LC000289

2021 -- S 0642

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Introduced By: Senators Bell, Mack, and Mendes

Date Introduced: March 18, 2021

<u>Referred To:</u> Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- SECTION 1. Sections 44-3-9, 44-3-9.1, 44-3-9.1.1, 44-3-9.2, 44-3-9.2.1, 44-3-9.3, 44-3 9.4, 44-3-9.5, 44-3-9.6, 44-3-9.7, 44-3-9.8, 44-3-9.10 and 44-3-47 of the General Laws in Chapter
 44-3 entitled "Property Subject to Taxation" are hereby repealed.
- 4

44-3-9. Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on property used for manufacturing,

5 <u>commercial, or residential purposes.</u>

(a)(1) Except as provided in this section, the electors of any city or town qualified to vote 6 7 on a proposition to appropriate money or impose a tax when legally assembled, may vote to authorize the city or town council, for a period not exceeding twenty (20) years, and subject to the 8 9 conditions as provided in this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and 10 personal property which has undergone environmental remediation, is historically preserved, or is 11 used for affordable housing, manufacturing, commercial, or residential purposes, or to determine a 12 stabilized amount of taxes to be paid on account of the property, notwithstanding the valuation of 13 the property or the rate of tax; provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of 14 which shall be given in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city or town, the city or 15 town council determines that: (i) Granting of the exemption or stabilization will inure to the benefit of the city or town 16 17 by reason of:

18 (A) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial concern to locate in the city or
 19 town, or of individuals to reside in such an area; or

1 (B) The willingness of a manufacturing firm to expand facilities with an increase in 2 employment or the willingness of a commercial or manufacturing concern to retain or expand its facility in the city or town and not substantially reduce its work force in the city or town; or 3

- 4 (C) An improvement of the physical plant of the city or town which will result in a long-5 term economic benefit to the city or town and state; or
- (D) An improvement which converts or makes available land or facility that would 6 otherwise be not developable or difficult to develop without substantial environmental remediation; 7 or
- 8

9 (ii) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the city 10 or town by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial or residential firm or 11 property owner to construct new or to replace, reconstruct, convert, expand, retain or remodel 12 existing buildings, facilities, machinery, or equipment with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, 13 machinery, or equipment resulting in an increase or maintenance in plant, residential housing or 14 commercial building investment by the firm or property owned in the city or town;

15 (2) Provided that should the city or town council make the determination in subparagraph 16 (1)(i)(B) of this subsection, any exemption or stabilization may be granted as to new buildings, 17 fixtures, machinery, or equipment for new buildings, firms or expansions, and may be granted as 18 to existing buildings, fixtures, machinery and equipment for existing employers in the city or town. 19 (b) Cities shall have the same authority as is granted to towns except that authority granted 20 to the qualified electors of a town and to town councils shall be exercised in the case of a city by 21 the city council.

22 (c) For purposes of this section, "property used for commercial purposes" means any 23 building or structures used essentially for offices or commercial enterprises.

24 (d) Except as provided in this section, property, the payment of taxes on which has been so 25 exempted or which is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, shall not, during the 26 period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is granted, be further liable 27 to taxation by the city or town in which the property is located so long as the property is used for 28 the manufacturing or commercial, or residential purposes for which the exemption or stabilized 29 amount of taxes was made.

30 (e) Notwithstanding any vote of the qualified electors of a town and findings of a town 31 council or of any vote and findings by a city council, the property shall be assessed for and shall 32 pay that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the city or town in which the real or personal property 33 is located, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the city or town and the indebtedness of 34 the state or any political subdivision of the state to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the

1 city or town, and the interest on the indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the 2 city or town, which portion of the tax shall be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected 3 shall be kept in a separate account and used only for that purpose. 4 (f) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to permit the exemption or stabilization 5 provided in this section for any manufacturing or commercial concern relocating from one city or town within the state of Rhode Island to another. 6 (g) Renewable energy resources, as defined in § 39-26-5, qualify for tax stabilization 7 8 agreements pursuant to § 44-3-9(a). 9 44-3-9.1. Woonsocket -- Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property located in designated districts in the city. 10 11 (a) Except as provided in this section, the city council of the city of Woonsocket may vote

12 to authorize, for a period not exceeding ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions provided in 13 this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal qualifying property, or 14 to determine a stabilized amount, of taxes to be paid on account of the qualifying property located 15 within a district designated by the city council, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the 16 rate of tax; provided, that after a public hearing, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be 17 given in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city, the city council determines that 18 designation of the district and granting of the exemption or stabilization for qualifying property 19 located in the city will inure to the benefit of the city by reason of the willingness of owners of 20 qualifying property to replace, reconstruct, expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, 21 machinery, or equipment with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment, or 22 to construct new buildings or facilities or acquire new machinery or equipment for use in such

23 buildings or facilities, resulting in an increase in investment by such owners in the city.

