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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Introduced By: Representatives J. Lombardi, Potter, Perez, Biah, Morales, Ajello, Felix,
Sanchez, Cruz, and Hull

Date Introduced: April 23, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44-3-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-3 entitled "Property
2 Subject to Taxation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **44-3-3. Property exempt.**

4 (a) The following property is exempt from taxation:

5 (1) Property belonging to the state, except as provided in § 44-4-4.1;

6 (2) Lands ceded or belonging to the United States;

7 (3) Bonds and other securities issued and exempted from taxation by the government of
8 the United States or of this state;

9 (4) Real estate, used exclusively for military purposes, owned by chartered or incorporated
10 organizations approved by the adjutant general and composed of members of the national guard,
11 the naval militia, or the independent, chartered-military organizations;

12 (5) Buildings for free public schools, buildings for religious worship, and the land upon
13 which they stand and immediately surrounding them, to an extent not exceeding five (5) acres so
14 far as the buildings and land are occupied and used exclusively for religious or educational
15 purposes;

16 (6) Dwellings houses and the land on which they stand, not exceeding one acre in size, or
17 the minimum lot size for zone in which the dwelling house is located, whichever is the greater,
18 owned by, or held in trust for, any religious organization and actually used by its officiating clergy;
19 provided, further, that in the town of Charlestown, where the property previously described in this

1 paragraph is exempt in total, along with dwelling houses and the land on which they stand in
2 Charlestown, not exceeding one acre in size, or the minimum lot size for zone in which the dwelling
3 house is located, whichever is the greater, owned by, or held in trust for, any religious organization
4 and actually used by its officiating clergy, or used as a convent, nunnery, or retreat center by its
5 religious order;

6 (7) Intangible personal property owned by, or held in trust for, any religious or charitable
7 organization, if the principal or income is used or appropriated for religious or charitable purposes;

8 (8) Buildings and personal estate owned by any corporation used for a school, academy, or
9 seminary of learning, and of any incorporated public charitable institution, and the land upon which
10 the buildings stand and immediately surrounding them to an extent not exceeding one acre, so far
11 as they are used exclusively for educational purposes, but no property or estate whatever is hereafter
12 exempt from taxation in any case where any part of its income or profits, or of the business carried
13 on there, is divided among its owners or stockholders; provided, however, that unless any private
14 nonprofit corporation organized as a college or university located in the town of Smithfield reaches
15 a memorandum of agreement with the town of Smithfield, the town of Smithfield shall bill the
16 actual costs for police, fire, and rescue services supplied, unless otherwise reimbursed, to said
17 corporation commencing March 1, 2014;

18 (9) Estates, persons, and families of the president and professors for the time being of
19 Brown University for not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each officer, the officer's
20 estate, person, and family included, but only to the extent that any person had claimed and utilized
21 the exemption prior to, and for a period ending, either on or after December 31, 1996;

22 (10) Property especially exempt by charter unless the exemption has been waived in whole
23 or in part; provided that, notwithstanding any provision of a charter or act of incorporation or other
24 law to the contrary, any real and personal property (or portion thereof) of a healthcare facility,
25 and/or any parent corporation, operator, manager, or subsidiary thereof, or of an institution of
26 higher education, that would otherwise be exempted from property taxation that is leased to,
27 subleased to, occupied or used by an entity, organization, or individual that is not itself exempted
28 from property taxation shall be taxed to the tenant, who, for the purposes of taxation is deemed the
29 owner;

30 (11) Lots of land exclusively for burial grounds;

31 (12) Property, real and personal, held for, or by, an incorporated library, society, or any
32 free public library, or any free public library society, so far as the property is held exclusively for
33 library purposes, or for the aid or support of the aged poor, or poor friendless children, or the poor
34 generally, or for a nonprofit hospital for the sick or disabled;

1 (13) Real or personal estate belonging to, or held in trust for, the benefit of incorporated
2 organizations of veterans of any war in which the United States has been engaged, the parent body
3 of which has been incorporated by act of Congress, to the extent of four hundred thousand dollars
4 (\$400,000) if actually used and occupied by the association; provided, that the city council of the
5 city of Cranston may by ordinance exempt the real or personal estate as previously described in
6 this subdivision located within the city of Cranston to the extent of five hundred thousand dollars
7 (\$500,000);

8 (14) Property, real and personal, held for, or by, the fraternal corporation, association, or
9 body created to build and maintain a building or buildings for its meetings or the meetings of the
10 general assembly of its members, or subordinate bodies of the fraternity, and for the
11 accommodation of other fraternal bodies or associations, the entire net income of which real and
12 personal property is exclusively applied or to be used to build, furnish, and maintain an asylum or
13 asylums, a home or homes, a school or schools, for the free education or relief of the members of
14 the fraternity, or the relief, support, and care of worthy and indigent members of the fraternity, their
15 wives, widows, or orphans, and any fund given or held for the purpose of public education,
16 almshouses, and the land and buildings used in connection therewith;

17 (15) Real estate and personal property of any incorporated volunteer fire engine company
18 or incorporated volunteer ambulance or rescue corps in active service;

19 (16) The estate of any person who, in the judgment of the assessors, is unable from infirmity
20 or poverty to pay the tax; provided, that in the towns of Burrillville and West Greenwich, the tax
21 shall constitute a lien for five (5) years on the property where the owner is entitled to the exemption.
22 At the expiration of five (5) years, the lien shall be abated in full. Provided, if the property is sold
23 or conveyed, or if debt secured by the property is refinanced during the five-year (5) period, the
24 lien immediately becomes due and payable; any person claiming the exemption aggrieved by an
25 adverse decision of an assessor shall appeal the decision to the local board of tax review and
26 thereafter according to the provisions of § 44-5-26;

27 (17) Household furniture and family stores of a housekeeper in the whole, including
28 clothing, bedding, and other white goods, books, and all other tangible personal property items that
29 are common to the normal household;

30 (18) Improvements made to any real property to provide a shelter and fallout protection
31 from nuclear radiation, to the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500); provided, that
32 the improvements meet applicable standards for shelter construction established, from time to time,
33 by the Rhode Island emergency management agency. The improvements are deemed to comply
34 with the provisions of any building code or ordinance with respect to the materials or the methods

1 of construction used and any shelter or its establishment is deemed to comply with the provisions
2 of any zoning code or ordinance;

3 (19) Aircraft for which the fee required by § 1-4-6 has been paid to the tax administrator;

4 (20) **Manufacturer's inventory.**

5 (i) For the purposes of §§ 44-4-10, 44-5-3, 44-5-20, and 44-5-38, a person is deemed to be
6 a manufacturer within a city or town within this state if that person uses any premises, room, or
7 place in it primarily for the purpose of transforming raw materials into a finished product for trade
8 through any or all of the following operations: adapting, altering, finishing, making, and
9 ornamenting; provided, that public utilities; non-regulated power producers commencing
10 commercial operation by selling electricity at retail or taking title to generating facilities on or after
11 July 1, 1997; building and construction contractors; warehousing operations, including distribution
12 bases or outlets of out-of-state manufacturers; and fabricating processes incidental to warehousing
13 or distribution of raw materials, such as alteration of stock for the convenience of a customer; are
14 excluded from this definition;

15 (ii) For the purposes of this section and §§ 44-4-10 and 44-5-38, the term "manufacturer's
16 inventory," or any similar term, means and includes the manufacturer's raw materials, the
17 manufacturer's work in process, and finished products manufactured by the manufacturer in this
18 state, and not sold, leased, or traded by the manufacturer or its title or right to possession divested;
19 provided, that the term does not include any finished products held by the manufacturer in any retail
20 store or other similar selling place operated by the manufacturer whether or not the retail
21 establishment is located in the same building in which the manufacturer operates the manufacturing
22 plant;

23 (iii) For the purpose of § 44-11-2, a "manufacturer" is a person whose principal business
24 in this state consists of transforming raw materials into a finished product for trade through any or
25 all of the operations described in paragraph (i) of this subdivision. A person will be deemed to be
26 principally engaged if the gross receipts that person derived from the manufacturing operations in
27 this state during the calendar year or fiscal year mentioned in § 44-11-1 amounted to more than
28 fifty percent (50%) of the total gross receipts that person derived from all the business activities in
29 which that person engaged in this state during the taxable year. For the purpose of computing the
30 percentage, gross receipts derived by a manufacturer from the sale, lease, or rental of finished
31 products manufactured by the manufacturer in this state, even though the manufacturer's store or
32 other selling place may be at a different location from the location of the manufacturer's
33 manufacturing plant in this state, are deemed to have been derived from manufacturing;

