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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 -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Introduced By: Representatives Santucci, and Costantino

Date Introduced: June 06, 2025

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 44-5-20.16 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-5 entitled "Levy and  
2       Assessment of Local Taxes" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **44-5-20.16. ~~Smithfield~~ — ~~Property tax classification and valuation.~~ Smithfield --**  
4       **Property tax classification, levy determination and valuation.**

5           (a) The assessor of the town of Smithfield, on or before June 1 of each year, shall make  
6       full- and fair-cash valuation of ~~all the estate, real and personal, and motor vehicles subject to~~  
7       ~~taxation, herein, and determine the assessed valuation of each property class~~ each property class as  
8       identified in subsection (b) of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of § 44-5-11.8 to the  
9       contrary, determine the percentage of the tax levy to be apportioned each class of property and shall  
10       apply tax rates sufficient to produce the proportion of the total tax levy.

11           ~~(b) Class 1 and Class 2: The assessor shall apply different rates of taxation against Class 1~~  
12       ~~residential real estate and Class 2 commercial estate, in accordance with § 44-5-11.8, to determine~~  
13       ~~the tax due and payable on the property; provided, however, the rate for each class shall be uniform.~~

14           ~~(c) Class 3: All ratable, tangible personal property shall be capped at the 2017 tax rate and~~  
15       ~~not increased until which time the rate is not greater than twice the rate applicable to any other class~~  
16       ~~in accordance with § 44-5-11.8.~~

17           ~~(d) Class 4: The tax rates applicable to motor vehicles within Class 4, as defined in~~  
18       ~~subsection (b) of this section, are governed by § 44-34.1-1 [repealed].~~

19           (b) Classes of property.

- 1           (1) Class 1. Residential real estate consisting of no more than five (5) dwelling units; land  
2           classified as open space; and dwellings on leased land including mobile homes.
- 3           (2) Class 2. Commercial and industrial real estate; residential properties containing partial  
4           commercial or business uses; and residential real estate of more than five (5) dwelling units.
- 5           (3) Class 3. All ratable tangible personal property excluding motor vehicles and trailers  
6           subject in all respects to the requirements of § 44-5.3-3.

7           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would authorize the town of Smithfield to set rates that more closely relate to the  
2 changes in values and ensure that the tax classification system creates fair and equitable taxation  
3 between residential and commercial property.  
4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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