S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6721--A

I N S E N A T E

February 9, 2016

Introduced by Sens. GRIFFO, FUNKE, ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to exempting commercial fuel cell electricity generating systems and electricity provided by such sources from the sales tax imposed by article 28 of the tax law and omitting such exemption from the taxes imposed pursuant to the authority of article 29 of the tax law, unless a locality elects otherwise

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

Section 1. Section 1115 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision (kk) to read as follows:

(KK) THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM TAX UNDER THIS ARTICLE: (1) RECEIPTS FROM THE RETAIL SALE OF, AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN OR CONTRACTED TO BE GIVEN FOR, OR FOR THE USE OF, COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND THE SERVICE OF INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING SUCH SYSTEMS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT" SHALL MEAN AN ELECTRIC GENERATING ARRANGEMENT OR COMBINATION OF COMPONENTS INSTALLED UPON NON-RESIDENTIAL PREMISES THAT UTILIZE SOLID OXIDE, MOLTEN CARBONATE, PROTON EXCHANGE MEMBRANE OR PHOSPHORIC ACID FUEL CELL, OR FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION ONLY, LINEAR GENERATOR, THAT IS INSTALLED, OPERATED AND LOCATED IN THIS STATE.

(2) RECEIPTS FROM THE SALE OF HYDROGEN GAS OR ELECTRICITY BY A PERSON PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN THE SALE OF FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEM EQUIPMENT AND/OR ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT PURSUANT TO A WRITTEN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE ELECTRICITY IS GENERATED BY COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEM EQUIPMENT THAT IS: (A) OWNED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN THE PURCHASER OF SUCH ELECTRICITY; (B) INSTALLED ON THE NON-RESIDENTIAL PREMISES OF THE PURCHASER OF SUCH ELECTRICITY; (C) PLACED IN SERVICE; AND (D) LOCATED IN THIS STATE TO PROVIDE HEATING, COOLING, HOT WATER OR ELECTRICITY TO SUCH PREMISES.

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

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S 2. Paragraphs 1 and 4 of subdivision (a) of section 1210 of the tax law, as amended by section 3 of part Z of chapter 59 of the laws of 2015, are amended to read as follows:

(1) Either, all of the taxes described in article twenty-eight of this chapter, at the same uniform rate, as to which taxes all provisions of the local laws, ordinances or resolutions imposing such taxes shall be identical, except as to rate and except as otherwise provided, with the corresponding provisions in such article twenty-eight, including the definition and exemption provisions of such article, so far as the provisions of such article twenty-eight can be made applicable to the taxes imposed by such city or county and with such limitations and special provisions as are set forth in this article. The taxes authorized under this subdivision may not be imposed by a city or county unless the local law, ordinance or resolution imposes such taxes so as to include all portions and all types of receipts, charges or rents, subject to state tax under sections eleven hundred five and eleven hundred ten of this chapter, except as otherwise provided. (i) Any local law, ordinance or resolution enacted by any city of less than one million or by any county or school district, imposing the taxes authorized by this subdivision, shall, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, exclude from the operation of such local taxes all sales of tangible personal property for use or consumption directly and predominantly in the production of tangible personal property, gas, electricity, refrigeration or steam, for sale, by manufacturing, processing, generating, assembly, refining, mining or extracting; and all sales of tangible personal property for use or consumption predominantly either in the production of tangible personal property, for sale, by farming or in a commercial horse boarding operation, or in both; and, unless such city, county or school district elects otherwise, shall omit the provision for credit or refund contained in clause six of subdivision (a) or subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred nineteen of this chapter. (ii) Any local law, ordinance or resolution enacted by any city, county or school district, imposing the taxes authorized by this subdivision, shall omit the residential solar energy systems equipment and electricity exemption provided for in subdivision (ee), the commercial solar energy systems equipment and electricity exemption provided for in subdivision (ii), THE COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT EXEMPTION PROVIDED FOR IN SUBDIVISION (KK) and the clothing and footwear exemption provided for in paragraph thirty of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter, unless such city, county or school district elects otherwise as to [either] such residential solar energy systems equipment and electricity exemption, such commercial solar energy systems equipment and electricity exemption, COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT EXEMPTION or such clothing and footwear exemption.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any local law enacted by any city of one million or more that imposes the taxes authorized by this subdivision (i) may omit the exception provided in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph three of subdivision (c) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter for receipts from laundering, drycleaning, tailoring, weaving, pressing, shoe repairing and shoe shining; (ii) may impose the tax described in paragraph six of subdivision (c) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter at a rate in addition to the rate prescribed by this section not to exceed two percent in multiples of one-half of one percent; (iii) shall provide that the tax described