(b) For purposes of this section, "qualifying property" means any building or structures
 used or intended to be used essentially for offices or commercial enterprises or for residential
 purposes.

(c) Except as provided in this section, property, the payment of taxes on which has been so
 exempted or which is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, shall not, during the
 period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is granted, be further liable
 to taxation by the city so long as that property is used or intended to be used for the manufacturing,
 commercial, or residential purposes for which the exemption or stabilized amount of taxes was
 made.

33 (d) Notwithstanding any vote and findings by the city council, the property shall be
 34 assessed for and shall pay that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the city, for the purpose of

paying the indebtedness of the city and the indebtedness of the state or any political subdivision of 1 2 the state to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the city, and the interest on the indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the city, which portion of the tax shall be paid in full, 3 4 and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used only for that 5 purpose. 44-3-9.1.1. Woonsocket -- Rehabilitation exemption for qualified residential 6 7 structures in the city. 8 (a)(1) The tax assessor of the city of Woonsocket is authorized to grant a rehabilitation 9 exemption from taxation for certain qualified residential structures. A "qualified residential structure" is defined as a residential structure or structures which is or are certified by the building 10 11 inspection services division of the city of Woonsocket as being eligible for exemption. Eligibility 12 for the exemption may be provided if the following conditions are met: 13 (i) The property is strictly residential in nature, consisting of three (3) or more units on a 14 single lot, and was acquired by the applicant at a date subsequent to its being certified as vacant by 15 the building inspection services division. The building inspection services division will maintain a 16 list of vacant properties, which will be updated monthly. 17 (ii) All permits necessary for the completed renovations, which will make the building(s) 18 meet minimum housing codes must be issued and provided to the tax assessor from the building 19 inspection services division. An inspection of the structure by the building inspection services 20 division, including the owner, contractor, electrical contractor, and minimum housing inspector, 21 shall be done prior to the beginning of renovation. 22 (2) Upon furnishing to the city assessor proof that the requirements of subdivision (1) of 23 this subsection have been met, the assessor shall certify to the applicant, in writing, that the property 24 is eligible. 25 (b) Upon certification of eligibility, the property shall receive the following rehabilitation 26 exemption: 27 (1) For both owner occupied and non-owner occupied, the assessment for the next tax year, 28 hereinafter called "the base year," shall be zero percent (0%) of the previous year's valuation; 29 (2) If owner occupied, the assessment for the second year following certification shall be 30 twenty percent (20%) of the base year's valuation. If non-owner occupied, the assessment for the 31 second year shall be fifty percent (50%) of the base year's valuation; 32 (3) If owner occupied, the assessment for the third year following certification shall be 33 forty percent (40%) of the base year's valuation. If non-owner occupied, the assessment for the

34 third year following certification shall be one hundred percent (100%) of the base year's valuation

1	plus the value of the improvements added to the original valuation;
2	(4) If owner occupied, the assessment for the fourth year following certification shall be
3	sixty percent (60%) of the base year's valuation;
4	(5) If owner occupied, the assessment for the fifth year following certification shall be
5	eighty percent (80%) of the base year's valuation;
6	(6) If owner occupied, the assessment for the sixth year following certification shall be one
7	hundred percent (100%) of the base year's valuation plus the value of the improvements added to
8	the original valuation.
9	(c) If the city of Woonsocket implements property revaluation during the program, the
10	original base year's valuation shall be replaced by the new assessed valuation with the percentage
11	adjustment made as specified.
12	(d) The rehabilitation exemption shall not apply to any of the following types of properties:
13	(1) Mixed commercial and residential use;
14	(2) Commercial and/or industrial use;
15	(3) Single- and two-family properties;
16	(4) Properties damaged by fire which are covered by insurance;
17	(5) Properties boarded or secured to protect mortgagor's interest, and not due to disrepair.
18	(e) The rehabilitation exemption shall cease upon the occurrence of any one of the
19	following conditions:
20	(1) Property is sold or title transferred at any time during the term of said exemption;
21	(2) Failure to complete permitted work within a timely manner as determined by the
22	building inspector;
23	(3) In properties that were owner occupied, if the owner moves out of the property, the
24	property's exemption changes to whatever status it would be if it were in the non-owner occupied
25	status.
26	<u>44-3-9.2. North Smithfield Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property</u>
27	used for manufacturing or commercial purposes.
28	(a) Except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of North Smithfield
29	may vote to authorize, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions
30	provided in this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal property
31	used for manufacturing or commercial purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be
32	paid on account of the property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax;
33	provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a
34	newspaper having a general circulation in the town, the town council determines that:

