is  
6                   located in a county with a population of fewer than  
7                   seventy-five thousand (75,000), according to the most  
8                   recent Federal Decennial Census, while maintaining or  
9                   increasing base payroll in subsequent years, or at  
10                  least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) if the  
11                  facility is located in a county with a population of  
12                  seventy-five thousand (75,000) or more, according to  
13                  the most recent Federal Decennial Census, while  
14                  maintaining or increasing base payroll in subsequent  
15                  years; provided the payroll requirement of this  
16                  subparagraph shall be waived for claims for  
17                  exemptions~~7~~ including claims previously denied or on  
18                  appeal on March 3, 2010, for all initial applications  
19                  for exemption filed on or after January 1, 2004, and  
20                  on or before March 31, 2009, and all subsequent annual  
21                  exemption applications filed related to the initial  
22                  application for exemption, for an applicant, if the  
23                  facility has been located in Oklahoma for at least  
24                  fifteen (15) years engaged in marine engine

1 manufacturing as defined under U.S. Industry Number  
2 333618 of the NAICS Manual, latest revision, and has  
3 maintained an average employment of five hundred (500)  
4 or more full-time-equivalent employees over a ten-year  
5 period. Any applicant that qualifies for the payroll  
6 requirement waiver as outlined in the previous  
7 sentence and subsequently closes its Oklahoma  
8 manufacturing plant prior to January 1, 2012, may be  
9 disqualified for exemption and subject to recapture.  
10 For an applicant engaged in paperboard manufacturing  
11 as defined under U.S. Industry Number 322130 of the  
12 NAICS Manual, latest revision, union master payouts  
13 paid by the buyer of the facility to specified  
14 individuals employed by the facility at the time of  
15 purchase, as specified under the purchase agreement,  
16 shall be excluded from payroll for purposes of this  
17 section.

18 In order to provide certainty with respect to  
19 investments in manufacturing facilities pertaining to  
20 all initial applications for exemption filed on or  
21 after January 1, 2016, the following definitions shall  
22 apply:

- 23 (1) "base payroll" shall mean total payroll adjusted  
24 for any nonrecurring bonuses, exercise of stock



1 option or stock rights and other nonrecurring,  
2 extraordinary items included in total payroll,  
3 and

4 (2) "initial payroll" shall mean base payroll for the  
5 year immediately preceding the initial  
6 construction, acquisition or expansion.

7 The Tax Commission shall verify payroll information  
8 through the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission by  
9 using reports from the Oklahoma Employment Security  
10 Commission for the calendar year immediately preceding  
11 the year for which initial application is made for  
12 base-line payroll, which must be maintained or  
13 increased for each subsequent year; provided, a  
14 manufacturing facility shall have the option of  
15 excluding from its payroll, for purposes of this  
16 section:

17 i. payments to sole proprietors, members  
18 of a partnership, members of a limited  
19 liability company who own at least ten  
20 percent (10%) of the capital of the  
21 limited liability company or  
22 stockholder-employees of a corporation  
23 who own at least ten percent (10%) of  
24 the stock in the corporation, and

1                   ii.    any nonrecurring bonuses, exercise of  
2                            stock option or stock rights or other  
3                            nonrecurring, extraordinary items  
4                            included in total payroll numbers as  
5                            reported by the Oklahoma Employment  
6                            Security Commission. A manufacturing  
7                            facility electing either option shall  
8                            indicate such election upon its  
9                            application for an exemption under this  
10                          section. Any manufacturing facility  
11                          electing either option shall submit  
12                          such information as the Tax Commission  
13                          may require in order to verify payroll  
14                          information. Payroll information  
15                          submitted pursuant to the provisions of  
16                          this paragraph shall be submitted to  
17                          the Tax Commission and shall be subject  
18                          to the provisions of Section 205 of  
19                          this title, and

20           b.    the facility offers, or will offer within one hundred  
21                    eighty (180) days of the date of employment, a basic  
22                    health benefits plan to the full-time-equivalent  
23                    employees of the facility, which is determined by the  
24                    Department of Commerce to consist of the elements

1 specified in subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of  
2 subsection A of Section 3603 of this title or elements  
3 substantially equivalent thereto.

