

1 H.546

2 An act relating to administrative and policy changes to tax laws

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

4 * * * Per Parcel Fee for Property Reappraisal * * *

5 Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 4041a is amended to read:

6 § 4041a. REAPPRAISAL

7 (a) A municipality shall be paid \$8.50 per grand list parcel per year from
8 the ~~Education~~ General Fund to be used only for reappraisal and costs related to
9 reappraisal of its grand list properties and for maintenance of the grand list.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 5412 is amended to read:

12 § 5412. REDUCTION OF LISTED VALUE AND RECALCULATION OF
13 EDUCATION TAX LIABILITY

14 (a)(1) If a listed value is reduced as the result of an appeal or court action
15 made pursuant to section 4461 of this title, a municipality may submit a
16 request for the Director of Property Valuation and Review to recalculate its
17 education property tax liability for the education grand list value lost due to a
18 determination, declaratory judgment, or settlement. The Director shall
19 recalculate the municipality's education property tax liability for each year at
20 issue, in accord with the reduced valuation, provided that:

21 (A) The reduction in valuation is the result of an appeal under chapter
22 131 of this title to the Director of Property Valuation and Review or to a court,

1 with no further appeal available with regard to that valuation, or any judicial
2 decision with no further right of appeal, or a settlement of either an appeal or
3 court action if the Director determines that the settlement value is the fair
4 market value of the parcel. The Director may waive the requirement of
5 continuing an appeal or court action until there is no further right of appeal if
6 the Director concludes that the value determined by an adjudicated decision is
7 a reasonable representation of the fair market value of the parcel.

8 (B) The municipality submits the request on or before January 15 for
9 a request involving an appeal or court action resolved within the previous
10 calendar year.

11 (C) [Repealed.]

12 (D) The Director determines that the municipality's actions were
13 consistent with best practices published by the Property Valuation and Review
14 in consultation with the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association. The
15 municipality shall have the burden of showing that its actions were consistent
16 with the Director's best practices.

17 * * *

18 * * * Annual Link to Federal Income Tax Law * * *

19 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 5824 is amended to read:

20 § 5824. ADOPTION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS

1 The statutes of the United States relating to the federal income tax, as in
2 effect on December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023, but without regard to federal income tax
3 rates under 26 U.S.C. § 1, are hereby adopted for the purpose of computing the
4 tax liability under this chapter and shall continue in effect as adopted until
5 amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the General Assembly.

6 Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 7402 is amended to read:

7 § 7402. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this chapter unless the context requires otherwise:

9 * * *

10 (8) “Laws of the United States” means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
11 of 1986, as amended through December 31, ~~2022~~ 2023. As used in this
12 chapter, “Internal Revenue Code” has the same meaning as “laws of the United
13 States” as defined in this subdivision. The date through which amendments to
14 the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are adopted under this subdivision
15 shall continue in effect until amended, repealed, or replaced by act of the
16 General Assembly.

17 * * *

18 * * * Expansion of Renter Credit * * *

19 Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 6061 is amended to read:

20 § 6061. DEFINITIONS

21 As used in this chapter unless the context requires otherwise:

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(20) “Very low-income limit” means an amount of income 1.3 times the amount of the income limit for very low-income families as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1437a as of June 30 of the taxable year, provided that for claimants who reside in Franklin or Grand Isle ~~county~~ County, “very low-income limit” means 1.3 times the average of the very low-income limits for the State as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

* * * Repeal of Property Tax Credit Late Fee * * *

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 6066a is amended as follows:

§ 6066a. DETERMINATION OF PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

(a) Annually, the Commissioner shall determine the property tax credit amount under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant, based on the prior taxable year’s income and crediting property taxes paid in the prior year. The Commissioner shall notify the municipality in which the housesite is located of the amount of the property tax credit for the claimant for homestead property tax liabilities on a monthly basis. The tax credit of a claimant who was assessed property tax by a town that revised the dates of its fiscal year, however, is the excess of the property tax that was assessed in the last 12 months of the revised fiscal year, over the adjusted

1 property tax of the claimant for the revised fiscal year, as determined under
2 section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant.

3 * * *

4 (d) ~~For late claims filed after April 15, the property tax credit amount shall~~
5 ~~be reduced by \$15.00 [Repealed.]~~

6 * * *

7 Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 6068 is amended to read:

8 § 6068. APPLICATION AND TIME FOR FILING

9 (a) A property tax credit claim or request for allocation of an income tax
10 refund to homestead property tax payment shall be filed with the
11 Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax
12 return, without extension, and shall describe the school district in which the
13 homestead property is located and shall particularly describe the homestead
14 property for which the credit or allocation is sought, including the school
15 parcel account number prescribed in subsection 5404(b) of this title. A renter
16 credit claim shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for
17 filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension.

