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DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
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Bulletin 17 of 2024
November 19, 2024
Procedural Changes for 2025

TO: Assessing Officers and County Equalization Directors
FROM: Michigan State Tax Commission
SUBJECT: Procedural Changes for the 2025 Assessment Year

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide information on statutory changes, procedural changes and reminders for the 2025 assessment year. Additional guidance may be issued later if any pending legislation is enacted by the end of the year.

A. Inflation Rate Used in the 2025 Capped Value Formula

The inflation rate, expressed as a multiplier, to be used in the 2025 Capped Value Formula is 1.031.

The 2025 Capped Value Formula is as follows:

$$\text{2025 CAPPED VALUE} = (\text{2024 Taxable Value} - \text{LOSSES}) \times 1.031 + \text{ADDITIONS}$$

The formula above does not include 1.05 because the inflation rate multiplier of 1.031 is lower than 1.05.

B. Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions for 2025

Local governing bodies are required to adopt guidelines that set income levels for their poverty exemption guidelines and those income levels **shall not be set lower** by a city or township than the federal poverty guidelines updated annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means, for example, that the income level for a household of 3 persons shall not be set lower than \$25,820 which is the amount shown on the following chart for a family of 3 persons. The income level for a family of 3 persons may be set higher than \$25,820. Following are the federal poverty guidelines for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2025 assessments:

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720
For each additional person	\$5,380

Note: MCL 211.7u states that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit shall also include an asset level test. An asset test means the amount of cash, fixed assets or other property that could be used, or converted to cash for use in the payment of property taxes. The asset test should calculate a maximum amount permitted and all other assets above that amount should be considered as available. Please see STC Bulletin 22 of 2023 for more information on poverty exemptions.

Note: MCL 211.7u allows an affidavit (Treasury Form 4988) to be filed for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current year or in the immediately preceding year. This includes the owner of the property who is filing for the exemption.

C. Sales Studies

Equalization study dates are as follows for 2025 equalization:

- Two Year Study: April 1, two years prior through March 31, current year
- Single Year Study: October 1, preceding year through September 30, current year

For 2024 studies for 2025 equalization the dates are as follows:

- Two Year Study: April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024
- Single Year Study: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

Note that the time period revisions apply to all equalization studies, that is: sales ratio studies, land value studies and economic condition factor studies for appraisals. Also note that the revised time period for two-year studies applies to all real property classifications.

D. Property Classification

The State Tax Commission reminds assessors that classification is to be determined annually and is based upon the current use of the property **and not** highest and best use of the property. The Commission is aware that some assessors are still classifying property according to highest and best use and/or are not classifying property on an annual basis. The Commission asks that all assessors take the necessary steps to ensure that all real and personal property is properly classified according to MCL 211.34c.

E. Public Act 660 of 2018 Training Requirements

Required Training: Assessors and Support Staff

PA 660 states that local units must ensure that support staff is sufficiently trained to respond to taxpayer inquiries. PA 660 also states that local units must require that assessors maintain their certification levels. Support staff is all non-certified staff that are involved in the development of the assessment roll, including field work, and any individual that may supply information from the assessment roll to the public. Certified staff members are required to meet annual continuing education requirements.

The State Tax Commission adopted the following requirements for support staff training at the October 20, 2020 meeting:

1. **Certified Support Staff:** Support staff who are certified will be required to complete their annual continuing education requirements to satisfy this audit requirement. Proof of completion and the required Form 5730 should be attached to the Assessor's Certification of the Assessment Roll and maintained with local unit records.
2. **Uncertified Support Staff:** Beginning in 2022, uncertified support staff will be required to complete training at least once every two years on key updates to assessing to meet this audit requirement. Proof of completion and the required Form 5730 should be attached to the Assessor's Certification of the Assessment Roll and maintained with local unit records.

Required Training: Board of Review members

PA 660 states that local units **must require** that its board of review members receive board of review training and updates required and approved by the State Tax Commission. Checking to ensure that board of review members are trained is now required as part of the audit of the local unit starting in 2023.

The State Tax Commission has determined that beginning in 2022, Board of Review members will be required to complete Board of Review training at least once every two years to meet this audit requirement.

This training will be offered by the State Tax Commission, or by outside organizations with State Tax Commission approval and use of State Tax Commission approved materials. Proof of completion and the required Form 5731 should be attached to the Board of Review's Certification of the Assessment Roll and maintained with local unit records. Board of Review members will need to make sure they receive proof of completion and that it is provided to the local unit so it can be properly maintained and provided during the audit.