34 (iv) Within the meaning of the preceding paragraphs of this subdivision, the term

1 “manufacturer” also includes persons who are principally engaged in any of the general activities
2 coded and listed as establishments engaged in manufacturing in the Standard Industrial
3 Classification Manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial Classification, Office of
4 Statistical Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States Bureau of the Budget, as
5 revised from time to time, but eliminating as manufacturers those persons, who, because of their
6 limited type of manufacturing activities, are classified in the manual as falling within the trade
7 rather than an industrial classification of manufacturers. Among those thus eliminated, and
8 accordingly also excluded as manufacturers within the meaning of this paragraph, are persons
9 primarily engaged in selling, to the general public, products produced on the premises from which
10 they are sold, such as neighborhood bakeries, candy stores, ice cream parlors, shade shops, and
11 custom tailors, except, that a person who manufactures bakery products for sale primarily for home
12 delivery, or through one or more non-baking retail outlets, and whether or not retail outlets are
13 operated by the person, is a manufacturer within the meaning of this paragraph;

14 (v) The term “Person” means and includes, as appropriate, a person, partnership, or
15 corporation; and

16 (vi) The department of revenue shall provide to the local assessors any assistance that is
17 necessary in determining the proper application of the definitions in this subdivision;

18 (21) Real and tangible personal property acquired to provide a treatment facility used
19 primarily to control the pollution or contamination of the waters or the air of the state, as defined
20 in chapter 12 of title 46 and chapter 25 of title 23, respectively, the facility having been constructed,
21 reconstructed, erected, installed, or acquired in furtherance of federal or state requirements or
22 standards for the control of water or air pollution or contamination, and certified as approved in an
23 order entered by the director of environmental management. The property is exempt as long as it is
24 operated properly in compliance with the order of approval of the director of environmental
25 management; provided, that any grant of the exemption by the director of environmental
26 management in excess of ten (10) years is approved by the city or town in which the property is
27 situated. This provision applies only to water and air pollution control properties and facilities
28 installed for the treatment of waste waters and air contaminants resulting from industrial
29 processing; furthermore, it applies only to water or air pollution control properties and facilities
30 placed in operation for the first time after April 13, 1970;

31 (22) Manufacturing machinery and equipment acquired or used by a manufacturer after
32 December 31, 1974. Manufacturing machinery and equipment is defined as:

33 (i) Machinery and equipment used exclusively in the actual manufacture or conversion of
34 raw materials or goods in the process of manufacture by a manufacturer, as defined in subdivision

1 (20), and machinery, fixtures, and equipment used exclusively by a manufacturer for research and
2 development or for quality assurance of its manufactured products;

3 (ii) Machinery and equipment that is partially used in the actual manufacture or conversion
4 of raw materials or goods in process of manufacture by a manufacturer, as defined in subdivision
5 (20), and machinery, fixtures, and equipment used by a manufacturer for research and development
6 or for quality assurance of its manufactured products, to the extent to which the machinery and
7 equipment is used for the manufacturing processes, research and development, or quality assurance.

8 In the instances where machinery and equipment is used in both manufacturing and/or research and
9 development and/or quality assurance activities and non-manufacturing activities, the assessment
10 on machinery and equipment is prorated by applying the percentage of usage of the equipment for
11 the manufacturing, research and development, and quality-assurance activity to the value of the
12 machinery and equipment for purposes of taxation, and the portion of the value used for
13 manufacturing, research and development, and quality assurance is exempt from taxation. The
14 burden of demonstrating this percentage usage of machinery and equipment for manufacturing and
15 for research and development and/or quality assurance of its manufactured products rests with the
16 manufacturer; and

17 (iii) Machinery and equipment described in §§ 44-18-30(7) and 44-18-30(22) that was
18 purchased after July 1, 1997; provided that the city or town council of the city or town in which the
19 machinery and equipment is located adopts an ordinance exempting the machinery and equipment
20 from taxation. For purposes of this subsection, city councils and town councils of any municipality
21 may, by ordinance, wholly or partially exempt from taxation the machinery and equipment
22 discussed in this subsection for the period of time established in the ordinance and may, by
23 ordinance, establish the procedures for taxpayers to avail themselves of the benefit of any
24 exemption permitted under this section; provided, that the ordinance does not apply to any
25 machinery or equipment of a business, subsidiary, or any affiliated business that locates or relocates
26 from a city or town in this state to another city or town in the state;

27 (23) Precious metal bullion, meaning any elementary metal that has been put through a
28 process of melting or refining, and that is in a state or condition that its value depends upon its
29 content and not its form. The term does not include fabricated precious metal that has been
30 processed or manufactured for some one or more specific and customary industrial, professional,
31 or artistic uses;

32 (24) Hydroelectric power-generation equipment, which includes, but is not limited to,
33 turbines, generators, switchgear, controls, monitoring equipment, circuit breakers, transformers,
34 protective relaying, bus bars, cables, connections, trash racks, headgates, and conduits. The

1 hydroelectric power-generation equipment must have been purchased after July 1, 1979, and
2 acquired or used by a person or corporation who or that owns or leases a dam and utilizes the
3 equipment to generate hydroelectric power;

4 (25) Subject to authorization by formal action of the council of any city or town, any real
5 or personal property owned by, held in trust for, or leased to an organization incorporated under
6 chapter 6 of title 7, as amended, or an organization meeting the definition of “charitable trust” set
7 out in § 18-9-4, as amended, or an organization incorporated under the not-for-profits statutes of
8 another state or the District of Columbia, the purpose of which is the conserving of open space, as
9 that term is defined in chapter 36 of title 45, as amended, provided the property is used exclusively
10 for the purposes of the organization;

11 (26) Tangible personal property, the primary function of which is the recycling, reuse, or
12 recovery of materials (other than precious metals, as defined in § 44-18-30(24)(ii) and (iii)), from,
13 or the treatment of “hazardous wastes,” as defined in § 23-19.1-4, where the “hazardous wastes”
14 are generated primarily by the same taxpayer and where the personal property is located at, in, or
15 adjacent to a generating facility of the taxpayer. The taxpayer may, but need not, procure an order
16 from the director of the department of environmental management certifying that the tangible
17 personal property has this function, which order effects a conclusive presumption that the tangible
18 personal property qualifies for the exemption under this subdivision. If any information relating to
19 secret processes or methods of manufacture, production, or treatment is disclosed to the department
20 of environmental management only to procure an order, and is a “trade secret” as defined in § 28-
21 21-10(b), it shall not be open to public inspection or publicly disclosed unless disclosure is
22 otherwise required under chapter 21 of title 28 or chapter 24.4 of title 23;

23 ~~(27) Motorboats as defined in § 46-22-2 for which the annual fee required in § 46-22-4 has~~
24 ~~been paid;~~

25 (28) Real and personal property of the Providence Performing Arts Center, a non-business
26 corporation as of December 31, 1986;

27 (29) Tangible personal property owned by, and used exclusively for the purposes of, any
28 religious organization located in the city of Cranston;

29 (30) Real and personal property of the Travelers Aid Society of Rhode Island, a nonprofit
30 corporation, the Union Mall Real Estate Corporation, and any limited partnership or limited liability
31 company that is formed in connection with, or to facilitate the acquisition of, the Providence YMCA
32 Building;

33 (31) Real and personal property of Meeting Street Center or MSC Realty, Inc., both not-
34 for-profit Rhode Island corporations, and any other corporation, limited partnership, or limited

1 liability company that is formed in connection with, or to facilitate the acquisition of, the properties
2 designated as the Meeting Street National Center of Excellence on Eddy Street in Providence,
3 Rhode Island;

4 (32) The buildings, personal property, and land upon which the buildings stand, located on
5 Pomham Island, East Providence, currently identified as Assessor's Map 211, Block 01, Parcel
6 001.00, that consists of approximately twenty-one thousand three hundred (21,300) square feet and
7 is located approximately eight hundred sixty feet (860'), more or less, from the shore, and limited
8 exclusively to these said buildings, personal estate and land, provided that said property is owned
9 by a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, such as the American Lighthouse Foundation, and is used
10 exclusively for a lighthouse;

11 (33) The Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Centre building located in Monument Square,
12 Woonsocket, Rhode Island, so long as said Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Center is owned by
13 the Stadium Theatre Foundation, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

14 (34) Real and tangible personal property of St. Mary Academy — Bay View, located in
15 East Providence, Rhode Island;

