STATE OF NEW YORK

3175

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sens. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK, RHOADS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to the definition of special franchise property

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 17 of section 102 of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 569 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

17. "Special franchise" means the franchise, right, authority or permission to construct, maintain or operate in, under, above, upon or through any public street, highway, water or other public place mains, pipes, tanks, conduits, wires or transformers, with their appurtenances, for conducting water, steam, light, power, electricity, gas or other substance. For purposes of assessment and taxation a special franchise shall include the value of the tangible property situated in, under, above, upon or through any public street, highway, water or other public place in connection therewith. The term special franchise shall not include central office equipment or station equipment (except public telephone terminal equipment) which first appears on assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after October first, nineteen hundred ninety-five and which is owned by a telephone company as defined in paragraph (d) of subdivision twelve of this section, or owned by a telephone corporation as defined in subdivision seventeen of section two of the public service law and certified by the public service commission under section ninety-nine of such law, nor shall it include property of a municipal corporation, public benefit corporation or special district, nor shall it include a crossing less than two hundred fifty feet in length of a public street, highway, water or other public place outside a city or village, unless such crossing be

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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the continuation of an occupancy of another public street, highway, water or other public place. **The term "special franchise" shall also not include any water system property owned by a private water-works corporation, as such terms are defined in section two of the public service law, located in counties with a population of one million or more that are special assessing units.**

§ 2. For purposes of this act, any tax relief realized by a private water-works corporation shall be used to reduce current water rates and offset future water rate increases.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.