

H.437

An act relating to changes that affect the revenue of the State

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Property Transfer Tax Surcharge * * *

Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 9602 is amended to read:

§ 9602. TAX ON TRANSFER OF TITLE TO PROPERTY

A tax is hereby imposed upon the transfer by deed of title to property located in this State, or a transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest in any person with title to property in this State. The amount of the tax equals one and one-quarter percent of the value of the property transferred; or \$1.00, whichever is greater, except as follows:

* * *

(4) With respect to all transfers by deed of title to property located in this State, a surcharge shall be imposed at the rate of one half of a percent of the value of the property transferred in excess of \$1,000,000.00.

(5) The Commissioner shall annually estimate the amount of revenue raised by the surcharge imposed pursuant to subdivision (4) of this section and transfer that same amount to the General Fund established under section 435 of this title.

* * * Allocation of Property Transfer Tax Surcharge Revenue * * *

Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 435(b) is amended to read:

(b) The General Fund shall be composed of revenues from the following sources:

* * *

(10)(A) 33 percent of the revenue from the property transfer taxes levied pursuant to chapter 231 of this title and the revenue from the gains taxes levied each year pursuant to chapter 236 of this title; and

(B) notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(10), the revenue raised by the surcharge imposed pursuant to subdivision 9602(4) of this title;

* * *

Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 9610 is amended to read:

§ 9610. REMITTANCE OF RETURN AND TAX; INSPECTION OF
RETURNS

* * *

(c) Prior to distributions of property transfer tax revenues under 10 V.S.A. § 312, 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), and subdivision 435(b)(10) of this title, two percent of the revenues received from the property transfer tax shall be deposited in a special fund in the Department of Taxes for Property Valuation and Review administration costs.

(d)(1) Prior to any distribution of property transfer tax revenue under 10 V.S.A. § 312, 24 V.S.A. § 4306(a), subdivision 435(b)(10) of this title, and subsection (c) of this section, \$2,500,000.00 of the revenue received from the property transfer tax shall be transferred to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency to pay the principal of and interest due on the bonds, notes, and other obligations authorized to be issued by the Agency pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 621(22), the proceeds of which the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall use to create affordable housing pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 314.

* * *

(e) Notwithstanding subsections (c) and (d) of this section and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Commissioner of Taxes shall annually estimate the revenue raised by the surcharge imposed pursuant to subdivision 9602(4) of this chapter and transfer that same amount to the General Fund established under section 435 of this title.

* * * Sales Tax; Exemption; Manufacturing Machinery

and Equipment * * *

Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 9741(14) is amended to read:

(14)(A) Tangible personal property ~~which~~ that becomes an ingredient or component part of, or is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property for sale;

(B) machinery Machinery and equipment ~~for use or consumption directly and exclusively, except for isolated or occasional uses, used in or consumed as an integral or essential part of an integrated production operation by a manufacturing or processing plant or facility engaged in the manufacture of tangible personal property for sale, or in the manufacture of other machinery or equipment, parts, or supplies for use in the manufacturing process; and devices used to monitor manufacturing machinery and equipment or the product during the manufacturing process. Machinery and equipment used in administrative, managerial, sales, or other nonproduction activities, or used prior to the first production operation or subsequent to the initial packaging of a product, shall not be exempt from tax, unless such uses are merely isolated or occasional or unless the machinery used for initial packaging is also used for secondary packaging as part of an integrated process. Machinery and equipment shall not include buildings and structural components thereof. As used in this subdivision, it shall be rebuttably presumed that uses are not isolated or occasional if they total more than four percent of the time the machinery or equipment is operated.~~ For the purposes of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (14), “manufacture” includes extraction of mineral deposits, the entire printing and bookmaking process, and the entire publication process.

(C) As used in this subdivision (14):

(i) “Integrated production operation” means an integrated series of operations at a manufacturing or processing plant or facility to process, transform, or convert tangible personal property by physical, chemical, or other means into a different form, composition, or character from that in which it originally existed. Integrated production operations begin when raw material is first changed physically, chemically, or otherwise in form, composition, or character, including being removed from storage or introduced for this manipulation, and end when the product is placed in initial packaging and shall include production line operations, including initial packaging operations, and waste, pollution, and environmental control operations.

(ii) “Manufacturing or processing business” means a business that utilizes an integrated production operation to manufacture, process, fabricate, or finish items for wholesale and retail distribution as part of what is commonly regarded by the general public as an industrial manufacturing or processing operation or an agricultural commodity processing operation. “Manufacturing or processing business” does not include nonindustrial businesses whose operations are primarily retail and that produce or process tangible personal property as an incidental part of conducting the retail business, such as retailers who bake, cook, or prepare food products in the regular course of their retail trade; the assembling of product by retailers for sale; grocery stores, meat lockers, and meat markets that butcher or dress

livestock or poultry in the regular course of their retail trade; contractors who alter, service, repair, or improve real property; and retail businesses that clean, service, or refurbish and repair tangible personal property for its owner. The examples provided in this subdivision (ii) shall not be construed as exclusive.

