[As Amended by House Committee of the Whole]

As Amended by House Committee

As Amended by Senate Committee

Session of 2008

SENATE BILL No. 444

By Committee on Assessment and Taxation

1-17

AN ACT concerning property taxation; relating to [property tax] exemptions; tangible personal property not specifically classified; certain housing; [homestead property tax refunds, certain social security payments;] amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-201b and [,] 79-213 [and 79-4502] and repealing the existing section sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. The following described property, to the extent specified by this section, shall be and is hereby exempt from all property or ad valorem taxes levied under the laws of the state of Kansas:

First. Any property classified for property tax purposes pursuant to section 1 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas in subclass (6) of class 2 which, except for the operation of the provisions of this section, would be required to be listed for the purpose of taxation pursuant to K.S.A. 79-306, and amendments thereto, whose purchase price is \$1,500 \$750 or less.

The provisions of this section shall apply to all taxable years commencing after December 31, 2008.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-201b is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-201b. The following described property, to the extent herein specified, shall be and is hereby exempt from all property or ad valorem taxes levied under the laws of the state of Kansas:

First. All real property, and tangible personal property, actually and regularly used exclusively for hospital purposes by a hospital as the same is defined by K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments thereto, or a psychiatric hospital as the same was defined by K.S.A. 59-2902, and amendments thereto, as in effect on January 1, 1976, which hospital or psychiatric hospital is operated by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of the state of Kansas or by

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a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of another state and duly admitted to engage in business in this state as a foreign, not-for-profit corporation, or a public hospital authority; and all intangible property including moneys, notes and other evidences of debt, and the income therefrom, belonging exclusively to such a corporation and used exclusively for hospital, psychiatric hospital or public hospital authority purposes. This exemption shall not be deemed inapplicable to property which would otherwise be exempt pursuant to this paragraph because any such hospital, psychiatric hospital or public hospital authority: (a) Uses such property for a nonexempt purpose which is minimal in scope and insubstantial in nature if such use is incidental to the exempt purpose enumerated in this paragraph; or (b) is reimbursed for the actual expense of using such property for the exempt purposes enumerated in this paragraph or paragraph second of K.S.A. 79-201, and amendments thereto; or (c) permits the use of such property for the exempt purposes enumerated in this paragraph or paragraph second of K.S.A. 79-201, and amendments thereto, by more than one agency or organization for one or more of such purposes.

Second. All real property, and tangible personal property, actually and regularly used exclusively for adult care home purposes by an adult care home as the same is defined by K.S.A. 39-923, and amendments thereto, which is operated by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of the state of Kansas or by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of another state and duly admitted to engage in business in this state as a foreign, not-for-profit corporation, charges to residents for services of which produce an amount which in the aggregate is less than the actual cost of operation of the home or the services of which are provided to residents at the lowest feasible cost, taking into consideration such items as reasonable depreciation, interest on indebtedness, acquisition costs, interest and other expenses of financing acquisition costs, lease expenses and costs of services provided by a parent corporation at its costs and contributions to which are deductible under the Kansas income tax act: and all intangible property including moneys, notes and other evidences of debt, and the income therefrom, belonging exclusively to such corporation and used exclusively for adult care home purposes. For purposes of this paragraph and for all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1976, an adult care home which uses its property in a manner which is consistent with the federal internal revenue service ruling 72-124 issued pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code, shall be deemed to be operating

at the lowest feasible cost. The fact that real property or real or tangible personal property may be leased from a not-for-profit corporation, which is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, and amendments thereto, and which is the parent corporation to the not-for-profit operator of an adult care home, shall not be grounds to deny exemption or deny that such property is actually and regularly used exclusively for adult care home purposes by an adult care home, nor shall the terms of any such lease be grounds for any such denial. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1995, such property shall be deemed to be used exclusively for adult care home purposes when used as a not-for-profit day care center for children which is licensed pursuant to K.S.A. 65-501 et seq., and amendments thereto.

