

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 780

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHAPPELL.

1729H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

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

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Section A. Section 137.115, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 137.115, to read as follows: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

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

- 48 (1) The findings of the assessor based on an appraisal of the property by generally
49 accepted appraisal techniques; and
- 50 (2) The purchase prices from sales of at least three comparable properties and the
51 address or location thereof. As used in this subdivision, the word "comparable" means that:
 - 52 (a) Such sale was closed at a date relevant to the property valuation; and
 - 53 (b) Such properties are not more than one mile from the site of the disputed property,
54 except where no similar properties exist within one mile of the disputed property, the nearest

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

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

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

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

65 (2) Livestock, twelve percent;

66 (3) Farm machinery, twelve percent;

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

71 (5) Poultry, twelve percent; and

72 (6) Tools and equipment used for pollution control and tools and equipment used in
73 retooling for the purpose of introducing new product lines or used for making improvements
74 to existing products by any company which is located in a state enterprise zone and which is
75 identified by any standard industrial classification number cited in subdivision (7) of section
76 135.200, twenty-five percent.

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

81 5. (1) All subclasses of real property, as such subclasses are established in Section 4
82 (b) of Article X of the Missouri Constitution and defined in section 137.016, shall be assessed
83 at the following percentages of true value:

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

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

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

87 (2) A taxpayer may apply to the county assessor, or, if not located within a county,
88 then the assessor of such city, for the reclassification of such taxpayer's real property if the use
89 or purpose of such real property is changed after such property is assessed under the
90 provisions of this chapter. If the assessor determines that such property shall be reclassified,

91 he or she shall determine the assessment under this subsection based on the percentage of the
92 tax year that such property was classified in each subclassification.

93 6. Manufactured homes, as defined in section 700.010, which are actually used as
94 dwelling units shall be assessed at the same percentage of true value as residential real
95 property for the purpose of taxation. The percentage of assessment of true value for such
96 manufactured homes shall be the same as for residential real property. If the county collector
97 cannot identify or find the manufactured home when attempting to attach the manufactured
98 home for payment of taxes owed by the manufactured home owner, the county collector may
99 request the county commission to have the manufactured home removed from the tax books,
100 and such request shall be granted within thirty days after the request is made; however, the
101 removal from the tax books does not remove the tax lien on the manufactured home if it is
102 later identified or found. For purposes of this section, a manufactured home located in a
103 manufactured home rental park, rental community or on real estate not owned by the
104 manufactured home owner shall be considered personal property. For purposes of this
105 section, a manufactured home located on real estate owned by the manufactured home owner
106 may be considered real property.

107 7. Each manufactured home assessed shall be considered a parcel for the purpose of
108 reimbursement pursuant to section 137.750, unless the manufactured home is deemed to be
109 real estate as defined in subsection 7 of section 442.015 and assessed as a realty improvement
110 to the existing real estate parcel.

111 8. Any amount of tax due and owing based on the assessment of a manufactured
112 home shall be included on the personal property tax statement of the manufactured home
113 owner unless the manufactured home is deemed to be real estate as defined in subsection 7 of
114 section 442.015, in which case the amount of tax due and owing on the assessment of the
115 manufactured home as a realty improvement to the existing real estate parcel shall be
116 included on the real property tax statement of the real estate owner.

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

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

132 11. If a physical inspection is required, pursuant to subsection 10 of this section, the
133 assessor shall notify the property owner of that fact in writing and shall provide the owner
134 clear written notice of the owner's rights relating to the physical inspection. If a physical
135 inspection is required, the property owner may request that an interior inspection be
136 performed during the physical inspection. The owner shall have no less than thirty days to
137 notify the assessor of a request for an interior physical inspection.

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

146 13. A county or city collector may accept credit cards as proper form of payment of
147 outstanding property tax or license due. No county or city collector may charge surcharge for
148 payment by credit card which exceeds the fee or surcharge charged by the credit card bank,
149 processor, or issuer for its service. A county or city collector may accept payment by
150 electronic transfers of funds in payment of any tax or license and charge the person making
151 such payment a fee equal to the fee charged the county by the bank, processor, or issuer of
152 such electronic payment.