4 For purposes of this section, calculation of the amount of  
5 increased base payroll shall be measured from the start of initial  
6 construction or expansion to the completion of such construction or  
7 expansion or for three (3) years from the start of initial  
8 construction or expansion, whichever occurs first. The amount of  
9 increased base payroll shall include payroll for full-time-  
10 equivalent employees in this state who are employed by an entity  
11 other than the facility which has previously or is currently  
12 qualified to receive an exemption pursuant to the provisions of this  
13 section and who are leased or otherwise provided to the facility, if  
14 such employment did not exist in this state prior to the start of  
15 initial construction or expansion of the facility. The  
16 manufacturing concern shall submit an affidavit to the Tax  
17 Commission, signed by an officer, stating that the construction,  
18 acquisition or expansion of the facility will result in a net  
19 increase in the annualized base payroll as required by this  
20 paragraph and that full-time-equivalent employees of the facility  
21 are or will be offered a basic health benefits plan as required by  
22 this paragraph. If, after the completion of such construction or  
23 expansion or after three (3) years from the start of initial  
24 construction or expansion, whichever occurs first, the construction,

1 acquisition or expansion has not resulted in a net increase in the  
2 amount of annualized base payroll, if required, or any other  
3 qualification specified in this paragraph has not been met, the  
4 manufacturing concern shall pay an amount equal to the amount of any  
5 exemption granted, including penalties and interest thereon, to the  
6 Tax Commission for deposit to the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund;

7       5. If a facility fails to meet the base payroll requirement of  
8 subparagraph a of paragraph 4 of this subsection, the payroll  
9 requirement shall be waived for claims for exemptions, including  
10 claims previously denied or on appeal on June 1, 2009, for all  
11 initial applications for exemption filed on or after January 1,  
12 2004, and on or before March 31, 2009, and all subsequent annual  
13 exemption applications filed related to such initial application for  
14 exemption, for an applicant, if the facility:

15           a. has been located for at least five (5) years as of  
16           March 31, 2009, in a county in Oklahoma with a  
17           population of six hundred thousand (600,000) or more,

18           b. is owned by an applicant that has been engaged in  
19           manufacturing as defined under U.S. Industry Numbers  
20           323110, 323111, 323121 and 323122 of the NAICS Manual,  
21           latest revision,

22           c. is owned by an applicant that maintains a workforce of  
23           at least three hundred (300) employees on June 1,  
24           2009,

1           d.    is owned by an applicant that has filed multiple  
2                applications for exemption pursuant to this section,  
3                and

4           e.    is owned by an applicant that operates at least one  
5                facility in this state of at least seven hundred  
6                thirty thousand (730,000) square feet on June 1, 2009.

7 In the event that any applicant obtaining a waiver of the payroll  
8 requirement pursuant to this paragraph ceases to operate all of its  
9 facilities in this state on or before a date that is four (4) years  
10 after any initial application for an exemption is filed by such  
11 applicant, all sums of property taxes exempted under this paragraph  
12 through a waiver of the payroll requirement that relate to such  
13 application shall become due and payable as if such sums were  
14 assessed in the year in which the applicant ceases to operate all of  
15 its facilities in the state;

16       6. Any new, acquired or expanded automotive final assembly  
17 manufacturing facility which does not meet the requirements of  
18 paragraph 4 of this subsection shall be granted an exemption only if  
19 all other requirements of this section are met and only if the  
20 investment cost of the construction, acquisition or expansion of the  
21 manufacturing facility is Three Hundred Million Dollars  
22 (\$300,000,000.00) or more and the manufacturing facility retains an  
23 average employment of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) or  
24 more full-time-equivalent employees in the year in which the