Third. All real property, and tangible personal property, actually and regularly used exclusively for private children's home purposes by a private children's home as the same is defined by K.S.A. 75-3329, and amendments thereto, which is operated by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of the state of Kansas or by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of another state and duly admitted to engage in business in this state as a foreign, not-for-profit corporation, charges to residents for services of which produce an amount which in the aggregate is less than the actual cost of operation of the home or the services of which are provided to residents at the lowest feasible cost, taking into consideration such items as reasonable depreciation and interest on indebtedness, and contributions to which are deductible under the Kansas income tax act; and all intangible property including moneys, notes and other evidences of debt, and the income therefrom, belonging exclusively to such a corporation and used exclusively for children's home purposes.

Fourth. All real property and tangible personal property, actually and regularly used exclusively for: (a) Housing for elderly and handicapped persons having a limited or lower income, or used exclusively for cooperative housing for persons having a limited or low income, assistance for the financing of which was received under 12 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq., or under 42 U.S.C.A. 1437 et seq., which is operated by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of the state of Kansas or by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of another state and duly admitted to engage in business in this state as a foreign, not-for-profit corporation; and (b) for all taxable years commencing after December 31, 2006, temporary housing of 24 months or less for limited or low income, single-

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41 42 parent families in need of financial assistance who are enrolled in a program to receive life training skills, which is operated by a charitable or religious organization; and all intangible property including moneys, notes and other evidences of debt, and the income therefrom, belonging exclusively to such a corporation and used exclusively for the purposes of such housing. For the purposes of this subsection, cooperative housing means those not-for-profit cooperative housing projects operating or established pursuant to sections 236 or 221(d)(3), or both, of the national housing act and which have been approved as a cooperative housing project pursuant to applicable federal housing administration and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development statutes, and rules and regulations, during such time as the use of such properties are:(1) Restricted pursuant to such act, or rules and regulations thereof; or (2) subject to affordability financing standards established pursuant to the national housing act during such time that such not-for-profit corporation has adopted articles of incorporation or by-laws, or both, requiring such corporation to continue to operate in compliance with the United States department of housing and urban development affordability income guidelines established pursuant to sections 236 or 221(d)(3) of the national housing act or rules and regulations thereof.

Fifth. All real property and tangible personal property, actually and regularly used exclusively for housing for elderly persons, which is operated by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of the state of Kansas or by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of another state and duly admitted to engage in business in this state as a foreign, not-for-profit corporation, in which charges to residents produce an amount which in the aggregate is less than the actual cost of operation of the housing facility or the services of which are provided to residents at the lowest feasible cost, taking into consideration such items as reasonable depreciation and interest on indebtedness and contributions to which are deductible under the Kansas income tax act; and all intangible property including moneys, notes and other evidences of debt, and the income therefrom, belonging exclusively to such corporation and used exclusively for the purpose of such housing. For purposes of this paragraph and for all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1976, an adult care home which uses its property in a manner which is consistent with the federal internal revenue service ruling 72-124 issued pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code, shall be deemed to be operating at the lowest feasible cost. For all taxable years com-

mencing after December 31, 1995, such property shall be deemed to be used exclusively for housing for elderly persons purposes when used as a not-for-profit day care center for children which is licensed pursuant to K.S.A. 65-501 et seq., and amendments thereto.

Sixth. All real property and tangible personal property actually and regularly used exclusively for the purpose of group housing of mentally ill or retarded and other handicapped persons which is operated by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of the state of Kansas or by a corporation organized not for profit under the laws of another state and duly admitted to engage in business in this state as a foreign, not-for-profit corporation, in which charges to residents produce an amount which in the aggregate is less than the actual cost of operation of the housing facility or the services of which are provided to residents at the lowest feasible cost, taking into consideration such items as reasonable depreciation and interest on indebtedness and contributions to which are deductible under the Kansas income tax act, and which is licensed as a facility for the housing of mentally ill or retarded and other handicapped persons under the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3307b, and amendments thereto, or as a rooming or boarding house used as a facility for the housing of mentally retarded and other handicapped persons which is licensed as a lodging establishment under the provisions of K.S.A. 36-501 et seq., and amendments thereto.

The provisions of this section, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall apply to all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1998.