1 (1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town 2 by reason of: (i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to locate in the 3 4 town: or (ii) The willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to expand facilities 5 with an increase in employment; or 6 7 (2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town 8 reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to replace, hv 9 reconstruct, expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment 10 with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment resulting in an increase in plant 11 or commercial building investment by the firm or concern in the town. (b) For purposes of this section, "real property used for commercial purposes" includes any 12 13 building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises including without limitation any 14 building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution, and/or storage businesses, used for service industries, or used for any other commercial business and the land on which the building 15 16 or structure is situated and not used for residential purposes. (c) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for commercial purposes" means 17 18 any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure, and/or land used 19 for commercial purposes and used by such firm or concern in its commercial enterprise including, 20 without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, stock in trade, and inventory. 21 (d) Except as provided in this section, property, the payment of taxes on which has been so 22 exempted or which is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, shall not, during the 23 period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is granted, be further liable to taxation by the town in which the property is located so long as the property is used for the 24 25 manufacturing or commercial purposes for which the exemption or stabilized amount of taxes was 26 made. (e) Notwithstanding any vote and findings by the town council, the property shall be 27 28 assessed for and shall pay that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town of North Smithfield 29 for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any 30 political subdivision of the state to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the town, and the 31 interest on the indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion 32 of the tax shall be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used only for that purpose. 33 44-3-9.2.1. North Smithfield -- Exemption or partial abatement of taxes for Rankin 34

1 <u>Estates.</u>

2	The town council of the town of North Smithfield may vote, at a duly noticed public
3	meeting, to grant a partial abatement of taxes for a sum total yearly abatement in the amount of
4	fourteen thousand three hundred dollars (\$14,300), for a period of seven (7) years from the date of
5	master plan approval for a grand total of one hundred thousand one hundred dollars (\$100,100) in
6	abatements for the real property known as "Rankin Estates" which consists of property located in
7	the town of North Smithfield laid out and designated as assessor's plat 14, Lots 17, 19, 20, 29, 31-
8	34, 36, 88, 93, 106, 107, 123, 125, 128, 135, 136, 139, 140, 141, 144, 145, 147, 159, 202, 242.
9	44-3-9.3. Burrillville Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property used
10	for manufacturing, commercial or mixed-use purposes.
11	(a) Except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of Burrillville may vote
12	to authorize, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions as provided in
13	this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal property used for
14	manufacturing, commercial or mixed-use purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to
15	be paid on account of such property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of
16	tax; provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a
17	newspaper having a general circulation in the town, the town council determines that:
18	(1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town
19	by reason of:
20	(i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to locate in the
21	town; or
22	(ii) The willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to expand facilities
23	with an increase in employment; or
24	(2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town
25	by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing, commercial or mixed use firm or concern to
26	replace, reconstruct, expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or
27	equipment with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment resulting in an
28	increase in plant, commercial or mixed-use building investment by the firm or concern in the town.
29	(b) For purposes of this section, "real property used for commercial or mixed-use purposes"
30	includes any building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises, including, without
31	limitation, any building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution, and/or storage
32	businesses, used for service industries, or used for any other commercial business, including mixed-
33	use, and the land on which any such building or structure is situated and not used solely for
34	residential purposes.

(c) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for commercial or mixed use
 purposes" means any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure,
 and/or land used for commercial or mixed use purposes and used by such firm or concern in its
 commercial or mixed use enterprise including, without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment,
 machinery, stock in trade, and inventory.

- 6 (d) Except as provided in this section, real and personal property, the payment of taxes on
 7 which has been so exempted or that is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, shall
 8 not, during the period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is granted,
 9 be further liable to taxation by the town in which the property is located so long as the property is
 10 used for the manufacturing, commercial or mixed use purposes for which the exemption or
 11 stabilized amount of taxes was made.
- (e) Notwithstanding any vote and findings by the town council, the property shall be assessed for and shall pay that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town of Burrillville, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any political subdivision of the state to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the town, and the interest on the indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion of the tax shall be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and
- 18 used only for that purpose.

19 <u>44-3-9.4. Middletown -- Economic development tax incentive program -- Assessed</u> 20 valuation exemptions or stabilizing of taxes.