18 (b) ~~If the claimant fails to file a timely claim, the amount of the property~~
19 ~~tax credit under this chapter shall be reduced by \$15.00, but not below \$0.00,~~
20 ~~which shall be paid to the municipality for the cost of issuing an adjusted~~
21 ~~homestead property tax bill.~~ If the claimant files a claim after October 15 but

1 on or before March 15 of the following calendar year, the property tax credit
2 under this chapter:

3 (1) shall be reduced in amount by \$150.00, but not below \$0.00;

4 (2) shall be issued directly to the claimant; and

5 (3) shall not require the municipality where the claimant's property is
6 located to issue an adjusted homestead property tax bill.

7 (c) No request for allocation of an income tax refund or for a renter credit
8 claim may be made after October 15. No property tax credit claim may be
9 made after March 15 of the calendar year following the due date under
10 subsection (a) of this section.

11 * * * Utility Property Valuation * * *

12 Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 4452 is amended to read:

13 § 4452. VALUATIONS

14 (a) On or before May 1 of each year, the Division of Property Valuation
15 and Review of the Department of Taxes shall furnish the listers in each town or
16 city with the valuation of all taxable property of any public utility situated
17 therein as reported by such utility to the Division.

18 (b) Each public utility shall furnish to the Division not later than March 31
19 in each year a sworn inventory of all its taxable property in such form as will
20 show the valuation of its property in each town, city, or other municipality.

1 (c) The Division shall prescribe the form of such report and the officer or
2 officers who shall make oath thereto.

3 (d) The valuations ~~so~~ furnished under this section shall be considered along
4 with any other information as may reasonably be required by ~~such~~ listers in
5 determining and fixing the valuations of ~~such~~ property for the purposes of ~~local~~
6 property taxation. The Division may require that each municipality use certain
7 valuations furnished under this section. The valuations provided by the
8 Division for property used for the transmission and distribution of electricity
9 shall be used by the listers as the valuations of that property for purposes of
10 property taxation.

11 * * * Property Tax Exemptions * * *

12 Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 3802(22) is added to read:

13 (22) Real and personal estate owned by a county of this State, except
14 land and buildings outside of a county's territorial limits shall be subject to
15 municipal property tax by the municipality in which the land or buildings are
16 situated. Notwithstanding the preceding provision, the exemption for public,
17 pious, and charitable uses under subdivision (4) of this section shall be
18 available for qualifying county land and buildings outside of the county's
19 territorial limits.

1 * * * Fuel Tax * * *

2 Sec. 10. 33 V.S.A. § 2503(d) is amended to read:

3 (d) No tax under this section shall be imposed for any month ending after
4 June 30, ~~2024~~ 2029.

5 * * * Health IT Fund Sunset Extension * * *

6 Sec. 11. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by 2017
7 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 187, Sec. 5,
8 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 21, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 73,
9 Sec. 14, and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.306.1, is further amended
10 to read:

11 (10) Secs. 48–51 (health care claims tax) shall take effect on July 1,
12 2013 and Sec. 52 (Health IT-Fund; sunset) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2025~~
13 2026.

14 Sec. 12. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 105, as amended by 2019 Acts
15 and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 19, 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 75, and
16 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.306.2, is further amended to read:

17 Sec. 105. EFFECTIVE DATES

18 * * *

19 (b) Sec. 73 (further amending 32 V.S.A. § 10402) shall take effect on July
20 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

21 * * *

1 * * * Extension of Sales Tax Exemption for Advanced Wood Boilers * * *

2 Sec. 12a. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 194, Sec. 26b(a), as amended by 2019
3 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 14, and by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 73,
4 Sec. 23, is further amended to read:

5 (a) 32 V.S.A. §§ 9741(52) (sales tax exemption for advanced wood boilers)
6 and 9706(11) (statutory purpose; sales tax exemption for advanced wood
7 boilers) shall be repealed on July 1, ~~2024~~ 2027.

8 Sec. 12b. REPEAL

9 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. 8 (sales tax exemption; advanced
10 wood boilers) is repealed.

11 Sec. 13. 32 V.S.A. § 9701(12) is amended to read:

12 (12)(A) “Casual sale” means an isolated or occasional sale of an item of
13 tangible personal property by a person who is not regularly engaged in the
14 business of making sales of that general type of property at retail where the
15 property was obtained by the person making the sale, through purchase or
16 otherwise, for ~~his or her~~ the person’s own use.