- Sec. $\frac{2}{2}$ 3. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-213 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-213. (a) Any property owner requesting an exemption from the payment of ad valorem property taxes assessed, or to be assessed, against their property shall be required to file an initial request for exemption, on forms approved by the board of tax appeals and provided by the county appraiser.
- (b) The initial exemption request shall identify the property for which the exemption is requested and state, in detail, the legal and factual basis for the exemption claimed.
- (c) The request for exemption shall be filed with the county appraiser of the county where such property is principally located.
- (d) After a review of the exemption request, and after a preliminary examination of the facts as alleged, the county appraiser shall recommend that the exemption request either be granted or denied, and, if necessary, that a hearing be held. If a denial is recommended,

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a statement of the controlling facts and law relied upon shall be included on the form.

- (e) The county appraiser, after making such written recommendation, shall file the request for exemption and the recommendations of the county appraiser with the board of tax appeals.
- (f) Upon receipt of the request for exemption, the board shall docket the same and notify the applicant and the county appraiser of such fact.
- (g) After examination of the request for exemption, and the county appraiser's recommendation related thereto, the board may fix a time and place for hearing, and shall notify the applicant and the county appraiser of the time and place so fixed. A request for exemption pursuant to: (1) Section 13 of article 11 of the Kansas constitution; or (2) K.S.A. 79-201a Second, and amendments thereto, for property constructed or purchased, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of revenue bonds under the authority of K.S.A. 12-1740 to 12-1749, inclusive, and amendments thereto, prepared in accordance with instructions and assistance which shall be provided by the department of commerce, shall be deemed approved unless scheduled for hearing within 30 days after the date of receipt of all required information and data relating to the request for exemption, and such hearing shall be conducted within 90 days after such date. Such time periods shall be determined without regard to any extension or continuance allowed to either party to such request. In any case where a party to such request for exemption requests a hearing thereon, the same shall be granted. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. In all instances where the board sets a request for exemption for hearing, the county shall be represented by its county attorney or county counselor.
- (h) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (g), in the event of a hearing, the same shall be originally set not later than 90 days after the filing of the request for exemption with the board.
- (i) During the pendency of a request for exemption, no person, firm, unincorporated association, company or corporation charged with real estate or personal property taxes pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2004 and 79-2004a, and amendments thereto, on the tax books in the hands of the county treasurer shall be required to pay the tax from the date the request is filed with the county appraiser until the expiration of 30 days after the board issued its order thereon and the same becomes a final order. In the event that taxes have been assessed against the subject property, no interest shall accrue on any unpaid tax for the year or years in question nor shall the

unpaid tax be considered delinquent from the date the request is filed with the county appraiser until the expiration of 30 days after the board issued its order thereon. In the event the board determines an application for exemption is without merit and filed in bad faith to delay the due date of the tax, the tax shall be considered delinquent as of the date the tax would have been due pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2004 and 79-2004a, and amendments thereto, and interest shall accrue as prescribed therein.

- (j) In the event the board grants the initial request for exemption, the same shall be effective beginning with the date of first exempt use except that, with respect to property the construction of which commenced not to exceed 24 months prior to the date of first exempt use, the same shall be effective beginning with the date of commencement of construction.
- (k) In conjunction with its authority to grant exemptions, the board shall have the authority to abate all unpaid taxes that have accrued from and since the effective date of the exemption. In the event that taxes have been paid during the period where the subject property has been determined to be exempt, the board shall have the authority to order a refund of taxes for the year immediately preceding the year in which the exemption application is filed in accordance with subsection (a).
- The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) Farm machinery and equipment exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201j, and amendments thereto; (2) personal property exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-215, and amendments thereto; (3) wearing apparel, household goods and personal effects exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201c, and amendments thereto; (4) livestock; (5) all property exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201d, and amendments thereto; (6) merchants' and manufacturers' inventories exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201m and amendments thereto; (7) grain exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201n, and amendments thereto; (8) property exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201a Seventeenth and amendments thereto, including all property previously acquired by the secretary of transportation or a predecessor in interest, which is used in the administration, construction, maintenance or operation of the state system of highways. The secretary of transportation shall at the time of acquisition of property notify the county appraiser in the county in which the property is located that the acquisition occurred and provide a legal description of the property acquired; (9) property exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201a Ninth, and