1 exemption is initially granted and in each of the four (4)  
2 subsequent years only if an average employment of one thousand seven  
3 hundred fifty (1,750) or more full-time-equivalent employees is  
4 maintained in the subsequent year. Any property installed to  
5 replace property damaged by the tornado or natural disaster that  
6 occurred May 8, 2003, may continue to receive the exemption provided  
7 in this paragraph for the full five-year period based on the value  
8 of the previously qualifying assets as of January 1, 2003. The  
9 exemption shall continue in effect as long as all other  
10 qualifications in this paragraph are met. If the average employment  
11 of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) or more full-time-  
12 equivalent employees is reduced as a result of temporary layoffs  
13 because of a tornado or natural disaster on May 8, 2003, then the  
14 average employment requirement shall be waived for year 2003 of the  
15 exemption period. Calculation of the number of employees shall be  
16 made in the same manner as required under Section 2357.4 of this  
17 title for an investment tax credit. As used in this paragraph,  
18 "expand" and "expansion" shall mean and include any increase to the  
19 size or scope of a facility as well as any renovation, restoration,  
20 replacement or remodeling of a facility which permits the  
21 manufacturing of a new or redesigned product;

22 7. Any new, acquired, or expanded computer data processing,  
23 data preparation, or information processing services provider  
24 classified in Industrial Group Number 7374 of the SIC Manual, latest

1 revision, and U.S. Industry Number 514210 of the North American  
2 Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Manual, latest revision,  
3 may apply for exemptions under this section for each year in which  
4 new, acquired, or expanded capital improvements to the facility are  
5 made if:

6           a.    there is a net increase in annualized payroll of the  
7                   applicant at any facility or facilities of the  
8                   applicant in this state of at least Two Hundred Fifty  
9                   Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00), which is attributable  
10                  to the capital improvements, or a net increase of  
11                  Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00) or more in  
12                  capital improvements, while maintaining or increasing  
13                  payroll at the facility or facilities in this state  
14                  which are included in the application, and

15           b.    the facility offers, or will offer within one hundred  
16                   eighty (180) days of the date of employment of new  
17                   employees attributable to the capital improvements, a  
18                   basic health benefits plan to the full-time-equivalent  
19                   employees of the facility, which is determined by the  
20                   Department of Commerce to consist of the elements  
21                   specified in subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of  
22                   subsection A of Section 3603 of this title or elements  
23                   substantially equivalent thereto;

1        8. Effective January 1, 2017, an entity engaged in electric  
2 power generation by means of wind, as described by the North  
3 American Industry Classification System, No. 221119, shall not be  
4 defined as a qualifying manufacturing concern for purposes of the  
5 exemption otherwise authorized pursuant to Section 6B of Article X  
6 of the Oklahoma Constitution or qualify as a "manufacturing  
7 facility" as defined in this section. No initial application for  
8 exemption shall be filed by or accepted from an entity engaged in  
9 electric power generation by means of wind on or after January 1,  
10 2018; ~~and~~

11        9. An entity or applicant engaged in an industry as defined  
12 under U.S. Industry Number 324110 of the NAICS Manual, latest  
13 revision, which has applied for or been granted an exemption for a  
14 time period which began on or after calendar year 2012 and before  
15 calendar year 2016 but which did not meet the payroll requirements  
16 of subparagraph a of paragraph 4 of this subsection because of  
17 nonrecurring bonuses, exercise of stock option or stock rights or  
18 other nonrecurring, extraordinary items included in total payroll in  
19 the previous year, shall be allowed an exemption, beginning with  
20 calendar year 2016, for the number of years<sup>7</sup> including the calendar  
21 year for which the exemption was denied, remaining in the entity's  
22 five-year exemption period, provided such entity attains or  
23 increases payroll at or above the initial or base payroll  
24 established for the exemption; and



1       10. A facility engaged in manufacturing defined under U.S.  
2 Industry Number 327310 of the NAICS Manual shall have the payroll  
3 requirements of paragraph 4 of this subsection waived for tax year  
4 2021, which is based in part on the 2020 calendar year payroll  
5 reported to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, and may  
6 continue to receive the exemption for the five-year period provided  
7 in this section only if all other requirements of this section are  
8 met.

