

1790

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 14, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. SEWARD -- 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 residential investment exemptions in certain cities

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 485-q of the real property tax law, as added by  
2     chapter 405 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

3     S 485-q. Residential investment exemption; certain cities. 1. Resi-  
4     dential real property constructed on or after the first day of July, two  
5     thousand fourteen in cities with a population of not less than thirteen  
6     thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN  
7     ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, may be exempt from city  
8     taxation and special ad valorem levies as provided in this section.

9     2. (a) (i) Such real property shall be exempt for a period of one year  
10    to the extent of fifty per centum of the increase in assessed value  
11    thereof attributable to such construction and for an additional period  
12    of nine years provided, however, that the extent of such exemption shall  
13    be decreased by five per centum each year during such additional period  
14    of nine years and such exemption shall be computed with respect to the  
15    "exemption base". The exemption base shall be the increase in assessed  
16    value as determined in the initial year of such ten year period follow-  
17    ing the filing of an original application, except as provided in subpar-  
18    agraph (ii) of this paragraph.

19    (ii) In any year in which a change in level of assessment of fifteen  
20    percent or more is certified for a final assessment roll pursuant to the  
21    rules of the commissioner, the exemption base shall be multiplied by a  
22    fraction, the numerator of which shall be the total assessed value of  
23    the parcel on such final assessment roll (after accounting for any phys-  
24    ical or quantity changes to the parcel since the immediately preceding  
25    assessment roll), and the denominator of which shall be the total

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

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1 assessed value of the parcel on the immediately preceding final assess-  
 2 ment roll. The result shall be the new exemption base. The exemption  
 3 shall thereupon be recomputed to take into account the new exemption  
 4 base, notwithstanding the fact that the assessor receives the certif-  
 5 ication of the change in level of assessment after the completion,  
 6 verification and filing of the final assessment roll. In the event the  
 7 assessor does not have custody of the roll when such certification is  
 8 received, the assessor shall certify the recomputed exemption to the  
 9 local officers having custody and control of the roll, and such local  
 10 officers are hereby directed and authorized to enter the recomputed  
 11 exemption certified by the assessor on the roll. The assessor shall give  
 12 written notice of such recomputed exemption to the property owner, who  
 13 may, if he or she believes that the exemption was recomputed incorrect-  
 14 ly, apply for a correction in the manner provided by title three of  
 15 article five of this chapter for the correction of clerical errors.

16 (iii) The following table shall illustrate the computation of the city  
 17 tax exemption:

18	Year of exemption	Percentage of exemption
19	1	50
20	2	45
21	3	40
22	4	35
23	5	30
24	6	25
25	7	20
26	8	15
27	9	10
28	10	5

29 (b) No such exemption shall be granted unless:

30 (i) such construction was commenced on or after the first day of Janu-  
 31 ary, two thousand fourteen or such later date as may be specified by  
 32 local law;

33 (ii) the residential real property is situate in a city with a popu-  
 34 lation of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than  
 35 fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL  
 36 CENSUS;

37 (iii) the cost of such construction exceeds the sum of thirty thousand  
 38 dollars or such greater amount as may be specified by local law; and

39 (iv) such construction is completed as may be evidenced by a certif-  
 40 icate of occupancy or other appropriate documentation as provided by the  
 41 owner.

42 (c) For purposes of this section the term construction shall not  
 43 include ordinary maintenance and repairs.

44 3. Such exemption shall be granted only upon application by the owner  
 45 of such real property on a form prescribed by the commissioner. Such  
 46 application shall be filed with the assessor of a city with a population  
 47 of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than four-  
 48 teen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL  
 49 CENSUS, on or before the appropriate taxable status date of such city  
 50 and within one year from the date of completion of such construction.

51 4. If the assessor is satisfied that the applicant is entitled to an  
 52 exemption pursuant to this section, he or she shall approve the applica-  
 53 tion and such real property shall thereafter be exempt from taxation and  
 54 special ad valorem levies by a city with a population of not less than

thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, as provided in this section commencing with the assessment roll prepared after the taxable status date referred to in subdivision three of this section. The assessed value of any exemption granted pursuant to this section shall be entered by the assessor on the assessment roll with the taxable property, with the amount of the exemption shown in a separate column.

5. The provisions of this section shall apply to real property used as the primary residence of the owner.

6. In the event that real property granted an exemption pursuant to this section ceases to be used primarily for eligible purposes, the exemption granted pursuant to this section shall cease.

7. A city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, may, by local law, reduce the per centum of exemption otherwise allowed pursuant to this section; provided, however, that a project in course of construction and exemptions existing prior in time to passage of any such local law shall not be subject to any such reduction so effected. Such city upon reduction of the per centum of exemption pursuant to this subdivision may thereafter, by local law, increase the per centum of exemption up to any per centum not exceeding the maximum allowed by subdivision two or eleven of this section, whichever is applicable, provided, however, that any such local law shall apply only to construction commenced subsequent to the effective date of such local law. A copy of all such local laws shall be filed with the commissioner and the assessor of the city.

8. A city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, may, by local law, establish a date for the commencement of effectiveness of exemption offered pursuant to this section and may provide that the provisions of this section shall apply only to construction having a greater value than that specified by subdivision two of this section, provided, however, that such amount shall not exceed seventy thousand dollars.

9. (a) A city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, may, by local law, establish a board to be known as the residential incentive board. The membership and composition of such board shall be set forth in the local law.

(b) The residential incentive board shall present a plan to the legislative body of a city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, concerning the various types of residential real property which should be granted eligibility for an exemption pursuant to subdivision one of this section. Such plan shall make a recommendation as to whether the exemption be computed as provided in subdivision two or eleven of this section. In addition, such plan shall identify specific geographic areas within which such exemptions should be offered. In developing the plan required by this paragraph, the board shall consider the planning objectives of a city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, the necessity of the exemption to the attraction or retention of home owners and the economic benefit to the area of providing exemptions to home owners.

(c) In addition, the board may make recommendations to the legislative body of a city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, with respect to actions it deems desirable to improve the economic climate therein.

10. If a city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, establishes a residential incentive board, pursuant to subdivision nine of this section, such city may, by local law, restrict real property eligible to receive the exemption to real property constructed for those purposes identified in the plan presented by the board. Such local law shall restrict the availability of such exemption to the specific geographic areas identified in the plan presented by the board.

11. Notwithstanding subdivision two of this section, where a city with a population of not less than thirteen thousand five hundred and not more than fourteen thousand, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST DECENNIAL CENSUS, adopts restricted exemptions pursuant to subdivision ten of this section, the local law may provide that such exemptions shall be computed pursuant to the following accelerated strategic exemption schedule:

Year of exemption	Percentage of exemption
1	50
2	45
3	40
4	35
5	30
6	25
7	20
8	15
9	10
10	5

Provided however, that such local law shall:

(i) contain findings that the adoption of this accelerated strategic exemption schedule is necessary to encourage targeted residential development, and that the value of the exemptions to be provided is justified by the need to broaden the tax base; and

(ii) limit the applicability of such schedule to projects where the cost of such construction exceeds the sum of seventy thousand dollars; and

(iii) provide that such exemptions are restricted by geographic areas as provided by subdivision ten of this section.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.