F. Tax Tribunal Reminders

The Tax Tribunal Rules were updated on September 29, 2023. Summaries of the changes are in the Tribunal's November 3, 2022 and October 10, 2023 newsletters.

Assessors representing their local unit in Tax Tribunal hearings need to submit evidence to support the value of the property under appeal. If the assessor is relying on the property record card as evidence of value, the property record card must be for the year(s) being appealed. The complete property record card, including all calculations should be provided; do not submit a property record card that states "calculations too long" and then fail to include the additional calculations. Also, it is important to submit the studies prepared that support the economic condition factor and land value on the record card. Assessors should also be able to explain at the Tax Tribunal hearing how the value shown on the property record card was calculated.

The Tax Tribunal asks that assessors include copies of the adopted local unit poverty guidelines/resolutions, Economic Condition Factor studies, and land values studies (when applicable) when submitting documents for Small Claims hearings.

Assessors are also reminded that any change in contact information, including a change in email address, must be submitted to the Tax Tribunal to ensure that all case notifications are received.

More information regarding the Michigan Tax Tribunal, including Tribunal Rules, forms and instructions is available at www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal.

G. Disabled Veterans Exemption Changes

Public Acts 150, 151, and 152 of 2023 were signed by the Governor on October 19, 2023. The Acts remove the authority of the Boards of Review to review and approve disabled veterans exemptions. All applications for a disabled veterans exemption are to be reviewed and approved or denied by the assessor. **Assessors should not take 2025 disabled veterans exemption applications to the Board of Review.**

A disabled veteran or an unremarried surviving spouse must file the application to claim the exemption for 2025 after January 1 and before December 31. Assessors should timely review the applications and approve the exemption or issue a written denial.

Under MCL 211.7c, a disabled veterans exemption granted as to taxes levied on or after January 1, 2025 remains in effect, without subsequent reapplication, until rescinded by the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse or denied by the assessor.

See Bulletin 19 of 2023 and the Disabled Veterans Exemption Q&A for more information.

H. Qualified Heavy Equipment Rental Personal Property Exemption

MCL 211.9p provides an exemption for qualified heavy equipment rental personal property beginning December 31, 2022. This exemption is not mandatory and may be claimed at the option of the qualified renter. Once qualified for the QHERPP exemption under MCL 211.9p, qualifying personal property will be exempt from ad valorem taxes and instead pay the specific tax as provided by Public Act 35 of 2022 (MCL 211.1121 - 211.1133).

Qualified heavy equipment rental personal property (QHERPP) is defined in MCL 211.9p(8)(f) as any construction, earthmoving, or industrial equipment that is mobile and rented to customers by a qualified renter, including attachments or other ancillary equipment for that equipment. Qualified heavy equipment rental personal property does not include handheld tools or equipment solely designed for industry-specific uses in oil and gas exploration, mining, or forestry.

The exemption must be claimed annually with the assessor by February 20 (postmark is acceptable) by filing Form 5819 *Qualified Heavy Equipment Rental Personal Property Exemption Claim* and a statement prescribed by the Department of Treasury of all QHERPP located at and/or rented from the qualified renter business location. If the statement is not delivered to the assessor by February 20, a late application can be filed directly with the March Board of Review where the qualified renter business is located.

Assessors are statutorily required to transmit a copy of the claim form, indicating whether the claim was approved or denied, and any other required parcel information to the Department of Treasury no later than April 1 each year. The information must be submitted electronically by emailing to Treas-QHERPP@michigan.gov

More information is available in Bulletin 18 of 2022.

I. Small Business Taxpayer Personal Property Tax Exemption

Public Act 150 of 2021 was signed by the Governor on December 23, 2021. The Act amended the Small Business Taxpayer Personal Property Tax Exemption (MCL 211.9o) to increase the combined true cash value limit for “eligible personal property” in a local unit from \$80,000 to \$180,000 beginning in 2023. The exemption is required to be claimed with the local unit (city or township where the property is located) by February 20, 2025 (postmark is acceptable) by submitting the completed Form 5076 *Small Business Property Tax Exemption Claim Under MCL 211.9o*. Late filed forms may be filed directly with the 2024 March Board of Review prior to the closure of the March Board.