- (a) The town council of the Town of Middletown may, by ordinance, provide for a schedule
 of exemptions from assessed valuation for real and personal property of property owners or
 businesses which create jobs in the town and which qualify under such ordinance.
- 24 (b) The town council of the Town of Middletown may, by ordinance, provide for a schedule 25 of exemptions from assessed valuation or determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid for real and personal property of property owners or businesses for any retrofit, expansion or renovation of 26 27 specifically permitted uses under such ordinance and which qualify under such ordinance. The 28 ordinance shall specify the kinds of retrofitting, expansion and renovation for which exemptions or 29 stabilization will be permitted. The exemption shall be for a period of no more than five (5) years. 30 (c) The amount of the exemption or stabilization and the rules and regulations regarding 31 the eligibility and qualification for the exemption or stabilization shall be provided by ordinance 32 and the town council may, from time to time, by amendment to the ordinance, make those changes 33 in the amount of exemption or stabilization or in the rules and regulations regarding eligibility and 34 qualification for exemption as it deems necessary.

1 44-3-9.5. North Providence -- Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property 2 used for manufacturing or commercial purposes. (a) Except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of North Providence 3 4 may vote to authorize, for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions as 5 provided in this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal property used for manufacturing, or commercial purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be 6 paid on account of such property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; 7 8 provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a newspaper having a general circulation in the town, the town council determines that: 9 10 (1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town 11 by reason of: 12 (i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to locate in the 13 town; or 14 (ii) The willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to expand facilities 15 with an increase in employment; or 16 (2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town 17 by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to replace, 18 reconstruct, expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment 19 with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment resulting in an increase in plant 20 or commercial building investment by the firm or concern in the town. 21 (b) For purposes of this section, "real property used for commercial purposes" includes any 22 building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises including, without limitation, any 23 building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution, and/or storage businesses, used 24 for service industries, or used for any other commercial business, and the land on which any such 25 building or structure is situated and not used for residential purposes. 26 (c) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for commercial purposes" means 27 any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure, and/or land used 28 for commercial purposes and used by such firm or concern in its commercial enterprise including, 29 without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, stock in trade, and inventory. 30 (d) Except as provided in this section, property, the payment of taxes on which has been so 31 exempted or which is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, shall not, during the 32 period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is granted, be further liable 33 to taxation by the town in which the property is located so long as the property is used for the 34 manufacturing or commercial purposes for which the exemption or stabilized amount of taxes was

1 made.

2	(e) Notwithstanding any vote and findings by the town council, the property shall be
3	assessed for and shall pay that portion of the tax if any assessed by the town of North Providence
4	for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any
5	political subdivision of the state to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the town, and the
6	interest on the indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion
7	of the tax shall be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate
8	account and used only for that purpose.
9	44-3-9.6. Richmond Exemption or stabilization tax on qualified property used for
10	manufacturing or commercial purposes in the town Richmond.
11	(a) Except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of Richmond may vote
12	to authorize, for a period not exceeding twenty (20) years, and subject to the conditions provided
13	in this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or part, real and personal property used for
14	manufacturing or commercial purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid on
15	account of the property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; provided,
16	that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a newspaper of
17	general circulation in the town, the town council determines that:
18	(1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization will inure to the benefit of the town by reason
19	of:
20	(i) The willingness of the manufacturer or commercial concern to locate in the town; or
21	(ii) The willingness of a manufacturing firm to expand facilities with an increase in
22	employment or the willingness of a commercial or manufacturing concern to retain or expand its
23	facility in the town and not reduce its work force in the town; or
24	(iii) An improvement of the physical plant of the town that will result in long-term
25	economic benefits to the town and the state.
26	(2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town
27	by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial concern or property owner to
28	construct new or to replace, reconstruct, convert, expand, retain or remodel existing buildings,
29	facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery,
30	or equipment, resulting in the maintenance of, or an increase in, the manufacturing or commercial
31	property investment by the firm or property owner in the town.
32	(b) Should the town council make the determination in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through
33	paragraphs (a)(1)(iii), or subdivision (a)(2) of this section, an exemption or stabilization may be
34	granted for existing buildings, property, machinery, or facilities owned by businesses already