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amendments thereto, including all property previously acquired by the Kansas turnpike authority which is used in the administration, construction, maintenance or operation of the Kansas turnpike. The Kansas turnpike authority shall at the time of acquisition of property notify the county appraiser in the county in which the property is located that the acquisition occurred and provide a legal description of the property acquired; (10) aquaculture machinery and equipment exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201j, and amendments thereto. As used in this section, "aquaculture" has the same meaning ascribed thereto by K.S.A. 47-1901, and amendments thereto; (11) Christmas tree machinery and equipment exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201j, and amendments thereto; (12) property used exclusively by the state or any municipality or political subdivision of the state for right-of-way purposes. The state agency or the governing body of the municipality or political subdivision shall at the time of acquisition of property for right-of-way purposes notify the county appraiser in the county in which the property is located that the acquisition occurred and provide a legal description of the property acquired; (13) machinery, equipment, materials and supplies exempted from ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 79-201w, and amendments thereto; (14) vehicles owned by the state or by any political or taxing subdivision thereof and used exclusively for governmental purposes; (15) property used for residential purposes which is exempted pursuant to K.S.A. 79-201x from the property tax levied pursuant to K.S.A. 72-6431, and amendments thereto; (16) from and after July 1, 1998, vehicles which are owned by an organization having as one of its purposes the assistance by the provision of transit services to the elderly and to disabled persons and which are exempted pursuant to K.S.A. 79-201 Ninth; (17) from and after July 1, 1998, motor vehicles exempted from taxation by subsection (e) of K.S.A. 79-5107, and amendments thereto; (18) commercial and industrial machinery and equipment exempted from property or ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-223, and amendments thereto; and (19) telecommunications machinery and equipment and railroad machinery and equipment exempted from property or ad valorem taxation by K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-224, and amendments thereto; and (20) property exempted from property or ad valorem taxation by section 1, and amendments thereto.

- (m) The provisions of this section shall apply to property exempt pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of article 11 of the Kansas constitution.
- (n) The provisions of subsection (k) as amended by this act shall

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be applicable to all exemption applications filed in accordance with subsection (a) after December 31, 2001.

- [Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-4502 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-4502. As used in this act, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
- [(a) "Income" means the sum of adjusted gross income under the Kansas income tax act, maintenance, support money, cash public assistance and relief, not including any refund granted under this act, the gross amount of any pension or annuity, including all monetary retirement benefits from whatever source derived, including but not limited to, all payments received under the railroad retirement act, except disability payments, payments received under the federal social security act, except that for determination of what constitutes income such amount shall not exceed 50% of any such social security payments and shall not include any social security payments to a claimant who prior to attaining full retirement age had been receiving disability payments under the federal social security act in an amount not to exceed the amount of such disability payments or 50% of any such social security payments, whichever is greater, all dividends and interest from whatever source derived not included in adjusted gross income, workers compensation and the gross amount of "loss of time" insurance. Income does not include gifts from nongovernmental sources or surplus food or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency, nor shall net operating losses and net capital losses be considered in the determination of income. Income does not include veterans disability pensions. Income does not include disability payments received under the federal social security act.
- [(b) "Household" means a claimant, a claimant and spouse who occupy the homestead or a claimant and one or more individuals not related as husband and wife who together occupy a homestead.
- [(c) "Household income" means all income received by all persons of a household in a calendar year while members of such household.
- [(d) "Homestead" means the dwelling, or any part thereof, whether owned or rented, which is occupied as a residence by the household and so much of the land surrounding it, as defined as a home site for ad valorem tax purposes, and may consist of a part of a multi-dwelling or multi-purpose building and a part of the land upon which it is built or a manufactured home or mobile home and the land upon which it is situated. "Owned" includes a vendee in possession under a land contract, a life tenant, a beneficiary under a trust and one or more joint tenants or tenants in common.