Personal Property Valued Less Than \$80,000

To claim an exemption for personal property valued less than \$80,000, Form 5076 must be filed with the local unit (City or Township) where the personal property is located no later than February 20, 2025 (postmark is acceptable). Late filed forms may be filed directly with the local unit March Board of Review prior to the closure of the March Board of Review. Taxpayers must contact the local unit directly to determine the March Board of Review dates.

Once the exemption is granted for personal property valued at less than \$80,000, the taxpayer will continue to receive the exemption until they no longer qualify for the exemption. Once they no longer qualify, the taxpayer is required to file a rescission form and a personal property statement no later than February 20 of the year that the property is no longer eligible. Failure to file the rescission form will result in significant penalty and interest as prescribed in MCL 211.9o.

Personal Property Valued Greater than or Equal to \$80,000 but Less than \$180,000

To claim an exemption for personal property valued at \$80,000 or more but less than \$180,000, Form 5076 **along with** Form 632 *Personal Property Statement* must be filed **ANNUALLY** with the local unit (City or Township) where the personal property is located no later than February 20, 2025 (postmark is acceptable). Late filed forms may be filed directly with the local unit March Board of Review prior to the closure of the March Board of Review.

Assessors are statutorily required to transmit the information contained in both Form 5076 and Form 632 *Personal Property Statement* and any other required parcel information to the Department of Treasury no later than April 1 each year.

J. EMPP and ESA Reminders

Beginning in 2024, parcels that received the EMPP exemption in the immediately preceding year carry forward the exemption in each subsequent year until the property becomes ineligible for the exemption. A Combined Document (Form 5278) needs to be filed to claim the EMPP exemption only on those parcels that did not receive the EMPP exemption in the immediately preceding year. Taxpayers will report the addition or removal of exempt property from their parcel on their ESA Statement filed electronically with the Department of Treasury through the Michigan Treasury Online (MTO) system.

Taxpayers may request the removal of the EMPP exemption on a parcel for the current year, by filing Form 5277 with the assessor in which the parcel is reported by February 20, 2025. Assessors should report receipt of any Form 5277 in their CAMA software.

If a parcel is transferred to a new taxpayer, it is necessary for the previous owner to file Form 5277 to rescind the parcel under their FEIN and the new owner to file Form 5278 to claim the EMPP under their FEIN.

At times, taxpayers attempt to add a parcel to their ESA Statement that was not previously reported to the Department of Treasury. In these cases, the ESA Section will reach out to the assessor to ask if a Combined Document (Form 5278) was filed for the parcel and, if it was, request a copy of the Form. ESA Staff will also ask for a letter confirming that the EMPP exemption was claimed properly and that the failure to transmit the information to the Department of Treasury was not the fault of the taxpayer. These letters are not used to incriminate an assessor who made a mistake, but rather to add to Treasury files to document why a parcel was added to an ESA Statement after the statement was generated on May 1.

The ESA Section has received consent judgments entered by the Michigan Tax Tribunal for stipulated agreements between EMPP claimants and the local units in which they have personal property. It is extremely important that any stipulated agreement filed with the Michigan Tax Tribunal indicates that the personal property reported on the parcel meets the definition of “eligible manufacturing personal property,” identifies which eligible manufacturing personal property qualifies for the exemption under MCL 211.9m and MCL 211.9n and directs the Department of Treasury to generate an ESA statement so that the taxpayer may pay ESA on the exempt personal property. Assessors are advised to contact the ESA Section for a list of previous dockets that contained the appropriate requirements.

More information is available in the Assessors Guide to EMPP and ESA available online at www.michigan.gov/propertytaxexemptions.

Further information and guidance on the Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property (EMPP) Exemption, Special Acts and the Essential Services Assessment (ESA) is available at www.michigan.gov/ESA. Additional questions should be sent via email to ESAQuestions@michigan.gov.

K. Omitted or Incorrectly Reported Property (MCL 211.154)

Assessors are reminded that when submitting 154 petitions it is necessary to include complete copies of the property record cards for every year a change is being requested on the petition. For example, if a 154 petition requests a change for 2023 and 2024, the property record card for 2023 and the property record card for 2024 should be submitted. In addition, assessors must submit the calculations and documents needed to understand the reasons for the change and the amount of the requested change in the assessment and taxable values.