- 1 located in the town of Richmond on August 6, 2003.
- 2 (c) For the purposes of this section, "commercial property" means any structure or facility
 3 used essentially for offices or commercial enterprises.
- 4 (d) Except as provided in this section, property for which taxes have been exempted in
 5 whole or part, or stabilized pursuant to this section, shall not, during the period for which taxes
 6 have been exempted or stabilized, be further liable to taxation by the town so long as the property
 7 is used for the manufacturing or commercial purpose for which the exemption or stabilization was
 8 granted.
- 9 (e) Notwithstanding any vote of, or findings by the town council, the property shall be 10 assessed for, and shall pay, that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town for the purpose of 11 paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any political subdivision 12 of the state, to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the town, and the interest on the 13 indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion of the tax shall 14 be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used 15 only for that purpose.
- (f) Any application for tax exemption or stabilization submitted pursuant to this section
 shall be submitted before an application for development plan review is submitted to the Richmond
 Planning Board pursuant to Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances, as amended.
- (g) Any tax exemption or stabilization granted by the town council pursuant to this section
 shall be applicable for a period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year in which the exemption
 or stabilization is granted.
- (h) If a property owner whose property tax has been exempted or stabilized pursuant to this
 section becomes delinquent in the payment of its property taxes, or transfers ownership of its
 business, the town council shall have the authority to review and terminate the tax exemption or
 stabilization agreement.
- 26 <u>44-3-9.7. South Kingstown -- Exemption or stabilization of tax on qualified property</u>
 27 used for manufacturing or commercial purposes in the town of South Kingstown.
- (a) Except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of South Kingstown
 may vote to authorize, for a period not exceeding ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions
 provided in this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or part, real and personal property used
 for manufacturing or commercial purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid
 on account of the property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax;
 provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a
 newspaper of general circulation in the town, the town council determines that:

(1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town

2 by reason of:

3 (i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial concern to locate in the town; or
4 (ii) The willingness of a manufacturing firm to expand facilities with an increase in
5 employment or the willingness of a commercial or manufacturing concern to retain or expand its
6 facility in the town and not reduce its work force in the town; or

(iii) An improvement of the physical plant of the town that will result in long-term

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economic benefits to the town and the state.

9 (2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town
10 by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to replace,
11 reconstruct, expand or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment with
12 modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment, resulting in an increase in, plant or
13 commercial building investment by the firm or concern in the town.

- (b) Should the town council make the determination in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) paragraphs
 (a)(1)(iii), or subdivision (a)(2) of this section, an exemption or stabilization may be granted for
 existing buildings, property, machinery, or facilities owned by businesses already located in the
 town of South Kingstown on January 1, 2006.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, "real property used for manufacturing or commercial
 purposes" includes any building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises including
 without limitation any building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution, and/or
 storage business, used for service industries, or used for any other commercial business and the
 land on which the building or structure is situated and not used for residential purposes.

(d) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for manufacturing or commercial
 purposes" means any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure,
 and/or land used for commercial purposes and used by such firm or concern in its commercial
 enterprise including, without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, stock in trade,
 and inventory.

(e) Except as provided in this section, property for which taxes have been exempted in
whole or part, or stabilized pursuant to this section, shall not, during the period for which taxes
have been exempted or stabilized, be further liable to taxation by the town so long as the property
is used for the manufacturing or commercial purpose for which the exemption or stabilization was
granted.

(f) Notwithstanding any vote of, or findings by the town council, the property shall be
 assessed for, and shall pay, that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town for the purpose of

paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any political subdivision 1 2 of the state, to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the town, and the interest on the indebtedness, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion of the tax shall 3 4 be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used 5 only for that purpose. (g) Any application for tax exemption or stabilization submitted pursuant to this section 6 shall be submitted before an application for development plan review is submitted to the South 7 8 Kingstown planning board, as applicable, or for other such permits and/or approvals that may be 9 required from any other town board or commission. (h) Any tax exemption or stabilization granted by the town council pursuant to this section 10 11 shall be applicable for a period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year in which the exemption 12 or stabilization is granted. 13 (i) If a property owner whose property tax has been exempted or stabilized pursuant to this 14 section becomes delinquent in the payment of its property taxes, or transfers ownership of its 15 business, the town council shall have the authority to review and terminate the tax exemption or 16 stabilization agreement.

17 <u>44-3-9.8. West Greenwich -- Exemption or stabilization of tax on qualified property</u>
 18 <u>used for manufacturing or commercial purposes in the town of West Greenwich.</u>

19 (a) Except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of West Greenwich 20 may vote to authorize, for a period not exceeding twelve (12) years, and subject to the conditions 21 provided in this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or part, real and personal property used 22 for manufacturing or commercial purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid 23 on account of the property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; 24 provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a 25 newspaper of general circulation in the town, the town council determines that: (1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town 26 27 by reason of:

28 (i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial concern to locate in the town; or

29 (ii) The willingness of a manufacturing firm to expand facilities with an increase in

30 employment or the willingness of a commercial or manufacturing concern to retain or expand its

31 facility in the town and not reduce its work force in the town; or

32 (iii) An improvement of the physical plant of the town that will result in long term
 33 economic benefits to the town and the state.