9       D. 1. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection,  
10 the five-year period of exemption from ad valorem taxes for any  
11 qualifying manufacturing facility property shall begin on January 1  
12 following the initial qualifying use of the property in the  
13 manufacturing process.

14       2. The five-year period of exemption from ad valorem taxes for  
15 any qualifying manufacturing facility, as specified in subparagraphs  
16 a and b of this paragraph, which is located within a tax incentive  
17 district created pursuant to the Local Development Act by a county  
18 having a population of at least five hundred thousand (500,000),  
19 according to the most recent Federal Decennial Census, shall begin  
20 on January 1 following the expiration or termination of the ad  
21 valorem exemption, abatement, or other incentive provided through  
22 the tax incentive district. Facilities qualifying pursuant to this  
23 subsection shall include:

- 1           a.    a manufacturing facility as defined in subparagraph c  
2               of paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section, and  
3           b.    an establishment primarily engaged in distribution as  
4               defined under Industry Number 49311 of the North  
5               American Industry Classification System for which the  
6               initial capital investment was at least One Hundred  
7               Eighty Million Dollars (\$180,000,000.00); provided,  
8               that the qualifying job creation and depreciable  
9               property investment occurred prior to calendar year  
10              2017 but not earlier than calendar year 2013.

11       E. Any person, firm or corporation claiming the exemption  
12 herein provided for shall file each year for which exemption is  
13 claimed, an application therefor with the county assessor of the  
14 county in which the new, expanded or acquired facility is located.  
15 The application shall be on a form or forms prescribed by the Tax  
16 Commission, and shall be filed on or before March 15, except as  
17 provided in Section 2902.1 of this title, of each year in which the  
18 facility desires to take the exemption or within thirty (30) days  
19 from and after receipt by such person, firm or corporation of notice  
20 of valuation increase, whichever is later. In a case where  
21 completion of the facility or facilities will occur after January 1  
22 of a given year, a facility may apply to claim the ad valorem tax  
23 exemption for that year. If such facility is found to be qualified  
24 for exemption, the ad valorem tax exemption provided for herein

1 shall be granted for that entire year and shall apply to the ad  
2 valorem valuation as of January 1 of that given year. For  
3 applicants which qualify under the provisions of subparagraph b of  
4 paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section, the application shall  
5 include a copy of the affidavit and any other information required  
6 to be filed with the Tax Commission.

7 F. The application shall be examined by the county assessor and  
8 approved or rejected in the same manner as provided by law for  
9 approval or rejection of claims for homestead exemptions. The  
10 taxpayer shall have the same right of review by and appeal from the  
11 county board of equalization, in the same manner and subject to the  
12 same requirements as provided by law for review and appeals  
13 concerning homestead exemption claims. Approved applications shall  
14 be filed by the county assessor with the Tax Commission no later  
15 than June 15, except as provided in Section 2902.1 of this title, of  
16 the year in which the facility desires to take the exemption.  
17 Incomplete applications and applications filed after June 15 will be  
18 declared null and void by the Tax Commission. In the event that a  
19 taxpayer qualified to receive an exemption pursuant to the  
20 provisions of this section shall make payment of ad valorem taxes in  
21 excess of the amount due, the county treasurer shall have the  
22 authority to credit the taxpayer's real or personal property tax  
23 overpayment against current taxes due. The county treasurer may  
24

1 establish a schedule of up to five (5) years of credit to resolve  
2 the overpayment.

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

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

13 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
18 March 3, 2021 - DO PASS  
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