

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 307

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS.

0600H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 137.115, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to property assessments.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 137.115, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 137.115, to read as follows:

137.115. 1. All other laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the assessor or the assessor's deputies in all counties of this state including the City of St. Louis shall annually make a list of all real and tangible personal property taxable in the assessor's city, county, town or district. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of this section and section 137.078, the assessor shall annually assess all personal property at thirty-three and one-third percent of its true value in money as of January first of each calendar year. The assessor shall annually assess all real property, including any new construction and improvements to real property, and possessory interests in real property at the percent of its true value in money set in subsection 5 of this section. The true value in money of any possessory interest in real property in subclass (3), where such real property is on or lies within the ultimate airport boundary as shown by a federal airport layout plan, as defined by 14 CFR 151.5, of a commercial airport having a FAR Part 139 certification and owned by a political subdivision, shall be the otherwise applicable true value in money of any such possessory interest in real property, less the total dollar amount of costs paid by a party, other than the political subdivision, towards any new construction or improvements on such real property completed after January 1, 2008, and which are included in the above-mentioned possessory interest, regardless of the year in which such costs were incurred or whether such costs were considered in any prior year. The assessor shall annually assess all

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 real property in the following manner: new assessed values shall be determined as of January  
19 first of each odd-numbered year and shall be entered in the assessor's books; those same assessed  
20 values shall apply in the following even-numbered year, except for new construction and  
21 property improvements which shall be valued as though they had been completed as of January  
22 first of the preceding odd-numbered year. The assessor may call at the office, place of doing  
23 business, or residence of each person required by this chapter to list property, and require the  
24 person to make a correct statement of all taxable tangible personal property owned by the person  
25 or under his or her care, charge or management, taxable in the county. On or before January first  
26 of each even-numbered year, the assessor shall prepare and submit a two-year assessment  
27 maintenance plan to the county governing body and the state tax commission for their respective  
28 approval or modification. The county governing body shall approve and forward such plan or  
29 its alternative to the plan to the state tax commission by February first. If the county governing  
30 body fails to forward the plan or its alternative to the plan to the state tax commission by  
31 February first, the assessor's plan shall be considered approved by the county governing body.  
32 If the state tax commission fails to approve a plan and if the state tax commission and the  
33 assessor and the governing body of the county involved are unable to resolve the differences, in  
34 order to receive state cost-share funds outlined in section 137.750, the county or the assessor  
35 shall petition the administrative hearing commission, by May first, to decide all matters in  
36 dispute regarding the assessment maintenance plan. Upon agreement of the parties, the matter  
37 may be stayed while the parties proceed with mediation or arbitration upon terms agreed to by  
38 the parties. The final decision of the administrative hearing commission shall be subject to  
39 judicial review in the circuit court of the county involved. In the event a valuation of subclass  
40 (1) real property within any county ~~[with a charter form of government,]~~ or within a city not  
41 within a county~~;~~ is made by a computer, computer-assisted method, or a computer program, the  
42 burden of proof, supported by clear, convincing, and cogent evidence to sustain such valuation,  
43 shall be on the assessor at any hearing or appeal. ~~[In any such county,]~~ Unless the assessor  
44 proves otherwise, there shall be a presumption that the assessment was made by a computer,  
45 computer-assisted method, or a computer program. Such evidence shall include, but shall not  
46 be limited to, the following:

47 (1) The findings of the assessor based on an appraisal of the property by generally  
48 accepted appraisal techniques; and

49 (2) The purchase prices from sales of at least three comparable properties and the address  
50 or location thereof. As used in this subdivision, the word "comparable" means that:

51 (a) Such sale was closed at a date relevant to the property valuation; and

52 (b) Such properties are not more than one mile from the site of the disputed property,  
53 except where no similar properties exist within one mile of the disputed property, the nearest

54 comparable property shall be used. Such property shall be within five hundred square feet in size  
55 of the disputed property, and resemble the disputed property in age, floor plan, number of rooms,  
56 and other relevant characteristics.

57 2. Assessors in each county of this state and the City of St. Louis may send personal  
58 property assessment forms through the mail.