34 (2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town

by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to replace,
 reconstruct, expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment
 with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment, resulting in an increase in
 plant or commercial building investments by the firm or concern in the town.

(b) Should the town council make the determination in subsections (a)(1)(i) - (a)(1)(iii) or
(a)(2) of this section, an exemption or stabilization may be granted for existing buildings, property,
machinery, or facilities owned by businesses already located in the town of West Greenwich on
January 1, 2011.

9 (c) For the purposes of this section, "real property used for manufacturing or commercial
 purposes" includes any building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises, including,
 without limitation, any building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution, and/or
 storage business, used for service industries, or used for any other commercial business and the
 land on which the building or structure is situated and not used for residential purposes.

(d) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for manufacturing or commercial
 purposes" means any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure,
 and/or land used for commercial purposes and used by such firm or concern in its commercial
 enterprise including, without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, stock in trade,
 and inventory.

(e) Except as provided in this section, property for which taxes have been exempted in
whole or in part, or stabilized pursuant to this section, shall not, during the period for which taxes
have been exempted or stabilized, be further liable to taxation by the town so long as the property
is used for the manufacturing or commercial purposes for which the exemption or stabilization was
granted.

(f) Notwithstanding any vote of or findings by the town council, the property shall be assessed for and shall pay that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state, or any political subdivision of the state, to the appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion of the tax shall be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used only for that purpose.

30 (g) Any application for tax exemption or stabilization submitted pursuant to this section
 31 shall be submitted before an application for development plan review is submitted to the West
 32 Greenwich planning board, as applicable, or for other such permits and/or approvals that may be
 33 required from any other town board or commission.

34

(h) Any tax exemption or stabilization granted by the town council pursuant to this section

- 1 shall be applicable for a period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year in which the exemption
- 2 or stabilization is granted.
- 3 (i) If a property owner whose property tax has been exempted or stabilized pursuant to this
 4 section becomes delinquent in the payment of its property taxes, or transfers ownership of its
 5 business, the town council shall have the authority to review and terminate the tax exemption or
 6 stabilization agreement.

44-3-9.10. Portsmouth -- Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualified property used

7

8 for manufacturing or commercial purposes in the town of Portsmouth.

9 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of § 44-3-9 to the contrary, except as provided in this section, the town council of the town of Portsmouth may vote to authorize, for a period not 10 11 exceeding ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions provided in this section, to exempt from 12 payment, in whole or part, real and personal property used for manufacturing or commercial 13 purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid on account of the property, 14 notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; provided, that after public hearings, at least ten (10) days' notice of which shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the 15 16 town, the town council determines that: 17 (1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town

- 18 by reason of:
- (i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial concern to locate in the town; or
 (ii) The willingness of a manufacturing firm to expand facilities with an increase in
 employment or the willingness of a commercial or manufacturing concern to retain or expand its
 facility in the town and not reduce its work force in the town; or
- 23 (iii) An improvement of the physical plant of the town that will result in long term
 24 economic benefits to the town and the state.
- 25 (2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes will inure to the benefit of the town
 by reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to replace,
 27 reconstruct, expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment
 28 with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment, resulting in an increase in
 29 plant or commercial building investments by the firm or concern in the town.
- 30 (b) Should the town council make the determination in subsections (a)(1)(i) through
 31 (a)(1)(iii), or subsection (a)(2), an exemption or stabilization may be granted for existing buildings,
 32 property, machinery, or facilities owned by businesses already located in the town of Portsmouth
 33 on January 1, 2016.
- 34

(c) For the purposes of this section, "real property used for manufacturing or commercial

purposes" means and includes any building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises
 including, without limitation, any building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution,
 and/or storage business, used for service industries, or used for any other commercial business, and
 not the land on which the building or structure is situated, and not used for residential purposes.

(d) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for manufacturing or commercial
purposes" means any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure,
and/or land used for commercial purposes and used by such firm or concern in its commercial
enterprise including, without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, stock in trade,
and inventory.

(e) Except as provided in this section, property for which taxes have been exempted in
 whole or in part, or stabilized pursuant to this section, shall not, during the period for which taxes
 have been exempted or stabilized, be further liable to taxation by the town so long as the property
 is used for the manufacturing or commercial purposes for which the exemption or stabilization was
 granted.

(f) Notwithstanding any vote of, or findings by, the town council, the property shall be assessed for, and shall pay, that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any political subdivision of the state, to the appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion of the tax shall be paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used only for that purpose.

(g) Any application for tax exemption or stabilization submitted pursuant to this section
 shall be submitted before an application for development plan review is submitted to the
 Portsmouth planning board, as applicable, or for other such permits and/or approvals that may be
 required from any other town board or commission.