17 (B) Aircraft as defined in 5 V.S.A. § 202(6), snowmobiles as defined
18 in 23 V.S.A. § 3201(5), all-terrain vehicles as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 3501(1),
19 motorboats as defined in 23 V.S.A. § ~~3302(4)~~ 3302(6), and vessels as defined
20 in 23 V.S.A. § ~~3302(11)~~ 3302(17) that are 16 feet or more in length are hereby
21 specifically excluded from the definition of casual sale.

1 Sec. 14. 32 V.S.A. § 9746 is amended to read:

2 § 9746. SNOWMOBILE, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE, MOTORBOAT, AND
3 VESSEL SALES

4 (a) If a person sells a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, motorboat, or vessel
5 and within three months purchases another such vehicle or vessel, “sales price”
6 for purposes of the tax on the new vehicle or vessel shall exclude the lesser of:

7 (1) the sale price of the first vehicle or vessel; or

8 (2) the average book value at the time of sale of the first vehicle or
9 vessel.

10 (b) If a person receives payment under a contract of insurance for:

11 (1) total destruction of a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, motorboat, or
12 vessel; or

13 (2) damage to such vehicle or vessel that was then accepted without
14 repair as a trade-in by the seller of a new snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle,
15 motorboat, or vessel; and within three months ~~of~~ following such destruction or
16 damage the person purchases another snowmobile, motorboat, or vessel, “sales
17 price” for purposes of the tax on the new vehicle or vessel shall exclude the
18 insurance payment and any trade-in allowance for the damaged vehicle.

19 (c) A vendor determining sales price under this section shall obtain in good
20 faith from the purchaser, on a form provided by the Department of Taxes and
21 signed by the purchaser and bearing ~~his or her~~ the purchaser’s name and

1 address, a certificate of sale or payment of insurance proceeds with regard to
2 the first vehicle or vessel.

3 Sec. 14a. REPORT; ATV REGISTRATIONS

4 On or before December 15, 2025, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
5 shall report on any changes to the number of all-terrain vehicle (ATV)
6 registrations in calendar year 2025, any changes to revenue from ATV
7 registrations in Vermont, any changes to funding to support the VASA trail
8 system, and whether the Commissioner has suggestions for restoring revenue
9 from ATV registrations. The Commissioner shall consult with the Vermont
10 ATV Sportsman's Association in preparing this report. The report shall be
11 submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House Committee
12 on Transportation, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Senate
13 Committee on Transportation.

14 * * * Fees * * *

15 Sec. 15. 18 V.S.A. § 5017 is amended to read:

16 § 5017. FEES FOR COPIES

17 (a) For a certified copy of a vital event certificate, the fee shall be \$10.00.

18 (b) The State Registrar shall waive the fee for certified copies of vital event
19 certificates issued to:

20 (1) an individual attesting to a lack of fixed, regular, and adequate
21 nighttime residence; and

1 (2) an individual between 18 and 24 years of age who resided in a foster
2 home or residential child care facility between 16 and 18 years of age pursuant
3 to placement by a child-placing agency.

4 * * * Machinery and Equipment Tax Credit * * *

5 Sec. 16. 32 V.S.A. § 5930II is amended to read:

6 § 5930II. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT TAX CREDIT

7 * * *

8 (d) Availability of credit.

9 (1) The credit earned under this section with respect to qualified capital
10 expenditures shall be available to reduce the qualified taxpayer's Vermont
11 income tax liability for its tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2012 or, if
12 later, the first tax year within which the qualified taxpayer's aggregate
13 qualified capital expenditures exceed \$20,000,000.00. A taxpayer claiming a
14 credit under this subchapter shall submit with the first return on which a credit
15 is claimed a copy of the qualified taxpayer's certification from the Vermont
16 Economic Progress Council.

17 (2) The credit may be used in the year earned or carried forward to
18 reduce the qualified taxpayer's Vermont income tax liability in succeeding tax
19 years ending on or before December 31, ~~2026~~ 2030.

20 * * *

21 (g) Reporting.

1 (1) Any qualified taxpayer who has been certified under subsection (b)
2 of this section shall file a report with the Vermont Economic Progress Council
3 on a form prescribed by the Council for this purpose and provide a copy of the
4 report to the Commissioner of Taxes.

5 (2) The report shall be filed for each year following the certification
6 until the year following the last year the taxpayer claims the credit to reduce its
7 Vermont income tax liability, or ~~2027~~ 2031, whichever occurs first.

8 (3) The report shall be filed by ~~February 28~~ the due date of the
9 taxpayer's tax return, including extensions, in each year for activity the
10 previous calendar year and include, at a minimum:

11 (A) the number of full-time jobs in each quarter and the average
12 number of hours worked per week;

13 (B) the level of qualifying capital investments made if reporting on a
14 year within an investment period; and

15 (C) the amount of tax credit earned and applied during the previous
16 calendar year.

