STATE OF NEW YORK

8436

IN SENATE

May 29, 2020

Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to authorizing an exemption for class one capital improvements to residential buildings and certain new construction in a special assessing unit that is not a city

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

Section 1. The section heading of section 421-f of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 590 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

Exemption of capital improvements to residential buildings **and certain new construction**.

§ 2. Section 421-f of the real property tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. Buildings classified as class one property in section eighteen hundred two of this chapter reconstructed, altered, improved, or newly constructed in a special assessing unit that is not a city shall be exempt from taxation and special ad valorem levies in the same manner and to the same extent as county, town, special district and school district taxes levied on the assessment roll prepared by such special assessing unit. An application shall not be required to receive the exemption.

§ 3. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 421-f of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 590 of the laws of 1994, subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 and subdivision 3 as further amended by subdivision (b) of section 1 of part W of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

2. (a) Such buildings shall be exempt for a period of one year to the extent of one hundred per centum of the increase in assessed value thereof attributable to such reconstruction, alteration or improvement**, and new construction pursuant to subdivision one-a of this section,** and for an additional period of seven years subject to the following:

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

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(i) The extent of such exemption shall be decreased by twelve and one-half per centum of the "exemption base" each year during such additional period. The "exemption base" shall be the increase in assessed value as determined in the initial year of the term of the exemption, except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph.

(ii) In any year in which a change in level of assessment of fifteen percent or more is certified for a final assessment roll pursuant to the rules of the commissioner, the exemption base shall be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the total assessed value of the parcel on such final assessment roll (after accounting for any physical or quantity changes to the parcel since the immediately preceding assessment roll), and the denominator of which shall be the total assessed value of the parcel on the immediately preceding final assessment roll. The result shall be the new exemption base. The exemption shall thereupon be recomputed to take into account the new exemption base, notwithstanding the fact that the assessor receives certification of the change in level of assessment after the completion, verification and filing of the final assessment roll. In the event the assessor does not have custody of the roll when such certification is received, the assessor shall certify the recomputed exemption to the local officers having custody and control of the roll, and such local officers are hereby directed and authorized to enter the recomputed exemption certified by the assessor on the roll. The assessor shall give written notice of such recomputed exemption to the property owner, who may, if he or she believes that the exemption was recomputed incorrectly, apply for a correction in the manner provided by title three of article five of this chapter for the correction of clerical errors.

(iii) [~~Such~~] **Except in a special assessing unit that is not a city, such** exemption shall be limited to eighty thousand dollars in increased market value, or such other sum less than eighty thousand dollars, but not less than five thousand dollars as may be provided by the local law or resolution, of the property attributable to such reconstruction, alteration or improvement and any increase in market value greater than such amount shall not be eligible for the exemption pursuant to this section. **In a special assessing unit that is not a city, the exemption shall be limited to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars in increased market value.** For the purposes of this section, the market value of the reconstruction, alteration or improvement**, or new construction as authorized by subdivision one-a of this section,** shall be equal to the increased assessed value attributable to such reconstruction, alteration [~~or~~]**,** improvement **or new construction** divided by the class [~~I~~] **one** ratio in a special assessing unit or the most recently established state equalization rate or special equalization rate in the remainder of the state, except where the state equalization rate or special equalization rate equals or exceeds ninety-five percent, in which case the increase in assessed value attributable to such reconstruction, alteration or improvement shall be deemed to equal the market value of such reconstruction, alteration or improvement.

(b) [~~No~~] **Except in a special assessing unit that is not a city, no** such exemption shall be granted for reconstruction, alterations or improvements unless:

(i) such reconstruction, alteration or improvement was commenced subsequent to the effective date of the local law or resolution adopted pursuant to subdivision one of this section; and

(ii) the value of such reconstruction, alteration or improvement exceeds three thousand dollars; and

(iii) the greater portion, as so determined by square footage, of the building reconstructed, altered or improved is at least five years old.

(c) For purposes of this section the terms reconstruction, alteration and improvement shall not include ordinary maintenance and repairs.

3. [~~Such~~] **Except in a special assessing unit that is not a city, such** exemption shall be granted only upon application by the owner of such building on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall be filed with the assessor of the city, town, village or county having the power to assess property for taxation on or before the appropriate taxable status date of such city, town, village or county. **In a special assessing unit that is not a city, the exemption shall be applied based upon that completion of reconstruction, alteration, improvement, or new construction on or before the taxable status date of the special assessing unit.**

§ 4. Subdivisions 5, 6 and 7 of section 421-f of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 590 of the laws of 1994, are amended to read as follows:

5. For the purposes of this section, **except in a special assessing unit that is not a city,** a residential building shall mean any building or structure designed and occupied exclusively for residential purposes by not more than two families.

6. In the event that a building granted an exemption pursuant to this section ceases to be used primarily for residential purposes or **is no longer classified as class one property in a special assessing unit that is not a city,** title thereto is transferred to other than the heirs or distributees of the owner, the exemption granted pursuant to this section shall cease.

7. (a) [~~A~~] **Except for a special assessing unit that is not a city, a** county, city, town or village may, by its local law, or school district, by its resolution:

(i) reduce the per centum of exemption otherwise allowed pursuant to this section;

(ii) limit eligibility for the exemption to those forms of reconstruction, alterations or improvements as are prescribed in such local law or resolution;

(iii) provide that the exemption shall be applicable only to those improvements which would otherwise result in an increase in the assessed valuation of the real property but which consist of an addition, remodeling or modernization to an existing residential structure to prevent physical deterioration of the structure or to comply with applicable building, sanitary, health and/or fire codes.

(b) No such local law or resolution shall reduce or repeal an exemption granted pursuant to this section until the expiration of the period for which such exemption was granted.

§ 5. Applicability. This act shall be applicable beginning with the two thousand twenty -- two thousand twenty-one assessment roll through and including the two thousand twenty-two -- two thousand twenty-three assessment roll.

§ 6. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid and after exhaustion of all further judicial review, the judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.