16 (35) Real and personal property of East Bay Community Action Program and its
17 predecessor, Self Help, Inc; provided, that the organization is qualified as a tax-exempt corporation
18 under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code;

19 (36) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of the Columbus
20 Club of East Providence, a Rhode Island charitable nonprofit corporation;

21 (37) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of the Columbus
22 Club of Barrington, a Rhode Island charitable nonprofit corporation;

23 (38) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of Lodge 2337
24 BPO Elks, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

25 (39) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of the St.
26 Andrews Lodge No. 39, a Rhode Island charitable nonprofit corporation;

27 (40) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of the Trustees
28 of Methodist Health and Welfare service a/k/a United Methodist Elder Care, a Rhode Island
29 nonprofit corporation;

30 (41) Real and personal property located on the first floor of 90 Leonard Avenue within the
31 city of East Providence of the Zion Gospel Temple, Inc., a religious nonprofit corporation;

32 (42) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of the Cape
33 Verdean Museum Exhibit, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

34 (43) The real and personal property owned by a qualified 501(c)(3) organization that is

1 affiliated and in good standing with a national, congressionally chartered organization and thereby
2 adheres to that organization's standards and provides activities designed for recreational,
3 educational, and character building purposes for children from ages six (6) years to seventeen (17)
4 years;

5 (44) Real and personal property of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music
6 School; provided, that the organization is qualified as a tax-exempt corporation under § 501(c)(3)
7 of the United States Internal Revenue Code;

8 (45) The real and personal property located within the town of West Warwick at 211
9 Cowesett Avenue, Plat 29-Lot 25, which consists of approximately twenty-eight thousand seven
10 hundred fifty (28,750) square feet and is owned by the Station Fire Memorial Foundation of East
11 Greenwich, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

12 (46) Real and personal property of the Comprehensive Community Action Program, a
13 qualified tax-exempt corporation under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code;

14 (47) Real and personal property located at 52 Plain Street, within the city of Pawtucket of
15 the Pawtucket Youth Soccer Association, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

16 (48) Renewable energy resources, as defined in § 39-26-5, used in residential systems and
17 associated equipment used therewith in service after December 31, 2015;

18 (49) Renewable energy resources, as defined in § 39-26-5, if employed by a manufacturer,
19 as defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall be exempt from taxation in accordance with
20 subsection (a) of this section;

21 (50) Real and personal property located at 415 Tower Hill Road within the town of North
22 Kingstown, of South County Community Action, Inc., a qualified tax-exempt corporation under §
23 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code;

24 (51) As an effort to promote business growth, tangible business or personal property, in
25 whole or in part, within the town of Charlestown's community limits, subject to authorization by
26 formal action of the town council of the town of Charlestown;

27 (52) All real and personal property located at 1300 Frenchtown Road, within the town of
28 East Greenwich, identified as assessor's map 027, plat 019, lot 071, and known as the New England
29 Wireless and Steam Museum, Inc., a qualified tax-exempt corporation under § 501(c)(3) of the
30 United States Internal Revenue Code;

31 (53) Real and tangible personal property of Mount Saint Charles Academy located within
32 the city of Woonsocket, specifically identified as the following assessor's plats and lots: Logee
33 Street, plat 23, lot 62, Logee Street, plat 24, lots 304 and 305; Welles Street, plat 23, lot 310;
34 Monroe Street, plat 23, lot 312; and Roberge Avenue, plat 24, lot 47;

1 (54) Real and tangible personal property of Steere House, a Rhode Island nonprofit
2 corporation, located in Providence, Rhode Island;

3 (55) Real and personal property located within the town of West Warwick of Tides Family
4 Services, Inc., a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

5 (56) Real and personal property of Tides Family Services, Inc., a Rhode Island nonprofit
6 corporation, located in the city of Pawtucket at 242 Dexter Street, plat 44, lot 444;

7 (57) Real and personal property located within the town of Middletown of Lucy's Hearth,
8 a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation;

9 (58) Real and tangible personal property of Habitat for Humanity of Rhode Island—
10 Greater Providence, Inc., a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation, located in Providence, Rhode
11 Island;

12 (59) Real and personal property of the Artic Playhouse, a Rhode Island nonprofit
13 corporation, located in the town of West Warwick at 1249 Main Street;

14 (60) Real and personal property located at 321 Main Street, within the town of South
15 Kingstown, of the Contemporary Theatre Company, a qualified, tax-exempt corporation under §
16 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code;

17 (61) Real and personal property of The Samaritans, Inc., a Rhode Island nonprofit §
18 501(c)(3) corporation located at 67 Park Place, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to the extent the city
19 council of Pawtucket may from time to time determine;

20 (62) Real and personal property of North Kingstown, Exeter Animal Protection League,
21 Inc., dba "Pet Refuge," 500 Stony Lane, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation, located in North
22 Kingstown, Rhode Island;

23 (63) Real and personal property located within the city of East Providence of Foster
24 Forward (formerly the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association), a Rhode Island charitable
25 nonprofit corporation;

26 (64) Real and personal property located at 54 Kelly Avenue within the town of East
27 Providence, of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Southern New England, a Rhode Island nonprofit
28 corporation;

29 (65) Real and tangible personal property of Providence Country Day School, a Rhode
30 Island nonprofit corporation, located in East Providence, Rhode Island and further identified as plat
31 406, block 6, lot 6, and plat 506, block 1, lot 8;

32 (66) As an effort to promote business growth, tangible business or personal property, in
33 whole or in part, within the town of Bristol's community limits, subject to authorization by formal
34 action of the town council of the town of Bristol;

1 (67) Real and tangible personal property of the Heritage Harbor Foundation, a Rhode
2 Island nonprofit corporation, located at 1445 Wampanoag Trail, Suites 103 and 201, within the city
3 of East Providence;

4 (68) Real property of Ocean State Community Wellness, Inc., a qualified tax-exempt
5 corporation under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, located in North
6 Kingstown, Rhode Island, with a physical address of 7450 Post Road, and further identified as plat
7 108, lot 83;

8 (69) Real and tangible personal property of St. John Baptist De La Salle Institute, d/b/a La
9 Salle Academy, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located in Providence, Rhode
10 Island denominated at the time this subsection was adopted as Plat 83 Lot 276 by the tax assessor
11 for the city of Providence comprising approximately 26.08 acres of land along with all buildings
12 and improvements that have been or may be made;

13 (70) Real and tangible personal property of The Providence Community Health Centers,
14 Inc., a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located in Providence, Rhode Island;

15 (71) In the city of Central Falls and the city of Pawtucket, real property and tangible
16 personal property located on or in the premise acquired or leased by a railroad entity and for the
17 purpose of providing boarding and disembarking of railroad passengers and the supporting
18 passenger railroad operations and services. For the purpose of this section, a railroad entity shall be
19 any incorporated entity that has been duly authorized by the Rhode Island public utilities
20 commission to provide passenger railroad services;

21 (72) Real and tangible personal property of the American Legion Riverside Post Holding
22 Company, d/b/a American Legion Post 10, a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation, located at 830
23 Willet Avenue, within the city of East Providence on Map 513, Block 27, Parcel 001.00 as long as
24 said property is owned by American Legion Post 10;

25 (73) Real and tangible personal property of the Holy Rosary Band Society, a Rhode Island
26 nonprofit corporation, located at 328 Taunton Avenue, within the city of East Providence on Map
27 306, Block 01, Parcel 012.00;

28 (74) Real and tangible personal property of Foster Forward, a Rhode Island domestic
29 nonprofit corporation, located within the city of Pawtucket, at 16 North Bend Street, and further
30 identified as assessor's plat 21, lot 312;

31 (75) Real and tangible personal property of the Old and Ancient Rowers Society of Rhode
32 Island, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located at 166 Walmsley Lane, within the
33 town of North Kingstown on Plat 004/Lot 019;

34 (76) Real and tangible personal property of the Rhode Island Public Health Foundation, a

1 domestic nonprofit corporation or any other entity formed by the Rhode Island Public Health
2 Foundation in connection with, or to facilitate the acquisition of, one property to be owned by the
3 Rhode Island Public Health Foundation or such entity, located in the city of Providence;

4 (77) Real and tangible personal property of the Manissean Tribal Council, a Rhode Island
5 nonprofit corporation, located in the town of New Shoreham, Rhode Island;

6 (78) Real and tangible personal property of Sophia Academy located at 582 Elmwood
7 Avenue, the San Miguel Education Center located at 525 Branch Avenue, and the Community
8 Preparatory School, Inc. located at 135 Prairie Avenue, all of which are domestic nonprofit
9 corporations, and all of which are located within the city of Providence;