17 Sec. 17. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. H.2 is amended to read:

18 Sec. H.2 REPEAL

19 (a) Subchapter 11M of chapter 151 of Title 32 is repealed July 1, ~~2026~~
20 2030, and no credit under that section shall be available for any taxable year
21 beginning after June 30, ~~2026~~ 2030; ~~provided, however, that if no qualified~~

1 ~~capital expenditures are made during the investment period, both terms as~~
2 ~~defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5930ll(a) of this act, the subchapter shall be repealed~~
3 ~~effective January 1, 2015.~~

4 Sec. 18. [Deleted.]

5 Sec. 19. [Deleted.]

6 * * * Local Option Tax * * *

7 Sec. 20. 24 V.S.A. § 138 is amended to read:

8 § 138. LOCAL OPTION TAXES

9 (a) Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of
10 affording municipalities an alternative method of raising municipal revenues ~~to~~
11 ~~facilitate the transition and reduce the dislocations in those municipalities that~~
12 ~~may be caused by reforms to the method of financing public education under~~
13 ~~the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1997. Accordingly:~~

14 ~~(1) the local option taxes authorized under this section may be imposed~~
15 ~~by a municipality;~~

16 ~~(2) a municipality opting to impose a local option tax may do so prior to~~
17 ~~July 1, 1998 to be effective beginning January 1, 1999, and anytime after~~
18 ~~December 1, 1998 a Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, and~~
19 ~~subject to certification by the Commissioner of Taxes, a local option tax shall~~
20 ~~be effective beginning on the next tax quarter following 90 days' notice to the~~
21 ~~Department of Taxes of the imposition; and~~

1 ~~(3) a local option tax may only be adopted by a municipality in which:~~

2 ~~(A) the education property tax rate in 1997 was less than \$1.10 per~~

3 ~~\$100.00 of equalized education property value; or~~

4 ~~(B) the equalized grand list value of personal property, business~~

5 ~~machinery, inventory, and equipment is at least ten percent of the equalized~~

6 ~~education grand list as reported in the 1998 Annual Report of the Division of~~

7 ~~Property Valuation and Review; or~~

8 ~~(C) the combined education tax rate of the municipality will increase~~

9 ~~by 20 percent or more in fiscal year 1999 or in fiscal year 2000 over the rate of~~

10 ~~the combined education property tax in the previous fiscal year.~~

11 (b) If the legislative body of a municipality by a majority vote

12 recommends, the voters of a municipality may, at an annual or special meeting

13 warned for that purpose, by a majority vote of those present and voting, assess

14 any or all of the following:

15 (1) a one percent sales tax;

16 (2) a one percent meals and alcoholic beverages tax;

17 (3) a one percent rooms tax.

18 * * *

19 (h)(1) The Commissioner of Taxes may limit the number of municipalities

20 enacting a local option tax under subsection (b) of this section to five per

21 calendar year.

1 (2) The Commissioner of Taxes shall certify the first five notices from
2 municipalities it receives under subsection (a) of this section in each calendar
3 year and those municipalities may proceed to assess a local option tax
4 according to subsection (a) of this section.

5 (3) In the Commissioner's discretion, after receiving notice from the
6 fifth municipality pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in a calendar year,
7 the Commissioner of Taxes may delay certification, or reject further notices for
8 that year, if the Commissioner determines that additional certifications would
9 cause an undue burden on tax administration.

10 * * * Effective Dates * * *

11 Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES

12 (a) This section, Secs. 1 (reappraisals), 2 (property valuation and review
13 waiver), 9 (exemption for county-owned property), 10 (fuel tax extension), and
14 11 and 12 (extension of Health IT Fund) shall take effect on passage.

15 (b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. 3 and 4 (link to federal income
16 tax laws) shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2024 and apply to taxable
17 years beginning on and after January 1, 2023.

18 (c) Sec. 5 (renter credit expansion) shall take effect on passage and apply to
19 claim years 2025 and after.

20 (d) Secs. 6 and 7 (repeal of property tax credit late fee) shall take effect on
21 passage and apply to claim years 2024 and after.

1 (e) Sec. 8 (utility property valuation) shall take effect on passage and apply
2 to grand lists filed on or after April 1, 2025.

3 (f) Secs. 13 and 14 (casual sales of ATVs) and 14a (report on ATV
4 registrations) shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

5 (g) Secs. 15 (fee waiver for vital event certificates), 16 and 17 (extension of
6 machinery and equipment tax credit), and 20 (local option sales tax) shall take
7 effect on July 1, 2024.

8 (h) Secs. 12a and 12b (sales tax exemption; advanced wood boilers) shall
9 take effect on June 30, 2024.