in paragraph six of subdivision (c) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter does not apply to facilities owned and operated by the city or an agency or instrumentality of the city or a public corporation the majority of whose members are appointed by the chief executive officer of the city or the legislative body of the city or both of them; (iv) shall not include any tax on receipts from, or the use of, the services described in paragraph seven of subdivision (c) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter; (v) shall provide that, for purposes of the tax described in subdivision (e) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter, "permanent resident" means any occupant of any room or rooms in a hotel for at least one hundred eighty consecutive days with regard to the period of such occupancy; (vi) may omit the exception provided in paragraph one of subdivision (f) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter for charges to a patron for admission to, or use of, facilities for sporting activities in which the patron is to be a participant, such as bowling alleys and swimming pools; (vii) may provide the clothing and footwear exemption in paragraph thirty of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter, and, notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (d) of this section to the contrary, any local law providing for such exemption or repealing such exemption, may go into effect on any one of the following dates: March first, June first, September first or December first; (viii) shall omit the exemption provided in paragraph forty-one of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter; (ix) shall omit the exemption provided in subdivision (c) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter insofar as it applies to fuel, gas, electricity, refrigeration and steam, and gas, electric, refrigeration and steam service of whatever nature for use or consumption directly and exclusively in the production of gas, electricity, refrigeration or steam; (x) shall omit, unless such city elects otherwise, the provision for refund or credit contained in clause six of subdivision (a) or in subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred nineteen of this chapter; (xi) shall provide that section eleven hundred five-C of this chapter does not apply to such taxes, and shall tax receipts from every sale, other than sales for resale, of gas service or electric service of whatever nature, including the transportation, transmission or distribution of gas or electricity, even if sold separately, at the rate set forth in clause one of subparagraph (i) of the opening paragraph of this section; (xii) shall omit, unless such city elects otherwise, the exemption for residential solar energy systems equipment and electricity provided in subdivision (ee) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter; [and] (xiii) shall omit, unless such city elects otherwise, the exemption for commercial solar energy systems equipment and electricity provided in subdivision (ii) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter; AND (XIV) SHALL OMIT, UNLESS SUCH CITY ELECTS OTHERWISE, THE EXEMPTION FOR COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (KK) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THIS CHAPTER. Any reference in this chapter or in any local law, ordinance or resolution enacted pursuant to the authority of this article to former subdivisions (n) or (p) of this section shall be deemed to be a reference to clauses (xii) [or], (xiii) OR (XIV) of this paragraph, respectively, and any such local law, ordinance or resolution that provides the exemptions provided in such former subdivisions (n) and/or (p) shall be deemed instead to provide the exemptions provided in clauses (xii) [and/or], (xiii) AND/OR (XIV) of this paragraph.

S 3. Paragraph 1 of subdivision (b) of section 1210 of the tax law, as amended by section 4 of part Z of chapter 59 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Or, one or more of the taxes described in subdivisions (b), (d), (e) and (f) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter, at the same uniform rate, including the transitional provisions in section eleven hundred six of this chapter covering such taxes, but not the taxes described in subdivisions (a) and (c) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter. Provided, further, that where the tax described in subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred five of this chapter is imposed, the compensating use taxes described in clauses (E), (G) and (H) of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred ten of this chapter shall also be imposed. Provided, further, that where the taxes described in subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred five are imposed, such taxes shall omit: (A) the provision for refund or credit contained in subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred nineteen of this chapter with respect to such taxes described in such subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred five unless such city or county elects to provide such provision or, if so elected, to repeal such provision; (B) the exemption provided in paragraph two of subdivision (ee) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter unless such county or city elects otherwise; [and] (C) the exemption provided in paragraph two of subdivision (ii) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter, unless such county or city elects otherwise; AND (D) THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF SUBDIVISION (KK) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THIS CHAPTER, UNLESS SUCH COUNTY OR CITY ELECTS OTHERWISE.

S 4. Subdivision (d) of section 1210 of the tax law, as amended by section 4-a of part Z of chapter 59 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A local law, ordinance or resolution imposing any tax pursuant to this section, increasing or decreasing the rate of such tax, repealing or suspending such tax, exempting from such tax the energy sources and services described in paragraph three of subdivision (a) or of subdivision (b) of this section or changing the rate of tax imposed on such energy sources and services or providing for the credit or refund described in clause six of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred nineteen of this chapter, or electing or repealing the exemption for residential solar equipment and electricity in subdivision (ee) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this article, or the exemption for commercial solar equipment and electricity in subdivision (ii) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this article, OR ELECTING OR REPEALING THE EXEMPTION FOR COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT IN SUBDIVISION (KK) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THIS ARTICLE must go into effect only on one of the following dates: March first, June first, September first or December first; provided, that a local law, ordinance or resolution providing for the exemption described in paragraph thirty of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter or repealing any such exemption or a local law, ordinance or resolution providing for a refund or credit described in subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred nineteen of this chapter or repealing such provision so provided must go into effect only on March first. No such local law, ordinance or resolution shall be effective unless a certified copy of such law, ordinance or resolution is mailed by registered or certified mail to the commissioner at the commissioner's office in Albany at least ninety days prior to the date it is to become effective. However, the