59 3. The following items of personal property shall each constitute separate subclasses of  
60 tangible personal property and shall be assessed and valued for the purposes of taxation at the  
61 following percentages of their true value in money:

62 (1) Grain and other agricultural crops in an unmanufactured condition, one-half of one  
63 percent;

64 (2) Livestock, twelve percent;

65 (3) Farm machinery, twelve percent;

66 (4) Motor vehicles which are eligible for registration as and are registered as historic  
67 motor vehicles pursuant to section 301.131 and aircraft which are at least twenty-five years old  
68 and which are used solely for noncommercial purposes and are operated less than fifty hours per  
69 year or aircraft that are home built from a kit, five percent;

70 (5) Poultry, twelve percent; and

71 (6) Tools and equipment used for pollution control and tools and equipment used in  
72 retooling for the purpose of introducing new product lines or used for making improvements to  
73 existing products by any company which is located in a state enterprise zone and which is  
74 identified by any standard industrial classification number cited in subdivision (5) of section  
75 135.200, twenty-five percent.

76 4. The person listing the property shall enter a true and correct statement of the property,  
77 in a printed blank prepared for that purpose. The statement, after being filled out, shall be signed  
78 and either affirmed or sworn to as provided in section 137.155. The list shall then be delivered  
79 to the assessor.

80 5. All subclasses of real property, as such subclasses are established in Section 4(b) of  
81 Article X of the Missouri Constitution and defined in section 137.016, shall be assessed at the  
82 following percentages of true value:

83 (1) For real property in subclass (1), nineteen percent;

84 (2) For real property in subclass (2), twelve percent; and

85 (3) For real property in subclass (3), thirty-two percent.

86 6. Manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, which are actually used as  
87 dwelling units shall be assessed at the same percentage of true value as residential real property  
88 for the purpose of taxation. The percentage of assessment of true value for such manufactured  
89 homes shall be the same as for residential real property. If the county collector cannot identify

90 or find the manufactured home when attempting to attach the manufactured home for payment  
91 of taxes owed by the manufactured home owner, the county collector may request the county  
92 commission to have the manufactured home removed from the tax books, and such request shall  
93 be granted within thirty days after the request is made; however, the removal from the tax books  
94 does not remove the tax lien on the manufactured home if it is later identified or found. For  
95 purposes of this section, a manufactured home located in a manufactured home rental park, rental  
96 community or on real estate not owned by the manufactured home owner shall be considered  
97 personal property. For purposes of this section, a manufactured home located on real estate  
98 owned by the manufactured home owner may be considered real property.

99         7. Each manufactured home assessed shall be considered a parcel for the purpose of  
100 reimbursement pursuant to section 137.750, unless the manufactured home is **deemed to be** real  
101 estate ~~[as defined in]~~ **under** subsection 7 of section 442.015 and assessed as a realty  
102 improvement to the existing real estate parcel.

103         8. Any amount of tax due and owing based on the assessment of a manufactured home  
104 shall be included on the personal property tax statement of the manufactured home owner unless  
105 the manufactured home is **deemed to be** real estate ~~[as defined in]~~ **under** subsection 7 of section  
106 442.015, in which case the amount of tax due and owing on the assessment of the manufactured  
107 home as a realty improvement to the existing real estate parcel shall be included on the real  
108 property tax statement of the real estate owner.

109         9. The assessor of each county and each city not within a county shall use the trade-in  
110 value published in the October issue of the National Automobile Dealers' Association Official  
111 Used Car Guide, or its successor publication, as the recommended guide of information for  
112 determining the true value of motor vehicles described in such publication. The assessor shall  
113 not use a value that is greater than the average trade-in value in determining the true value of the  
114 motor vehicle without performing a physical inspection of the motor vehicle. For vehicles two  
115 years old or newer from a vehicle's model year, the assessor may use a value other than average  
116 without performing a physical inspection of the motor vehicle. In the absence of a listing for a  
117 particular motor vehicle in such publication, the assessor shall use such information or  
118 publications which in the assessor's judgment will fairly estimate the true value in money of the  
119 motor vehicle.

120         10. Before the assessor may increase the assessed valuation of any parcel of subclass (1)  
121 real property by more than fifteen percent since the last assessment, excluding increases due to  
122 new construction or improvements, the assessor shall conduct a physical inspection of such  
123 property.