10 (79) Real and tangible personal property of Cape Verdean Museum Exhibit, a Rhode Island
11 domestic nonprofit corporation, located at 617 Prospect Street, within the city of Pawtucket on
12 Assessors' Plat 37, Lot 434;

13 (80) Real and tangible personal property of Sojourner House, a Rhode Island nonprofit
14 corporation, located in the city of Providence, at 386 Smith Street, further identified as Assessor's
15 Plat 67, Lot 46, and 1570 Westminster Street, further identified as Assessor's Plat 35, Lot 200;

16 (81) Real and tangible personal property of the Little Flower Home, a Rhode Island
17 domestic nonprofit corporation, located at 304 Hooper Street, within the Town of Tiverton on Map
18 102, Lot 196; provided that, the organization remains a federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation
19 and a domestic nonprofit charitable corporation;

20 (82) Real and tangible personal property of the Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island,
21 Inc., a nonprofit corporation, located at 1017 Waterman Avenue within the city of East Providence
22 on tax assessor's map 607, Block 11, Parcel 4;

23 (83) Real and tangible personal property of the Johnnycake Center Realty Corporation, a
24 Rhode Island nonprofit corporation, located in the town of South Kingstown, and further identified
25 as 12 Green Street, Assessor's Map 49-1, Lot 148, 44 Kersey Road, further identified as Assessor's
26 Map 49-1, Lot 136, 54 Kersey Road, further identified as Assessor's Map 49-1, Lot 137, and 1004
27 Kingstown Road, further identified as Assessor's Map 49-4, Lot 124;

28 (84) Real and tangible personal property of the Little Compton Game Club, a Rhode Island
29 domestic nonprofit corporation, located at 83 John Dyer Road and 88 John Dyer Road, within the
30 town of Little Compton on Assessor's Plat 44 Lots 4 and 5;

31 (85) Real and tangible personal property of Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode
32 Island (Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island), a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located at
33 2865 Tower Hill Road, within the town of North Kingstown on Assessor's Map Plat 5, Lot 1;

34 (86) Non-commercial real and tangible personal property of Southside Community Land

1 Trust, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located in the city of Providence, at 404
2 Broad Street, further identified as Assessor's Plat 23, Lot 753; and

3 (87) Tangible personal property of Northwest Community Health Care d/b/a WellOne
4 Primary Medical and Dental Care, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located in the
5 town of North Scituate at 35 Village Plaza Way, and further identified as Plat 38, Lot 72.

6 (b) Except as provided below, when a city or town taxes a for-profit hospital facility, the
7 value of its real property shall be the value determined by the most recent full revaluation or
8 statistical property update performed by the city or town; provided, however, in the year a nonprofit
9 hospital facility converts to or otherwise becomes a for-profit hospital facility, or a for-profit
10 hospital facility is initially established, the value of the real property and personal property of the
11 for-profit hospital facility shall be determined by a valuation performed by the assessor for the
12 purpose of determining an initial assessed value of real and personal property, not previously taxed
13 by the city or town, as of the most recent date of assessment pursuant to § 44-5-1, subject to a right
14 of appeal by the for-profit hospital facility which shall be made to the city or town tax assessor with
15 a direct appeal from an adverse decision to the Rhode Island superior court business calendar.

16 A "for-profit hospital facility" includes all real and personal property affiliated with any
17 hospital as identified in an application filed pursuant to chapter 17 or 17.14 of title 23.
18 Notwithstanding the above, a city or town may enter into a stabilization agreement with a for-profit
19 hospital facility under § 44-3-9 or other laws specific to the particular city or town relating to
20 stabilization agreements. In a year in which a nonprofit hospital facility converts to, or otherwise
21 becomes, a for-profit hospital facility, or a for-profit hospital facility is otherwise established, in
22 that year only the amount levied by the city or town and/or the amount payable under the
23 stabilization agreement for that year related to the for-profit hospital facility shall not be counted
24 towards determining the maximum tax levy permitted under § 44-5-2.

25 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in an effort to provide relief
26 for businesses, including small businesses, and to promote economic development, a city, town, or
27 fire district may establish an exemption for tangible personal property within its geographic limits
28 by formal action of the appropriate governing body within the city, town, or fire district, which
29 exemptions shall be uniformly applied and in compliance with local tax classification requirements.
30 Exemptions established pursuant to this subsection shall conform to the requirements of § 44-5-
31 12.2.

32 SECTION 2. Section 44-18-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-18 entitled "Sales and
33 Use Taxes — Liability and Computation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 **44-18-30. Gross receipts exempt from sales and use taxes.**

1 There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this chapter the following gross receipts:

2 (1) Sales and uses beyond constitutional power of state. From the sale and from the storage,
3 use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property the gross receipts from the sale
4 of which, or the storage, use, or other consumption of which, this state is prohibited from taxing
5 under the Constitution of the United States or under the constitution of this state.

6 (2) Newspapers.

7 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of any
8 newspaper.

9 (ii) "Newspaper" means an unbound publication printed on newsprint that contains news,
10 editorial comment, opinions, features, advertising matter, and other matters of public interest.

11 (iii) "Newspaper" does not include a magazine, handbill, circular, flyer, sales catalog, or
12 similar item unless the item is printed for, and distributed as, a part of a newspaper.

13 (3) School meals. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this
14 state of meals served by public, private, or parochial schools, school districts, colleges, universities,
15 student organizations, and parent-teacher associations to the students or teachers of a school,
16 college, or university whether the meals are served by the educational institutions or by a food
17 service or management entity under contract to the educational institutions.

18 (4) Containers.

19 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of:

20 (A) Non-returnable containers, including boxes, paper bags, and wrapping materials that
21 are biodegradable and all bags and wrapping materials utilized in the medical and healing arts,
22 when sold without the contents to persons who place the contents in the container and sell the
23 contents with the container.

24 (B) Containers when sold with the contents if the sale price of the contents is not required
25 to be included in the measure of the taxes imposed by this chapter.

26 (C) Returnable containers when sold with the contents in connection with a retail sale of
27 the contents or when resold for refilling.

28 (D) Keg and barrel containers, whether returnable or not, when sold to alcoholic beverage
29 producers who place the alcoholic beverages in the containers.

30 (ii) As used in this subdivision, the term "returnable containers" means containers of a kind
31 customarily returned by the buyer of the contents for reuse. All other containers are "non-returnable
32 containers."

33 (5)(i) Charitable, educational, and religious organizations. From the sale to, as in defined
34 in this section, and from the storage, use, and other consumption in this state, or any other state of

1 the United States of America, of tangible personal property by hospitals not operated for a profit;
2 “educational institutions” as defined in subdivision (18) not operated for a profit; churches,
3 orphanages, and other institutions or organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable
4 purposes; interest-free loan associations not operated for profit; nonprofit, organized sporting
5 leagues and associations and bands for boys and girls under the age of nineteen (19) years; the
6 following vocational student organizations that are state chapters of national vocational student
7 organizations: Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA); Future Business Leaders of
8 America, Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA/PBL); Future Farmers of America (FFA); Future Homemakers
9 of America/Home Economics Related Occupations (FHA/HERD); Vocational Industrial Clubs of
10 America (VICA); organized nonprofit golden age and senior citizens clubs for men and women;
11 and parent-teacher associations; and from the sale, storage, use, and other consumption in this state,
12 of and by the Industrial Foundation of Burrillville, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation.

13 (ii) In the case of contracts entered into with the federal government, its agencies, or
14 instrumentalities, this state, or any other state of the United States of America, its agencies, any
15 city, town, district, or other political subdivision of the states; hospitals not operated for profit;
16 educational institutions not operated for profit; churches, orphanages, and other institutions or
17 organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, the contractor may purchase
18 such materials and supplies (materials and/or supplies are defined as those that are essential to the
19 project) that are to be utilized in the construction of the projects being performed under the contracts
20 without payment of the tax.

21 (iii) The contractor shall not charge any sales or use tax to any exempt agency, institution,
22 or organization but shall in that instance provide his or her suppliers with certificates in the form
23 as determined by the division of taxation showing the reason for exemption and the contractor’s
24 records must substantiate the claim for exemption by showing the disposition of all property so
25 purchased. If any property is then used for a nonexempt purpose, the contractor must pay the tax
26 on the property used.

27 (6) Gasoline. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of:

28 (i) Gasoline and other products taxed under chapter 36 of title 31 and (ii) Fuels used for the
29 propulsion of airplanes.