commissioner may waive and reduce such ninety-day minimum notice requirement to a mailing of such certified copy by registered or certified mail within a period of not less than thirty days prior to such effective date if the commissioner deems such action to be consistent with the commissioner's duties under section twelve hundred fifty of this article and the commissioner acts by resolution. Where the restriction provided for in section twelve hundred twenty-three of this article as to the effective date of a tax and the notice requirement provided for therein are applicable and have not been waived, the restriction and notice requirement in section twelve hundred twenty-three of this article shall also apply.

S 5. Subdivision (a) of section 1212 of the tax law, as amended by section 6 of part Z of chapter 59 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Any school district which is coterminous with, partly within or wholly within a city having a population of less than one hundred twenty-five thousand, is hereby authorized and empowered, by majority vote of the whole number of its school authorities, to impose for school district purposes, within the territorial limits of such school district and without discrimination between residents and nonresidents thereof, the taxes described in subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred five (but excluding the tax on prepaid telephone calling services) and the taxes described in clauses (E) and (H) of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred ten, including the transitional provisions in subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred six of this chapter, so far as such provisions can be made applicable to the taxes imposed by such school district and with such limitations and special provisions as are set forth in this article, such taxes to be imposed at the rate of one-half, one, one and one-half, two, two and one-half or three percent which rate shall be uniform for all portions and all types of receipts and uses subject to such taxes. In respect to such taxes, all provisions of the resolution imposing them, except as to rate and except as otherwise provided herein, shall be identical with the corresponding provisions in such article twenty-eight of this chapter, including the applicable definition and exemption provisions of such article, so far as the provisions of such article twenty-eight of this chapter can be made applicable to the taxes imposed by such school district and with such limitations and special provisions as are set forth in this article. The taxes described in subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred five (but excluding the tax on prepaid telephone calling service) and clauses (E) and (H) of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred ten, including the transitional provision in subdivision (b) of such section eleven hundred six of this chapter, may not be imposed by such school district unless the resolution imposes such taxes so as to include all portions and all types of receipts and uses subject to tax under such subdivision (but excluding the tax on prepaid telephone calling service) and clauses. Provided, however, that, where a school district imposes such taxes, such taxes shall omit the provision for refund or credit contained in subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred nineteen of this chapter with respect to such taxes described in such subdivision (b) of section eleven hundred five unless such school district elects to provide such provision or, if so elected, to repeal such provision, and shall omit the exemptions provided in paragraph two of subdivision (ee) and paragraph two of subdivision (ii) of section eleven hundred fifteen of this chapter unless such school district elects otherwise, AND SHALL OMIT THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF SUBDIVISION (KK) OF SECTION ELEV-

EN HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THIS CHAPTER UNLESS SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTS OTHERWISE.

S 6. Section 1224 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision (c-2) to read as follows:

(C-2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW: (1) WHERE A COUNTY CONTAINING ONE OR MORE CITIES WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION HAS ELECTED THE EXEMPTION FOR COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (KK) OF SUCH SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN, A CITY WITHIN SUCH COUNTY SHALL HAVE THE PRIOR RIGHT TO IMPOSE TAX ON SUCH EXEMPT EQUIPMENT AND/OR ELECTRICITY TO THE EXTENT OF ONE HALF OF THE MAXIMUM RATES AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBDIVISION (A) OF SECTION TWELVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS ARTICLE;

(2) WHERE A CITY OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION HAS ELECTED THE EXEMPTION FOR COMMERCIAL FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SUCH EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (KK) OF SUCH SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN, THE COUNTY IN WHICH SUCH CITY IS LOCATED SHALL HAVE THE PRIOR RIGHT TO IMPOSE TAX ON SUCH EXEMPT EQUIPMENT AND/OR ELECTRICITY TO THE EXTENT OF ONE HALF OF THE MAXIMUM RATES AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBDIVISION (A) OF SECTION TWELVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

S 7. This act shall take effect June 1, 2016 and shall apply in accordance with the applicable transitional provisions in sections 1106 and 1217 of the tax law.