153 14. Any county or city not within a county in this state may, by an affirmative vote of
154 the governing body of such county, opt out of the provisions of this section and sections
155 137.073, 138.060, and 138.100 as enacted by house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first general
156 assembly, second regular session and section 137.073 as modified by house committee
157 substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 960, ninety-
158 second general assembly, second regular session, for the next year of the general
159 reassessment, prior to January first of any year. No county or city not within a county
160 shall exercise this opt-out provision after implementing the provisions of this section and
161 sections 137.073, 138.060, and 138.100 as enacted by house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first
162 general assembly, second regular session and section 137.073 as modified by house
163 committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill no.
164 960, ninety-second general assembly, second regular session, in a year of general

165 reassessment. For the purposes of applying the provisions of this subsection, a political
166 subdivision contained within two or more counties where at least one of such counties has
167 opted out and at least one of such counties has not opted out shall calculate a single tax rate as
168 in effect prior to the enactment of house bill no. 1150 of the ninety-first general assembly,
169 second regular session. A governing body of a city not within a county or a county that has
170 opted out under the provisions of this subsection may choose to implement the provisions of
171 this section and sections 137.073, 138.060, and 138.100 as enacted by house bill no. 1150 of
172 the ninety-first general assembly, second regular session, and section 137.073 as modified by
173 house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill
174 no. 960, ninety-second general assembly, second regular session, for the next year of general
175 reassessment, by an affirmative vote of the governing body prior to December thirty-first of
176 any year.

177 15. The governing body of any city of the third classification with more than twenty-
178 six thousand three hundred but fewer than twenty-six thousand seven hundred inhabitants
179 located in any county that has exercised its authority to opt out under subsection 14 of this
180 section may levy separate and differing tax rates for real and personal property only if such
181 city bills and collects its own property taxes or satisfies the entire cost of the billing and
182 collection of such separate and differing tax rates. Such separate and differing rates shall not
183 exceed such city's tax rate ceiling.

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

196 **17. (1) Except as provided under sections 137.017 and 137.021, and**
197 **notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other provision of law to**
198 **the contrary, beginning January 1, 2026, the true value in money of all residential real**
199 **property maintained and used by the owner as a primary residence for assessment**
200 **purposes shall be the same value determined at the most recent previous assessment of**
201 **the property as determined on or before December 31, 2025, subject to the following:**

202 **(a) For all residential real property maintained and used by the owner as a**
203 **primary residence that is bought, transferred, sold, assigned, or otherwise conveyed on**
204 **or after January 1, 2026, the true value in money of such property for assessment**
205 **purposes shall not exceed the most recent purchase price of such real property. Such**
206 **true value in money shall be the true value in money for all subsequent assessments until**
207 **the next sale of such property, or the conditions under paragraph (b) of this subdivision**
208 **are met, subject to the provisions of section 137.082 and the provisions of subdivisions**
209 **(3) and (4) of this subsection; or**

210 **(b) For all assessments of residential real property maintained and used by the**
211 **owner as a primary residence on or after January 1, 2026, the assessed valuation of such**
212 **property may be increased from the assessed valuation of such property determined at**
213 **its most recent previous assessment or the assessed value at the most recent time of sale**
214 **under paragraph (a) of this subdivision but only to the extent that such an increase**
215 **reflects the value added to the property as a result of new construction or improvements**
216 **made to the property where the added value equals a fifty percent increase or greater in**
217 **the assessed valuation of the property. The assessor shall establish a new assessed**
218 **valuation, which shall be the true value in money for all subsequent assessments until**
219 **the conditions under this paragraph are met again or the next sale of such property**
220 **under paragraph (a) of this subdivision, subject to the provisions of section 137.082 and**
221 **the provisions of subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection.**

222 **(2) If a transaction under this subsection results in a sale that is below market**
223 **value, the assessor shall provide evidence to the board of equalization or other**
224 **equivalent entity that such sale price should not be used to determine the new true value**
225 **in money for assessment purposes.**

226 **(3) The owner shall notify the assessor of such new construction or**
227 **improvements so that a reassessment can be made.**

228 **(4) Participation in the assessed valuation provisions under this subsection is**
229 **optional. An owner electing to participate in the assessed valuation provisions under**
230 **this subsection may opt in by notifying the assessor's office of such election. If such**
231 **election is not made, the residential real property maintained and used by the owner as a**
232 **primary residence shall be assessed under the assessment process in existence on or**
233 **before December 31, 2025.**

234 **(5) The provisions of this subsection shall not affect the ability of any county**
235 **assessor to carry out any other duties under this chapter or local or general law.**