30 (7) Purchase for manufacturing purposes.

31 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of computer
32 software, tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas, artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, and
33 water, when the property or service is purchased for the purpose of being manufactured into a
34 finished product for resale and becomes an ingredient, component, or integral part of the

1 manufactured, compounded, processed, assembled, or prepared product, or if the property or
2 service is consumed in the process of manufacturing for resale computer software, tangible personal
3 property, electricity, natural gas, artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water.

4 (ii) "Consumed" means destroyed, used up, or worn out to the degree or extent that the
5 property cannot be repaired, reconditioned, or rendered fit for further manufacturing use.

6 (iii) "Consumed" includes mere obsolescence.

7 (iv) "Manufacturing" means and includes: manufacturing, compounding, processing,
8 assembling, preparing, or producing.

9 (v) "Process of manufacturing" means and includes all production operations performed in
10 the producing or processing room, shop, or plant, insofar as the operations are a part of and
11 connected with the manufacturing for resale of tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas,
12 artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water and all production operations performed insofar as the
13 operations are a part of and connected with the manufacturing for resale of computer software.

14 (vi) "Process of manufacturing" does not mean or include administration operations such
15 as general office operations, accounting, collection, or sales promotion, nor does it mean or include
16 distribution operations that occur subsequent to production operations, such as handling, storing,
17 selling, and transporting the manufactured products, even though the administration and
18 distribution operations are performed by, or in connection with, a manufacturing business.

19 (8) State and political subdivisions. From the sale to, and from the storage, use, or other
20 consumption by, this state, any city, town, district, or other political subdivision of this state. Every
21 redevelopment agency created pursuant to chapter 31 of title 45 is deemed to be a subdivision of
22 the municipality where it is located.

23 (9) Food and food ingredients. From the sale and storage, use, or other consumption in this
24 state of food and food ingredients as defined in § 44-18-7.1(*l*).

25 For the purposes of this exemption "food and food ingredients" shall not include candy,
26 soft drinks, dietary supplements, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, food sold through vending
27 machines, or prepared food, as those terms are defined in § 44-18-7.1, unless the prepared food is:

28 (i) Sold by a seller whose primary NAICS classification is manufacturing in sector 311,
29 except sub-sector 3118 (bakeries);

30 (ii) Sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item;

31 (iii) Bakery items, including: bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries,
32 donuts, danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, tortillas; and

33 is not sold with utensils provided by the seller, including: plates, knives, forks, spoons,
34 glasses, cups, napkins, or straws.

1 (10) Medicines, drugs, and durable medical equipment. From the sale and from the storage,
2 use, or other consumption in this state, of:

3 (i) "Drugs" as defined in § 44-18-7.1(h)(i), sold on prescriptions, medical oxygen, and
4 insulin whether or not sold on prescription. For purposes of this exemption drugs shall not include
5 over-the-counter drugs and grooming and hygiene products as defined in § 44-18-7.1(h)(iii).

6 (ii) Durable medical equipment as defined in § 44-18-7.1(k) for home use only, including,
7 but not limited to: syringe infusers, ambulatory drug delivery pumps, hospital beds, convalescent
8 chairs, and chair lifts. Supplies used in connection with syringe infusers and ambulatory drug
9 delivery pumps that are sold on prescription to individuals to be used by them to dispense or
10 administer prescription drugs, and related ancillary dressings and supplies used to dispense or
11 administer prescription drugs, shall also be exempt from tax.

12 (11) Prosthetic devices and mobility enhancing equipment. From the sale and from the
13 storage, use, or other consumption in this state, of prosthetic devices as defined in § 44-18-7.1(t),
14 sold on prescription, including, but not limited to: artificial limbs, dentures, spectacles, eyeglasses,
15 and artificial eyes; artificial hearing devices and hearing aids, whether or not sold on prescription;
16 and mobility enhancing equipment as defined in § 44-18-7.1(p), including wheelchairs, crutches,
17 and canes.

18 (12) Coffins, caskets, urns, shrouds and burial garments. From the sale and from the
19 storage, use, or other consumption in this state of coffins, caskets, burial containers, urns, urn liners,
20 urn vaults, grave liners, grave vaults, burial tent setups, prayer cards, shrouds, and other burial
21 garments that are ordinarily sold by a funeral director as part of the business of funeral directing.

22 (13) Motor vehicles sold to nonresidents.

23 (i) From the sale, subsequent to June 30, 1958, of a motor vehicle to a bona fide nonresident
24 of this state who does not register the motor vehicle in this state, whether the sale or delivery of the
25 motor vehicle is made in this state or at the place of residence of the nonresident. A motor vehicle
26 sold to a bona fide nonresident whose state of residence does not allow a like exemption to its
27 nonresidents is not exempt from the tax imposed under § 44-18-20. In that event, the bona fide
28 nonresident pays a tax to Rhode Island on the sale at a rate equal to the rate that would be imposed
29 in his or her state of residence not to exceed the rate that would have been imposed under § 44-18-
30 20. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a licensed motor vehicle dealer shall add and
31 collect the tax required under this subdivision and remit the tax to the tax administrator under the
32 provisions of chapters 18 and 19 of this title. When a Rhode Island licensed, motor vehicle dealer
33 is required to add and collect the sales and use tax on the sale of a motor vehicle to a bona fide
34 nonresident as provided in this section, the dealer in computing the tax takes into consideration the

1 law of the state of the nonresident as it relates to the trade-in of motor vehicles.

2 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may
3 require any licensed motor vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide nonresidents as the
4 tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption provided in this
5 subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed motor vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the
6 motor vehicle was the holder of, and had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state motor vehicle
7 registration or a valid out-of-state driver's license.

8 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a motor vehicle in this state within ninety (90) days of
9 the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the motor vehicle for use, storage, or
10 other consumption in this state, and is subject to, and liable for, the use tax imposed under the
11 provisions of § 44-18-20.

12 (14) Sales in public buildings by blind people. From the sale and from the storage, use, or
13 other consumption in all public buildings in this state of all products or wares by any person
14 licensed under § 40-9-11.1.

15 (15) Air and water pollution control facilities. From the sale, storage, use, or other
16 consumption in this state of tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation into
17 or used and consumed in the operation of a facility, the primary purpose of which is to aid in the
18 control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air of the state, as defined in chapter 12
19 of title 46 and chapter 23 of title 23, respectively, and that has been certified as approved for that
20 purpose by the director of environmental management. The director of environmental management
21 may certify to a portion of the tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation
22 into those facilities or used and consumed in the operation of those facilities to the extent that that
23 portion has as its primary purpose the control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air
24 of this state. As used in this subdivision, "facility" means any land, facility, device, building,
25 machinery, or equipment.

26 (16) Camps. From the rental charged for living quarters, or sleeping, or housekeeping
27 accommodations at camps or retreat houses operated by religious, charitable, educational, or other
28 organizations and associations mentioned in subsection (5), or by privately owned and operated
29 summer camps for children.

30 (17) Certain institutions. From the rental charged for living or sleeping quarters in an
31 institution licensed by the state for the hospitalization, custodial, or nursing care of human beings.

32 (18) Educational institutions. From the rental charged by any educational institution for
33 living quarters, or sleeping, or housekeeping accommodations or other rooms or accommodations
34 to any student or teacher necessitated by attendance at an educational institution. "Educational

1 institution” as used in this section means an institution of learning not operated for profit that is
2 empowered to confer diplomas, educational, literary, or academic degrees; that has a regular
3 faculty, curriculum, and organized body of pupils or students in attendance throughout the usual
4 school year; that keeps and furnishes to students and others records required and accepted for
5 entrance to schools of secondary, collegiate, or graduate rank; and no part of the net earnings of
6 which inures to the benefit of any individual.

7 (19) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities.

8 (i) From the sale of: (A) Special adaptations; (B) The component parts of the special
9 adaptations; or (C) A specially adapted motor vehicle; provided that the owner furnishes to the tax
10 administrator an affidavit of a licensed physician to the effect that the specially adapted motor
11 vehicle is necessary to transport a family member with a disability or where the vehicle has been
12 specially adapted to meet the specific needs of the person with a disability. This exemption applies
13 to not more than one motor vehicle owned and registered for personal, noncommercial use.

14 (ii) For the purpose of this subsection the term “special adaptations” includes, but is not
15 limited to: wheelchair lifts, wheelchair carriers, wheelchair ramps, wheelchair securements, hand
16 controls, steering devices, extensions, relocations, and crossovers of operator controls, power-
17 assisted controls, raised tops or dropped floors, raised entry doors, or alternative signaling devices
18 to auditory signals.