(iii) “Manufacturing or processing plant or facility” means a single, fixed location owned or controlled by a manufacturing or processing business that consists of one or more structures or buildings in a contiguous area where integrated production operations are conducted to manufacture or process tangible personal property to be ultimately sold at retail. A business may operate one or more manufacturing or processing plants or facilities at different locations to manufacture or process a single product of tangible personal property to be ultimately sold at retail.

(iv) “Primary” or “primarily” means more than 50 percent of the time.

(v) “Production line” means the assemblage of machinery and equipment at a manufacturing or processing plant or facility where the actual transformation or processing of tangible personal property occurs.

(D) For the purposes of this subdivision (14), machinery and equipment shall be deemed to be used as an integral or essential part of an integrated production operation when used during the integrated production operation:

(i) to transport, convey, handle, or store the property undergoing manufacturing or processing at any point from the beginning of the production line until it is placed into initial packaging;

(ii) to act upon, effect, promote, or otherwise facilitate a physical change to the property undergoing manufacturing or processing;

(iii) to guide, control, or direct the movement of property undergoing manufacturing or processing;

(iv) to test or measure materials, the property undergoing manufacturing or processing, or the finished product during the manufacturer's integrated production operations;

(v) to plan, manage, control, or record the receipt and flow of property while undergoing manufacturing or processing;

(vi) to lubricate, control the operating of, or otherwise enable the functioning of other production machinery and equipment and the continuation of production operations;

(vii) to transmit or transport electricity, gas, water, steam, or similar substances used in production operations from the point of generation, if produced by the manufacturer or processor at the plant site, to that manufacturer's production operation; or, if purchased or delivered from off-site, from the point where the substance enters the site of the plant or facility to that manufacturer's production operations;

(viii) to package the property being manufactured or processed in any container or wrapping in which such property is normally sold or transported, even if the machinery operates after the point of initial packaging;

(ix) to cool, heat, filter, refine, or otherwise treat water, steam, acid, oil, solvents, or other substances that are used in production operations;

(x) to provide and control an environment required to maintain certain levels of air quality, humidity, or temperature in special and limited areas of the plant or facility where such regulation of temperature or humidity is part of and essential to the production process;

(xi) to treat, transport, or store waste or other byproducts of production operations at the plant or facility and to clean manufacturing machinery and equipment;

(xii) to control pollution at the plant or facility where the pollution is produced by the manufacturing or processing operation; or

(xiii) to inspect or conduct quality control on the product, even if the inspection or quality control machinery operates after the point of initial packaging.

(E) “Machinery and equipment used as an integral or essential part of an integrated production operation” does not mean:

(i) machinery and equipment used for nonproduction purposes, including machinery and equipment used for plant security, fire prevention,

first aid, accounting, administration, record keeping, advertising, marketing, sales or other related activities, plant cleaning, plant communications, and employee work scheduling;

(ii) machinery, equipment, and tools used primarily in maintaining and repairing any type of machinery and equipment or the building and plant;

(iii) transportation, transmission, and distribution equipment not primarily used in a production, warehousing, or material handling operation at the plant or facility, including the means of conveyance of natural gas, electricity, oil, or water, and related equipment, located outside the plant or facility;

(iv) office machines and equipment, including computers and related peripheral equipment, not used directly and primarily to control or measure the manufacturing process;

(v) furniture and other furnishings;

(vi) buildings, other than exempt machinery and equipment that is permanently affixed to or becomes a physical part of the building, and any other part of real estate that is not otherwise exempt;

(vii) building fixtures that are not integral to the manufacturing operation, such as utility systems for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, communications, plumbing, or electrical;

(viii) machinery and equipment used for general plant heating, cooling, and lighting; or

(ix) motor vehicles that are registered for operation on public highways.

(F) Subdivisions (D) and (E) of this subdivision (14) shall not be construed as exclusive lists of the machinery and equipment that qualify or do not qualify as an integral or essential part of an integrated production operation. When machinery or equipment is used as an integral or essential part of production operations part of the time and for nonproduction purposes at other times, the primary use of the machinery or equipment shall determine the qualification of the machinery or equipment for the exemption.

* * * Affordable Housing Tax Credit; Manufactured Homes * * *

Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 5930u(g) is amended to read:

(g)(1) In any fiscal year, the allocating agency may award up to:

(A) \$400,000.00 in total first-year credit allocations to all applicants for rental housing projects, for an aggregate limit of \$2,000,000.00 over any given five-year period that credits are available under this subdivision (A);

(B) ~~\$425,000.00~~ \$675,000.00 in total first-year credit allocations for loans or grants for owner-occupied unit financing or down payment loans as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this section consistent with the allocation plan, including for new construction and manufactured housing, for an

aggregate limit of ~~\$2,125,000.00~~ \$3,375,000.00 over any given five-year period that credits are available under this subdivision (B). Of the total first-year credit allocations made under this subdivision (B), \$250,000.00 shall be used each fiscal year for manufactured home purchase and replacement.

(2) If the full amount of first-year credits authorized by an award are not allocated to a taxpayer, the Agency may reclaim the amount not allocated and re-award such allocations to other applicants, and such re-awards shall not be subject to the limits set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.