124         11. If a physical inspection is required, pursuant to subsection 10 of this section, the  
125 assessor shall notify the property owner of that fact in writing and shall provide the owner clear

126 written notice of the owner's rights relating to the physical inspection. If a physical inspection  
127 is required, the property owner may request that an interior inspection be performed during the  
128 physical inspection. The owner shall have no less than thirty days to notify the assessor of a  
129 request for an interior physical inspection.

130         12. A physical inspection, as required by subsection 10 of this section, shall include, but  
131 not be limited to, an on-site personal observation and review of all exterior portions of the land  
132 and any buildings and improvements to which the inspector has or may reasonably and lawfully  
133 gain external access, and shall include an observation and review of the interior of any buildings  
134 or improvements on the property upon the timely request of the owner pursuant to subsection 11  
135 of this section. Mere observation of the property via a drive-by inspection or the like shall not  
136 be considered sufficient to constitute a physical inspection as required by this section.

137         13. The provisions of subsections 11 and 12 of this section shall only apply in any county  
138 with a charter form of government with more than one million inhabitants.

139         14. A county or city collector may accept credit cards as proper form of payment of  
140 outstanding property tax or license due. No county or city collector may charge surcharge for  
141 payment by credit card which exceeds the fee or surcharge charged by the credit card bank,  
142 processor, or issuer for its service. A county or city collector may accept payment by electronic  
143 transfers of funds in payment of any tax or license and charge the person making such payment  
144 a fee equal to the fee charged the county by the bank, processor, or issuer of such electronic  
145 payment.

146         15. Any county or city not within a county in this state may, by an affirmative vote of  
147 the governing body of such county, opt out of the provisions of this section and sections 137.073,  
148 138.060, and 138.100 as enacted by house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first general assembly,  
149 second regular session and section 137.073 as modified by house committee substitute for senate  
150 substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 960, ninety-second general  
151 assembly, second regular session, for the next year of the general reassessment, prior to January  
152 first of any year. No county or city not within a county shall exercise this opt-out provision after  
153 implementing the provisions of this section and sections 137.073, 138.060, and 138.100 as  
154 enacted by house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first general assembly, second regular session and  
155 section 137.073 as modified by house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate  
156 committee substitute for senate bill no. 960, ninety-second general assembly, second regular  
157 session, in a year of general reassessment. For the purposes of applying the provisions of this  
158 subsection, a political subdivision contained within two or more counties where at least one of  
159 such counties has opted out and at least one of such counties has not opted out shall calculate a  
160 single tax rate as in effect prior to the enactment of house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first general  
161 assembly, second regular session. A governing body of a city not within a county or a county

that has opted out under the provisions of this subsection may choose to implement the provisions of this section and sections 137.073, 138.060, and 138.100 as enacted by house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first general assembly, second regular session, and section 137.073 as modified by house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 960, ninety-second general assembly, second regular session, for the next year of general reassessment, by an affirmative vote of the governing body prior to December thirty-first of any year. **For all years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, no county or city not within a county shall opt out of the provisions of this section unless such county or city not within a county provides, in all hearings and appeals regarding a valuation of real property, that there shall be a presumption that all valuations of real property were made by a computer, computer-assisted method, or computer program and that the burden of proof to sustain a valuation shall be on the assessor.**

16. The governing body of any city of the third classification with more than twenty-six thousand three hundred but fewer than twenty-six thousand seven hundred inhabitants located in any county that has exercised its authority to opt out under subsection 15 of this section may levy separate and differing tax rates for real and personal property only if such city bills and collects its own property taxes or satisfies the entire cost of the billing and collection of such separate and differing tax rates. Such separate and differing rates shall not exceed such city's tax rate ceiling.

17. Any portion of real property that is available as reserve for strip, surface, or coal mining for minerals for purposes of excavation for future use or sale to others that has not been bonded and permitted under chapter 444 shall be assessed based upon how the real property is currently being used. Any information provided to a county assessor, state tax commission, state agency, or political subdivision responsible for the administration of tax policies shall, in the performance of its duties, make available all books, records, and information requested, except such books, records, and information as are by law declared confidential in nature, including individually identifiable information regarding a specific taxpayer or taxpayer's mine property. For purposes of this subsection, "mine property" shall mean all real property that is in use or readily available as a reserve for strip, surface, or coal mining for minerals for purposes of excavation for current or future use or sale to others that has been bonded and permitted under chapter 444.

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