19 (iii) From the sale of: (a) Special adaptations, (b) The component parts of the special
20 adaptations, for a “wheelchair accessible taxicab” as defined in § 39-14-1, and/or a “wheelchair
21 accessible public motor vehicle” as defined in § 39-14.1-1.

22 (iv) For the purpose of this subdivision the exemption for a “specially adapted motor
23 vehicle” means a use tax credit not to exceed the amount of use tax that would otherwise be due on
24 the motor vehicle, exclusive of any adaptations. The use tax credit is equal to the cost of the special
25 adaptations, including installation.

26 (20) Heating fuels. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this
27 state of every type of heating fuel.

28 (21) Electricity and gas. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in
29 this state of electricity and gas.

30 (22) Manufacturing machinery and equipment.

31 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tools, dies,
32 molds, machinery, equipment (including replacement parts), and related items to the extent used in
33 an industrial plant in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible
34 personal property, or to the extent used in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or

1 processing of computer software as that term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373
2 in the standard industrial classification manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial
3 Classification, Office of Statistical Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States
4 Bureau of the Budget, as revised from time to time, to be sold, or that machinery and equipment
5 used in the furnishing of power to an industrial manufacturing plant. For the purposes of this
6 subdivision, "industrial plant" means a factory at a fixed location primarily engaged in the
7 manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property to be sold in the regular
8 course of business;

9 (ii) Machinery and equipment and related items are not deemed to be used in connection
10 with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property, or in
11 connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of computer software as that
12 term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373 in the standard industrial classification
13 manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial Classification, Office of Statistical
14 Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States Bureau of the Budget, as revised from
15 time to time, to be sold to the extent the property is used in administration or distribution operations;

16 (iii) Machinery and equipment and related items used in connection with the actual
17 manufacture, conversion, or processing of any computer software or any tangible personal property
18 that is not to be sold and that would be exempt under subdivision (7) or this subdivision if purchased
19 from a vendor or machinery and equipment and related items used during any manufacturing,
20 converting, or processing function is exempt under this subdivision even if that operation, function,
21 or purpose is not an integral or essential part of a continuous production flow or manufacturing
22 process;

23 (iv) Where a portion of a group of portable or mobile machinery is used in connection with
24 the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of computer software or tangible personal
25 property to be sold, as previously defined, that portion, if otherwise qualifying, is exempt under
26 this subdivision even though the machinery in that group is used interchangeably and not otherwise
27 identifiable as to use.

28 (23) Trade-in value of motor vehicles. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
29 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used automobile as is
30 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the automobile of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of
31 the proceeds applicable only to the automobile as are received from the manufacturer of
32 automobiles for the repurchase of the automobile whether the repurchase was voluntary or not
33 towards the purchase of a new or used automobile by the buyer. For the purpose of this subdivision,
34 the word "automobile" means a private passenger automobile not used for hire and does not refer

1 to any other type of motor vehicle.

2 (24) Precious metal bullion.

3 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of precious
4 metal bullion, substantially equivalent to a transaction in securities or commodities.

5 (ii) For purposes of this subdivision, “precious metal bullion” means any elementary
6 precious metal that has been put through a process of smelting or refining, including, but not limited
7 to: gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, and chromium, and that is in a state or condition that its value
8 depends upon its content and not upon its form.

9 (iii) The term does not include fabricated precious metal that has been processed or
10 manufactured for some one or more specific and customary industrial, professional, or artistic uses.

11 (25) Commercial vessels. From sales made to a commercial ship, barge, or other vessel of
12 fifty (50) tons burden or over, primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and from the
13 repair, alteration, or conversion of the vessels, and from the sale of property purchased for the use
14 of the vessels including provisions, supplies, and material for the maintenance and/or repair of the
15 vessels.

16 (26) Commercial fishing vessels. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
17 consumption in this state of vessels and other watercraft that are in excess of five (5) net tons and
18 that are used exclusively for “commercial fishing,” as defined in this subdivision, and from the
19 repair, alteration, or conversion of those vessels and other watercraft, and from the sale of property
20 purchased for the use of those vessels and other watercraft including provisions, supplies, and
21 material for the maintenance and/or repair of the vessels and other watercraft and the boats nets,
22 cables, tackle, and other fishing equipment appurtenant to or used in connection with the
23 commercial fishing of the vessels and other watercraft. “Commercial fishing” means taking or
24 attempting to take any fish, shellfish, crustacea, or bait species with the intent of disposing of it for
25 profit or by sale, barter, trade, or in commercial channels. The term does not include subsistence
26 fishing, i.e., the taking for personal use and not for sale or barter; or sport fishing; but shall include
27 vessels and other watercraft with a Rhode Island party and charter boat license issued by the
28 department of environmental management pursuant to § 20-2-27.1 that meet the following criteria:

29 (i) The operator must have a current United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) license to carry
30 passengers for hire; (ii) U.S.C.G. vessel documentation in the coast wide fishery trade; (iii)
31 U.S.C.G. vessel documentation as to proof of Rhode Island home port status or a Rhode Island boat
32 registration to prove Rhode Island home port status; and (iv) The vessel must be used as a
33 commercial passenger carrying fishing vessel to carry passengers for fishing. The vessel must be
34 able to demonstrate that at least fifty percent (50%) of its annual gross income derives from charters

1 or provides documentation of a minimum of one hundred (100) charter trips annually; and (v) The
2 vessel must have a valid Rhode Island party and charter boat license. The tax administrator shall
3 implement the provisions of this subdivision by promulgating rules and regulations relating thereto.

4 (27) Clothing and footwear. From the sales of articles of clothing, including footwear,
5 intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body for sales prior to October 1, 2012.
6 Effective October 1, 2012, the exemption will apply to the sales of articles of clothing, including
7 footwear, intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body up to two hundred and fifty
8 dollars (\$250) of the sales price per item. For the purposes of this section, "clothing or footwear"
9 does not include clothing accessories or equipment or special clothing or footwear primarily
10 designed for athletic activity or protective use as these terms are defined in § 44-18-7.1(f). In
11 recognition of the work being performed by the streamlined sales and use tax governing board,
12 upon passage of any federal law that authorizes states to require remote sellers to collect and remit
13 sales and use taxes, this unlimited exemption will apply as it did prior to October 1, 2012. The
14 unlimited exemption on sales of clothing and footwear shall take effect on the date that the state
15 requires remote sellers to collect and remit sales and use taxes.

16 (28) Water for residential use. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
17 consumption in this state of water furnished for domestic use by occupants of residential premises.

18 (29) Bibles. [Unconstitutional; see *Ahlburn v. Clark*, 728 A.2d 449 (R.I. 1999); see Notes
19 to Decisions.] From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in the state of any
20 canonized scriptures of any tax-exempt nonprofit religious organization including, but not limited
21 to, the Old Testament and the New Testament versions.

22 (30) Boats.

23 (i) From the sale of a boat or vessel to a bona fide nonresident of this state who does not
24 register the boat or vessel in this state or document the boat or vessel with the United States
25 government at a home port within the state, whether the sale or delivery of the boat or vessel is
26 made in this state or elsewhere; provided, that the nonresident transports the boat within thirty (30)
27 days after delivery by the seller outside the state for use thereafter solely outside the state.

28 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may
29 require the seller of the boat or vessel to keep records of the sales to bona fide nonresidents as the
30 tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption provided in this
31 subdivision, including the affidavit of the seller that the buyer represented himself or herself to be
32 a bona fide nonresident of this state and of the buyer that he or she is a nonresident of this state.

33 (31) Youth activities equipment. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this
34 state of items for not more than twenty dollars (\$20.00) each by nonprofit Rhode Island

1 eleemosynary organizations, for the purposes of youth activities that the organization is formed to
2 sponsor and support; and by accredited elementary and secondary schools for the purposes of the
3 schools or of organized activities of the enrolled students.