(h) Any tax exemption or stabilization granted by the town council pursuant to this section
 shall be applicable for a period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year in which the exemption
 or stabilization is granted.

(i) If a property owner whose property tax has been exempted or stabilized pursuant to this
 section becomes delinquent in the payment of its property taxes, or transfers ownership of its
 business, the town council shall have the authority to review and terminate the tax exemption or
 stabilization agreement.

32 (j) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to permit the exemption or stabilization provided
 33 in this section for any manufacturing or commercial concern relocating from one city or town
 34 within the state of Rhode Island to the town of Portsmouth.

1 44-3-47. Cranston -- Economic development tax incentive program Exemptions. 2 The city council of the city of Cranston may, by ordinance, provide exemptions from assessed valuation for real and tangible personal property of property owners or businesses which 3 4 create jobs in the city of Cranston and any property owners or businesses for any retrofit, expansion, 5 or renovation of specifically permitted uses; provided, that the exemption shall be for a period of not more than ten (10) years. 6 7 SECTION 2. Sections 44-5-55.1, 44-5-55.2, 44-5-61, 44-5-61.1 and 44-5-61.2 of the 8 General Laws in Chapter 44-5 entitled "Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes" are hereby repealed. 9 44-5-55.1. Burrillville -- Tax levy assessment stabilization. [As amended by P.L. 2020, e<u>h. 53, § 1.]</u> 10 11 The town of Burrillville is authorized to establish by ordinance a process to stabilize tax 12 assessments and/or provide tax credits for physical improvements made to certain properties 13 located in areas of town that have been designated substandard by the town's comprehensive plan 14 or as may be separately designated by the town council. Specifically, said ordinance shall provide 15 that physical improvements made to any commercial, industrial, mixed use buildings, and 16 apartment houses with six (6) or more legal units located in areas that have been designated may 17 be eligible for tax stabilization and/or a tax credit against their real estate tax levy as set forth in the 18 town's ordinance. The stabilization granted or tax credit based upon these improvements shall be 19 in place for a period not to exceed ten (10) years from the date on which the work on the 20 improvements shall have been completed. All improvements made to the property will be assessed 21 accordingly as of December 31 of each year per § 44-5-1. The ordinance shall also include a process 22 for an applicant to apply and qualify for said credits. 44-5-55.2. Burrillville -- Tax levy and stabilization. ¤As added by P.L. 2020, ch. 50, § 23 24 <u>2.ó.</u> 25 The town of Burrillville is authorized to establish by ordinance a process to stabilize tax 26 assessments and provide tax credits for physical improvements made to certain properties located 27 in areas of town that have been designated substandard by the town's comprehensive plan or as may 28 be separately designated by the town council. Specifically, the ordinance shall provide that physical 29 improvements made to any commercial, industrial, mixed-use buildings, and apartment houses with 30 six (6) or more legal units located in areas that have been designated substandard may be eligible 31 for either a tax stabilization or a tax credit against their real estate tax levy as set forth in the town's

32 ordinance. The stabilization granted or tax credit based upon these improvements shall be in place

33 for a period not to exceed ten (10) years from the date on which the work on the improvements

34 shall have been completed. All improvements made to the property will be assessed accordingly as

1	of December 31 of each year pursuant to § 44-5-1. The ordinance shall also include a process for
2	an applicant to apply and qualify for the tax stabilization or tax credits.
3	<u>44-5-61. Coventry Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property used for</u>
4	manufacturing or commercial purposes in the town.
5	(a) Except as provided, the town council of the town of Coventry may vote to authorize,
6	for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions provided, to exempt from
7	payment, in whole or in part, real and personal property used for manufacturing or commercial
8	purposes, or to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid on account of the property,
9	notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; provided, that after public hearings,
10	at least ten (10) days' notice of which is given in a newspaper having a general circulation in the
11	town, the town council determines that:
12	(1) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes inures to the benefit of the town by
13	reason of:
14	(i) The willingness of the manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to locate in the
15	town; or
16	(ii) The willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to expend facilities
17	with an increase in employment; or
18	(2) Granting of the exemption or stabilization of taxes inures to the benefit of the town by
19	reason of the willingness of a manufacturing or commercial firm or concern to replace, reconstruct,
20	expand, or remodel existing buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment with modern
21	buildings, facilities, fixtures, machinery, or equipment resulting in an increase in plant or
22	commercial building investment by the firm or concern in the town.
23	(b) For purposes of this section, "real property used for commercial purposes" includes any
24	building or structure used for offices or commercial enterprises including, without limitation, any
25	building or structure used for wholesale, warehouse, distribution, and/or storage businesses, used
26	for service industries, or used for any other commercial business and the land on which the building
27	or structure is situated and not used for residential purposes.
28	(c) For purposes of this section, "personal property used for commercial purposes" means
29	any personal property owned by a firm or concern occupying a building, structure, and/or land used
30	for commercial purposes and used by the firm or concern in its commercial enterprise including,
31	without limitation, furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, stock in trade, and inventory.
32	(d) Except as provided, property, the payment of taxes on which has been so exempted or
33	which is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, is not, during the period for which
34	the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is granted, further liable to taxation by the