For 154 petitions involving removal of personal property, staff may request verification that the assessor inspected the personal property location or otherwise confirmed that the personal property was disposed of and was not located in the local unit on the applicable tax day. Additionally, staff may inquire as to the extent of the assessor’s communication with the taxpayer to confirm that personal property was reported in the new location.

Questions can be directed to the staff at Treas-154petitions@michigan.gov. Additional information, including Bulletin 2 of 2018 and copies of the approved forms, are available online at www.michigan.gov/154petitions.

L. Authority of July and December Boards of Review

Assessors are reminded that the July and December Boards of Review may only act on matters described in MCL 211.53b or expressly permitted by other statutes. This includes qualified errors listed in MCL 211.53b(6), and appeals related to poverty exemptions, qualified agricultural property exemptions, and qualified forest property exemptions.

In addition, other statutes, such as MCL 211.7ss related to the eligible development property exemption provide authority for the July and December Board of Review to take action.

Assessors should carefully review the Board of Review Q&A and Bulletins 21 of 2023 and 24 of 2023 to ensure their Boards of Review are acting within their statutory authorities.

Assessors should not be requesting that the July or December Boards of Review take action outside of the limited authority provided in MCL 211.53b.

Beginning July 11, 2022, **the July and December Board of Review have no authority to grant a PRE**. Assessors are asked to ensure that the July and December Boards of Review does not take action related to PRE claims.

Beginning October 19, 2023, assessors were granted the authority to grant timely filed Disabled Veterans Exemptions, thus nullifying the need to take Disabled Veteran Exemption applications to the Board of Review. PA 152 of 2023 clarified the definition of “qualified errors” as it relates to the July and December Board of Review authority for granting Disabled Veteran Exemptions as a “qualified error”.

M. 2025 State Tax Commission Updates Class

At the August 20, 2024 State Tax Commission meeting, the recommendations of the Education and Certification Committee were approved.

To recertify for 2026 MCAT (Michigan Certified Assessing Technicians) must complete four (4) hours of continuing education (November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025). To meet the required four (4) hours of continuing education, Technicians have the option to complete the 2025 STC Updates course, any continuing education course approved by the STC, or an STC online continuing education course of their choice (**excluding** the *Learning the HP12C Calculator* course) offered through the STC Online Education Portal. Any individual certified at the MCAT level who wishes to expand their knowledge of assessment may take additional approved assessment administration courses during the same renewal period. However, courses taken beyond the four (4)

hours will not be entered into the Commission's online MiSuite System and will not count toward education credit for recertification purposes.

To recertify for 2026, MCAO, MAAO and MMAO assessors must complete the 2025 State Tax Commission Updates Course ***in addition to the 16 hours of continuing education***. The 2025 State Tax Commission Updates Course can be completed in-person or through the STC Online Education Portal.

This class will be available both in-person at various locations across the state and online through the State Tax Commission Online Education Portal at <https://coned.mi-stc.org>. The dates and locations for the in-person classes will be posted to the State Tax Commission website.

2026 Online Education Portal and MiSUITE Login

STC Online Education Portal

The State Tax Commission offers a variety of online classes, available free of charge, that provide continuing education credit. The online classes can be accessed at <https://coned.mi-stc.org>. This site is only available to Michigan certified assessors and technicians. If you have an issue with your log in credentials, especially password resets, email Treas-MiSuitehelp@michigan.gov. If you require a password reset, **do not use the Forgotten Your Username or Password link on the page**. Instead, send an email to the State Tax Commission and staff will manually reset your password.

You must complete all requirements of the online course before you will receive your certificate of completion for the course. If a certificate is not emailed to you, then you likely did not complete one or more of the course requirements. The requirements that must be completed are listed at the top of each course and as you complete each one, they will be removed from the list.

Once you have received your certificate, you are responsible for uploading it into the MiSUITE platform to receive the continuing education credit for the course.

MiSUITE

Passwords expire after 90 days. If your password is expired, you will automatically be redirected to an Update Password page upon attempting to log in. Simply create a new password, confirm that password, and click "update."

You can access MiSUITE by going to <https://sso.misuite.app>

Assessors can check continuing education hours by logging into the MiSUITE system and checking your profile page. Total hours remaining to be completed are listed on the profile page in MiSUITE as well as the completed classes that have been properly logged into the system.

Assessors are responsible for logging their own continuing education hours in MiSUITE. When logging credit, be sure to pick the correct course, date, location, and upload proof of attendance.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need further assistance, please email Treas-MiSUITEHelp@michigan.gov.