4 (32) Farm equipment. From the sale and from the storage or use of machinery and
5 equipment used directly for commercial farming and agricultural production; including, but not
6 limited to: tractors, ploughs, harrows, spreaders, seeders, milking machines, silage conveyors,
7 balers, bulk milk storage tanks, trucks with farm plates, mowers, combines, irrigation equipment,
8 greenhouses and greenhouse coverings, graders and packaging machines, tools and supplies and
9 other farming equipment, including replacement parts appurtenant to or used in connection with
10 commercial farming and tools and supplies used in the repair and maintenance of farming
11 equipment. "Commercial farming" means the keeping or boarding of five (5) or more horses or the
12 production within this state of agricultural products, including, but not limited to, field or orchard
13 crops, livestock, dairy, and poultry, or their products, where the keeping, boarding, or production
14 provides at least two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in annual gross sales to the operator,
15 whether an individual, a group, a partnership, or a corporation for exemptions issued prior to July
16 1, 2002. For exemptions issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, there shall be two (2) levels. Level I
17 shall be based on proof of annual, gross sales from commercial farming of at least twenty-five
18 hundred dollars (\$2,500) and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption provided in this
19 subdivision except for motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or
20 greater. Level II shall be based on proof of annual gross sales from commercial farming of at least
21 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or greater and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption
22 provided in this subdivision including motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand
23 dollars (\$5,000) or greater. For the initial issuance of the exemptions, proof of the requisite amount
24 of annual gross sales from commercial farming shall be required for the prior year; for any renewal
25 of an exemption granted in accordance with this subdivision at either level I or level II, proof of
26 gross annual sales from commercial farming at the requisite amount shall be required for each of
27 the prior two (2) years. Certificates of exemption issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, shall clearly
28 indicate the level of the exemption and be valid for four (4) years after the date of issue. This
29 exemption applies even if the same equipment is used for ancillary uses, or is temporarily used for
30 a non-farming or a non-agricultural purpose, but shall not apply to motor vehicles acquired after
31 July 1, 2002, unless the vehicle is a farm vehicle as defined pursuant to § 31-1-8 and is eligible for
32 registration displaying farm plates as provided for in § 31-3-31.

33 (33) Compressed air. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in the
34 state of compressed air.

1 (34) Flags. From the sale and from the storage, consumption, or other use in this state of
2 United States, Rhode Island or POW-MIA flags.

3 (35) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment to certain veterans. From the sale of a motor
4 vehicle and adaptive equipment to and for the use of a veteran with a service-connected loss of or
5 the loss of use of a leg, foot, hand, or arm, or any veteran who is a double amputee, whether service
6 connected or not. The motor vehicle must be purchased by and especially equipped for use by the
7 qualifying veteran. Certificate of exemption or refunds of taxes paid is granted under rules or
8 regulations that the tax administrator may prescribe.

9 (36) Textbooks. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state
10 of textbooks by an “educational institution,” as defined in subsection (18) of this section, and any
11 educational institution within the purview of § 16-63-9(4), and used textbooks by any purveyor.

12 (37) Tangible personal property and supplies used in on-site hazardous waste recycling,
13 reuse, or treatment. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible
14 personal property or supplies used or consumed in the operation of equipment, the exclusive
15 function of which is the recycling, reuse, or recovery of materials (other than precious metals, as
16 defined in subdivision (24)(ii) of this section) from the treatment of “hazardous wastes,” as defined
17 in § 23-19.1-4, where the “hazardous wastes” are generated in Rhode Island solely by the same
18 taxpayer and where the personal property is located at, in, or adjacent to a generating facility of the
19 taxpayer in Rhode Island. The taxpayer shall procure an order from the director of the department
20 of environmental management certifying that the equipment and/or supplies as used or consumed,
21 qualify for the exemption under this subdivision. If any information relating to secret processes or
22 methods of manufacture, production, or treatment is disclosed to the department of environmental
23 management only to procure an order, and is a “trade secret” as defined in § 28-21-10(b), it is not
24 open to public inspection or publicly disclosed unless disclosure is required under chapter 21 of
25 title 28 or chapter 24.4 of title 23.

26 (38) Promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers. From the sale and from the
27 storage, use, or other consumption of promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers
28 shipped to points outside of Rhode Island that either: (i) Accompany the product that is sold; (ii)
29 Are shipped in bulk to out-of-state dealers for use in the sale of the product; or (iii) Are mailed to
30 customers at no charge.

31 (39) Food items paid for by food stamps. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
32 consumption in this state of eligible food items payment for which is properly made to the retailer
33 in the form of U.S. government food stamps issued in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977,
34 7 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq.

1 (40) Transportation charges. From the sale or hiring of motor carriers as defined in § 39-
2 12-2(12) to haul goods, when the contract or hiring cost is charged by a motor freight tariff filed
3 with the Rhode Island public utilities commission on the number of miles driven or by the number
4 of hours spent on the job.

5 (41) Trade-in value of boats. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption
6 in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used boat as is allocated for a trade-
7 in allowance on the boat of the buyer given in trade to the seller or of the proceeds applicable only
8 to the boat as are received from an insurance claim as a result of a stolen or damaged boat, towards
9 the purchase of a new or used boat by the buyer.

10 (42) Equipment used for research and development. From the sale and from the storage,
11 use, or other consumption of equipment to the extent used for research and development purposes
12 by a qualifying firm. For the purposes of this subsection, “qualifying firm” means a business for
13 which the use of research and development equipment is an integral part of its operation and
14 “equipment” means scientific equipment, computers, software, and related items.

15 (43) Coins. From the sale and from the other consumption in this state of coins having
16 numismatic or investment value.

17 (44) Farm structure construction materials. Lumber, hardware, and other materials used in
18 the new construction of farm structures, including production facilities such as, but not limited to:
19 farrowing sheds, free stall and stanchion barns, milking parlors, silos, poultry barns, laying houses,
20 fruit and vegetable storages, rooting cellars, propagation rooms, greenhouses, packing rooms,
21 machinery storage, seasonal farm worker housing, certified farm markets, bunker and trench silos,
22 feed storage sheds, and any other structures used in connection with commercial farming.

23 (45) Telecommunications carrier access service. Carrier access service or
24 telecommunications service when purchased by a telecommunications company from another
25 telecommunications company to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service.

26 (46) Boats or vessels brought into the state exclusively for winter storage, maintenance,
27 repair, or sale. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 44-18-10, 44-18-11 and 44-18-20, the tax
28 imposed by § 44-18-20 is not applicable for the period commencing on the first day of October in
29 any year up to and including the 30th day of April next succeeding with respect to the use of any
30 boat or vessel within this state exclusively for purposes of: (i) Delivery of the vessel to a facility in
31 this state for storage, including dry storage and storage in water by means of apparatus preventing
32 ice damage to the hull, maintenance, or repair; (ii) The actual process of storage, maintenance, or
33 repair of the boat or vessel; or (iii) Storage for the purpose of selling the boat or vessel.

34 (47) Jewelry display product. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption

1 in this state of tangible personal property used to display any jewelry product; provided that title to
2 the jewelry display product is transferred by the jewelry manufacturer or seller and that the jewelry
3 display product is shipped out of state for use solely outside the state and is not returned to the
4 jewelry manufacturer or seller.

5 (48) ~~Boats or vessels generally. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax~~
6 ~~imposed by §§ 44-18-20 and 44-18-18 shall not apply with respect to the sale and to the storage,~~
7 ~~use, or other consumption in this state of any new or used boat. The exemption provided for in this~~
8 ~~subdivision does not apply after October 1, 1993, unless prior to October 1, 1993, the federal ten~~
9 ~~percent (10%) surcharge on luxury boats is repealed.~~

10 (49) Banks and regulated investment companies interstate toll-free calls. Notwithstanding
11 the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by this chapter does not apply to the furnishing of
12 interstate and international, toll-free terminating telecommunication service that is used directly
13 and exclusively by or for the benefit of an eligible company as defined in this subdivision; provided
14 that an eligible company employs on average during the calendar year no less than five hundred
15 (500) "full-time equivalent employees" as that term is defined in § 42-64.5-2. For purposes of this
16 section, an "eligible company" means a "regulated investment company" as that term is defined in
17 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 851, or a corporation to the extent the service is
18 provided, directly or indirectly, to or on behalf of a regulated investment company, an employee
19 benefit plan, a retirement plan or a pension plan, or a state-chartered bank.

20 (50) Mobile and manufactured homes generally. From the sale and from the storage, use,
21 or other consumption in this state of mobile and/or manufactured homes as defined and subject to
22 taxation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 44 of title 31.

23 (51) Manufacturing business reconstruction materials.

24 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of lumber,
25 hardware, and other building materials used in the reconstruction of a manufacturing business
26 facility that suffers a disaster, as defined in this subdivision, in this state. "Disaster" means any
27 occurrence, natural or otherwise, that results in the destruction of sixty percent (60%) or more of
28 an operating manufacturing business facility within this state. "Disaster" does not include any
29 damage resulting from the willful act of the owner of the manufacturing business facility.