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[(e) "Claimant" means a person who has filed a claim under the provisions of this act and was, during the entire calendar year preceding the year in which such claim was filed for refund under this act, except as provided in K.S.A. 79-4503, and amendments thereto, both domiciled in this state and was: (1) A person having a disability; (2) a person who is 55 years of age or older or (3) a person other than a person included under (1) or (2) having one or more dependent children under 18 years of age residing at the person's homestead during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which a claim is filed under this act.

[When a homestead is occupied by two or more individuals and more than one of the individuals is able to qualify as a claimant, the individuals may determine between them as to whom the claimant will be. If they are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the secretary of revenue whose decision shall be final.

"Property taxes accrued" means property taxes, exclusive of special assessments, delinquent interest and charges for service, levied on a claimant's homestead in 1979 or any calendar year thereafter by the state of Kansas and the political and taxing subdivisions of the state. When a homestead is owned by two or more persons or entities as joint tenants or tenants in common and one or more of the persons or entities is not a member of claimant's household, "property taxes accrued" is that part of property taxes levied on the homestead that reflects the ownership percentage of the claimant's household. For purposes of this act, property taxes are "levied" when the tax roll is delivered to the local treasurer with the treasurer's warrant for collection. When a claimant and household own their homestead part of a calendar year, "property taxes accrued" means only taxes levied on the homestead when both owned and occupied as a homestead by the claimant's household at the time of the levy, multiplied by the percentage of 12 months that the property was owned and occupied by the household as its homestead in the year. When a household owns and occupies two or more different homesteads in the same calendar year, property taxes accrued shall be the sum of the taxes allocable to those several properties while occupied by the household as its homestead during the year. Whenever a homestead is an integral part of a larger unit such as a multi-purpose or multi-dwelling building, property taxes accrued shall be that percentage of the total property taxes accrued as the value of the homestead is of the total value. For the purpose of this act, the word "unit" refers to that parcel of property covered by a single tax statement of which the homestead is a part.

- [(g) "Disability" means:
- Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, and an individual shall be determined to be under a disability only if the physical or mental impairment or impairments are of such severity that the individual is not only unable to do the individual's previous work but cannot, considering age, education and work experience, engage in any other kind of substantial gainful work which exists in the national economy, regardless of whether such work exists in the immediate area in which the individual lives or whether a specific job vacancy exists for the individual, or whether the individual would be hired if application was made for work. For purposes of the preceding sentence (with respect to any individual), "work which exists in the national economy" means work which exists in significant numbers either in the region where the individual lives or in several regions of the country; for purposes of this subsection, a "physical or mental impairment" is an impairment that results from anatomical, physiological or psychological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques; or
- [(2) blindness and inability by reason of blindness to engage in substantial gainful activity requiring skills or abilities comparable to those of any gainful activity in which the individual has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.
- [(h) "Blindness" means central visual acuity of ²⁰/₂₀₀ or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. An eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be considered for the purpose of this paragraph as having a central visual acuity of ²⁰/₂₀₀ or less.
- [(i) "Rent constituting property taxes accrued" means 15% of the gross rent actually paid in cash or its equivalent in 2007 or any taxable year thereafter by a claimant and claimant's household solely for the right of occupancy of a Kansas homestead on which ad valorem property taxes were levied in full for that year. When a household occupies two or more different homesteads in the same calendar year, rent constituting property taxes accrued shall be computed by adding the rent constituting property taxes accrued for each property rented by the household while occupied by the household as its homestead during the year.

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[(j) "Gross rent" means the rental paid at arm's length solely for the right of occupancy of a homestead or space rental paid to a landlord for the parking of a mobile home, exclusive of charges for any utilities, services, furniture and furnishings or personal property appliances furnished by the landlord as a part of the rental agreement, whether or not expressly set out in the rental agreement. Whenever the director of taxation finds that the landlord and tenant have not dealt with each other at arms length and that the gross rent charge was excessive, the director may adjust the gross rent to a reasonable amount for the purposes of the claim.]

12 Sec. <u>3</u> <u>4</u> [5.]. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 79-201b <u>and</u>[,] 79-213 [and 79-13 4502] <u>is are</u> hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. 4 5 [6]. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.