1 town in which the property is located so long as the property is used for the manufacturing or

2 commercial purposes for which the exemption or stabilized amount of taxes was made.

(e) Notwithstanding any vote and findings by the town council, the property shall be
assessed for and shall pay that portion of the tax, if any, assessed by the town of Coventry for the
purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town and the indebtedness of the state or any political
subdivision of the state to the extent assessed upon or apportioned to the town, and the interest
thereon, and for appropriation to any sinking fund of the town, which portion of the tax shall be
paid in full, and the taxes so assessed and collected shall be kept in a separate account and used
only for that purpose.

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<u>44-5-61.1. Central Falls -- Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property</u> located in the city.

12 Except as provided in this section, the city council of the city of Central Falls may vote to 13 authorize for a period not exceeding twelve (12) years, and subject to the conditions provided in 14 this section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal qualifying property, or 15 to determine a stabilized amount, of taxes to be paid on account of the qualifying property located 16 within the city of Central Falls, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; 17 provided, that after a public hearing, at least ten (10) days' notice of which must be given in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city, the city council determines that granting of the 18 19 exemption or stabilization for qualifying property has inured or will inure to the benefit of the city 20 by reason of the willingness of the owners of qualifying property to replace, reconstruct, expand or 21 remodel existing buildings, facilities, machinery, or equipment with modern buildings, facilities, 22 fixtures, machinery, or equipment or to construct new buildings or facilities or acquire new 23 machinery or equipment for use in the buildings or facilities or to reoccupy or reuse the buildings 24 or facilities if they are vacant or abandoned for manufacturing/warehousing or research and 25 development, resulting in an increase in investment by the owners in the city. For purposes of this 26 section, "qualifying property" means any building or structures used or intended to be used 27 essentially for offices, manufacturing, or commercial enterprises, including, but not limited to, 28 financial service enterprises. Except as provided in this section, property, the payment of taxes on 29 which has been so exempted or which is subject to the payment of a stabilized amount of taxes, 30 shall not, during the period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount of taxes is 31 granted, be further liable to taxation by the city so long as that property is used or intended to be 32 used for the manufacturing or commercial purposes for which the exemption or stabilized amount 33 of taxes was made.

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44-5-61.2. Pawtucket -- Exemption or stabilizing of taxes on qualifying property

1 located in the city.

2 Except as provided in this section, the city council of the city of Pawtucket may vote to 3 authorize for a period not exceeding ten (10) years, and subject to the conditions provided in this 4 section, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal qualifying property, or to 5 determine a stabilized amount, of taxes to be paid on account of the qualifying property located 6 within the city of Pawtucket, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; 7 provided, that after a public hearing, at least ten (10) days' notice of which must be given in a 8 newspaper having a general circulation in the city, the city council determines that granting of the 9 exemption or stabilization for qualifying property will inure to the benefit of the city by reason of 10 the willingness of the owners of qualifying property to replace, reconstruct, expand or remodel 11 existing buildings, facilities, machinery, or equipment with modern buildings, facilities, fixtures, 12 machinery, or equipment or to construct new buildings or facilities or acquire new machinery or 13 equipment for use in the buildings or facilities or to reoccupy or reuse the buildings or facilities if 14 they are vacant or abandoned for manufacturing/warehousing or research and development, 15 resulting in an increase in investment by the owners in the city. For purposes of this section, 16 "qualifying property" means any building or structures used or intended to be used essentially for 17 offices, manufacturing, or commercial enterprises. Except as provided in this section, property, the 18 payment of taxes on which has been so exempted or which is subject to the payment of a stabilized 19 amount of taxes, shall not, during the period for which the exemption or stabilization of the amount 20 of taxes is granted, be further liable to taxation by the city so long as that property complies with 21 any stabilization agreement and is used or intended to be used for the manufacturing or commercial 22 purposes for which the exemption or stabilized amount of taxes was made. 23 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

LC000289

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

- 1 This act would repeal the authority of various cities and towns to provide certain tax
- 2 exemptions and tax stabilization agreements.
- 3 This act would take effect on July 1, 2021.

LC000289