30 (ii) Manufacturing business facility includes, but is not limited to, the structures housing
31 the production and administrative facilities.

32 (iii) In the event a manufacturer has more than one manufacturing site in this state, the sixty
33 percent (60%) provision applies to the damages suffered at that one site.

34 (iv) To the extent that the costs of the reconstruction materials are reimbursed by insurance,

1 this exemption does not apply.

2 (52) Tangible personal property and supplies used in the processing or preparation of floral
3 products and floral arrangements. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of
4 tangible personal property or supplies purchased by florists, garden centers, or other like producers
5 or vendors of flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral arrangements that are
6 ultimately sold with flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral arrangements
7 or are otherwise used in the decoration, fabrication, creation, processing, or preparation of flowers,
8 plants, floral products, or natural and artificial floral arrangements, including descriptive labels,
9 stickers, and cards affixed to the flower, plant, floral product, or arrangement, artificial flowers,
10 spray materials, floral paint and tint, plant shine, flower food, insecticide, and fertilizers.

11 (53) Horse food products. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption
12 in this state of horse food products purchased by a person engaged in the business of the boarding
13 of horses.

14 (54) Non-motorized recreational vehicles sold to nonresidents.

15 (i) From the sale, subsequent to June 30, 2003, of a non-motorized recreational vehicle to
16 a bona fide nonresident of this state who does not register the non-motorized recreational vehicle
17 in this state, whether the sale or delivery of the non-motorized recreational vehicle is made in this
18 state or at the place of residence of the nonresident; provided that a non-motorized recreational
19 vehicle sold to a bona fide nonresident whose state of residence does not allow a like exemption to
20 its nonresidents is not exempt from the tax imposed under § 44-18-20; provided, further, that in
21 that event the bona fide nonresident pays a tax to Rhode Island on the sale at a rate equal to the rate
22 that would be imposed in his or her state of residence not to exceed the rate that would have been
23 imposed under § 44-18-20. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a licensed, non-motorized
24 recreational vehicle dealer shall add and collect the tax required under this subdivision and remit
25 the tax to the tax administrator under the provisions of chapters 18 and 19 of this title. Provided,
26 that when a Rhode Island licensed, non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer is required to add and
27 collect the sales and use tax on the sale of a non-motorized recreational vehicle to a bona fide
28 nonresident as provided in this section, the dealer in computing the tax takes into consideration the
29 law of the state of the nonresident as it relates to the trade-in of motor vehicles.

30 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may
31 require any licensed, non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide
32 nonresidents as the tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption
33 provided in this subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed, non-motorized recreational
34 vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the non-motorized recreational vehicle was the holder of, and

1 had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state non-motorized recreational vehicle registration or
2 a valid out-of-state driver's license.

3 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a non-motorized recreational vehicle in this state within
4 ninety (90) days of the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the non-motorized
5 recreational vehicle for use, storage, or other consumption in this state, and is subject to, and liable
6 for, the use tax imposed under the provisions of § 44-18-20.

7 (iv) "Non-motorized recreational vehicle" means any portable dwelling designed and
8 constructed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, camping, recreational, and vacation use
9 that is eligible to be registered for highway use, including, but not limited to, "pick-up coaches" or
10 "pick-up campers," "travel trailers," and "tent trailers" as those terms are defined in chapter 1 of
11 title 31.

12 (55) Sprinkler and fire alarm systems in existing buildings. From the sale in this state of
13 sprinkler and fire alarm systems; emergency lighting and alarm systems; and the materials
14 necessary and attendant to the installation of those systems that are required in buildings and
15 occupancies existing therein in July 2003 in order to comply with any additional requirements for
16 such buildings arising directly from the enactment of the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act of 2003
17 and that are not required by any other provision of law or ordinance or regulation adopted pursuant
18 to that act. The exemption provided in this subdivision shall expire on December 31, 2008.

19 (56) Aircraft. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by §§ 44-18-
20 18 and 44-18-20 shall not apply with respect to the sale and to the storage, use, or other consumption
21 in this state of any new or used aircraft or aircraft parts.

22 (57) Renewable energy products. Notwithstanding any other provisions of Rhode Island
23 general laws, the following products shall also be exempt from sales tax: solar photovoltaic
24 modules or panels, or any module or panel that generates electricity from light; solar thermal
25 collectors, including, but not limited to, those manufactured with flat glass plates, extruded plastic,
26 sheet metal, and/or evacuated tubes; geothermal heat pumps, including both water-to-water and
27 water-to-air type pumps; wind turbines; towers used to mount wind turbines if specified by or sold
28 by a wind turbine manufacturer; DC to AC inverters that interconnect with utility power lines; and
29 manufactured mounting racks and ballast pans for solar collector, module, or panel installation. Not
30 to include materials that could be fabricated into such racks; monitoring and control equipment, if
31 specified or supplied by a manufacturer of solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, or wind
32 energy systems or if required by law or regulation for such systems but not to include pumps, fans
33 or plumbing or electrical fixtures unless shipped from the manufacturer affixed to, or an integral
34 part of, another item specified on this list; and solar storage tanks that are part of a solar domestic

1 hot water system or a solar space heating system. If the tank comes with an external heat exchanger
2 it shall also be tax exempt, but a standard hot water tank is not exempt from state sales tax.

3 (58) Returned property. The amount charged for property returned by customers upon
4 rescission of the contract of sale when the entire amount exclusive of handling charges paid for the
5 property is refunded in either cash or credit, and where the property is returned within one hundred
6 twenty (120) days from the date of delivery.

7 (59) Dietary supplements. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption
8 of dietary supplements as defined in § 44-18-7.1(l)(v), sold on prescriptions.

9 (60) Blood. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption of human blood.

10 (61) Agricultural products for human consumption. From the sale and from the storage,
11 use, or other consumption of livestock and poultry of the kinds of products that ordinarily constitute
12 food for human consumption and of livestock of the kind the products of which ordinarily constitute
13 fibers for human use.

14 (62) Diesel emission control technology. From the sale and use of diesel retrofit technology
15 that is required by § 31-47.3-4.

16 (63) Feed for certain animals used in commercial farming. From the sale of feed for animals
17 as described in subsection (61) of this section.

18 (64) Alcoholic beverages. From the sale and storage, use, or other consumption in this state
19 by a Class A licensee of alcoholic beverages, as defined in § 44-18-7.1, excluding beer and malt
20 beverages; provided, further, notwithstanding § 6-13-1 or any other general or public law to the
21 contrary, alcoholic beverages, as defined in § 44-18-7.1, shall not be subject to minimum markup.

22 (65) Seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients. From the sale, storage, use,
23 or other consumption in this state of seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients as
24 defined in § 44-18-7.1(l)(i). “Seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients” shall not
25 include marijuana seeds or plants.

26 (66) Feminine hygiene products. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
27 consumption of tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other similar products
28 the principal use of which is feminine hygiene in connection with the menstrual cycle.

29 (67) “Breast pump collection and storage supplies” means items of tangible personal
30 property used in conjunction with a breast pump to collect milk expressed from a human breast and
31 to store collected milk until it is ready for consumption. “Breast pump collection and storage
32 supplies” include, but are not limited to, breast shields and breast shield connectors; breast pump
33 tubes and tubing adaptors; breast pump valves and membranes; backflow protectors and backflow
34 protector adaptors; bottles and bottle caps specific to the operation of the breast pump; breast milk

1 storage bags; and related items sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump
2 manufacturer. “Breast pump collection and storage supplies” does not include: bottles and bottle
3 caps not specific to the operation of the breast pump; breast pump travel bags and other similar
4 carrying accessories, including ice packs, labels, and other similar products, unless sold as part of
5 a breast pump kit pre-packed by the breast pump manufacturer; breast pump cleaning supplies,
6 unless sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump manufacturer; nursing
7 bras, bra pads, breast shells, and other similar products; and creams, ointments, and other similar
8 products that relieve breastfeeding-related symptoms or conditions of the breasts or nipples.

9 (68) Trade-in value of motorcycles. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
10 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used motorcycle as is
11 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the motorcycle of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of
12 the proceeds applicable only to the motorcycle as are received from the manufacturer of
13 motorcycles for the repurchase of the motorcycle whether the repurchase was voluntary or not
14 towards the purchase of a new or used motorcycle by the buyer. For the purpose of this subsection,
15 the word “motorcycle” means a motorcycle not used for hire and does not refer to any other type
16 of motor vehicle.

17 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

- 1 This act would repeal the property tax and sales and use tax exemption for boats.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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