

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 450

February Session, 2024

LCO No. **3249**

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by: (FIN)

AN ACT PHASING IN THE EXEMPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES FROM PROPERTY TAX AND INCREASES IN THE UNIFORM PROPERTY ASSESSMENT RATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Commencing with the 2 assessment year commencing October 1, 2024, a portion of the assessed 3 value of a motor vehicle shall be exempt from the tax imposed under 4 chapter 203 of the general statutes, as follows:
- 5 (1) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2024, the first five
 6 thousand dollars of the assessed value of a motor vehicle;
- (2) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2025, the first nine
 thousand dollars of the assessed value of a motor vehicle;
- 9 (3) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2026, the first 10 fourteen thousand dollars of the assessed value of a motor vehicle;
- (4) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2027, the firsttwenty-one thousand dollars of the assessed value of a motor vehicle;

13 and

(5) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2028, and each
assessment year thereafter, motor vehicles shall be exempt from such
tax.

17 Sec. 2. Section 12-62a of the general statutes is repealed and the 18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) Each municipality, as defined in section 7-381, shall establish auniform assessment date of October first.

(b) Each such municipality shall assess all property for purposes of
the local property tax at a uniform rate [of seventy per cent] of present
true and actual value, as determined under section 12-63, as follows:

24 (1) For assessment years commencing prior to October 1, 2024,
 25 <u>seventy per cent;</u>

26 (2) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2024, seventy-five
 27 per cent;

28 (3) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2025, eighty per
 29 cent;

30 (4) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2026, eighty-three
 31 per cent;

32 (5) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2027, eighty 33 seven per cent; and

34 (6) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2028, and each
 35 assessment year thereafter, ninety per cent.

36 (c) Repealed by P.A. 96-171, S. 15, 16.

37 (d) Repealed by P.A. 96-171, S. 15, 16.

38 (e) Repealed by P.A. 06-148, S. 10 and P.A. 06-176, S. 4.

39 (f) Repealed by P.A. 06-148, S. 10 and P.A. 06-176, S. 4.

40 (g) Repealed by P.A. 83-465, S. 3, 4.

41 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 12-80a of the general
42 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
43 (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

44 (b) (1) Not later than the first day of February immediately following 45 the end of such tax year, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and 46 Management shall determine, with respect to such company, a value for 47 personal property equivalent to [seventy per cent] the percentage set 48 forth in subsection (b) of section 12-62a, as amended by this act, for the 49 applicable assessment year of the value of personal property included 50 in the list of such property prepared and certified in accordance with 51 subsection (a) of this section. The amount of tax applicable with respect 52 to such personal property of any taxpayer subject to the tax imposed 53 under this section shall be determined by multiplying the value of 54 personal property of such company, as determined under this 55 subsection, by a mill rate of forty-seven mills. Said secretary shall, not 56 later than the first day of March immediately following the end of such 57 tax year, submit a tax bill to each company stating the amount of tax 58 payable to each town in relation to the personal property of such 59 taxpayer located in such town. Such tax shall be due and payable to the 60 town in which such personal property is located not later than the first 61 day of April immediately following. Any city or borough not 62 consolidated with the town in which it is located and any town 63 containing such a city or borough shall receive a portion of the tax due 64 and payable to such town on the basis of the following ratio: The total 65 taxes levied in the previous fiscal year by such town, city or borough 66 shall be the numerator of the fraction. The total taxes levied by the town 67 and all cities or boroughs located within such town shall be added 68 together, and the sum shall be the denominator of the fraction. Any such 69 city or borough may, by vote of its legislative body, direct the Secretary 70 of the Office of Policy and Management to reallocate all or a portion of 71 the share of such city or borough to the town in which it is located.

Sec. 4. Section 12-115 of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

74 The board of assessment appeals in any town or city may, within 75 three months from the date prescribed by law for the completion of its 76 duties, as set forth in section 12-111, add to the grand list of a town any 77 taxable property [which] that has been omitted by the assessor or board 78 of assessors or the board of assessment appeals, which shall reflect for 79 each owner of such property, an assessment at [seventy per cent] the 80 percentage set forth in subsection (b) of section 12-62a, as amended by 81 this act, for the applicable assessment year of the present true and actual 82 value of such owner's taxable property from the best information that it 83 can obtain, and if the owner failed to file the declaration as prescribed 84 by law, shall add thereto twenty-five per cent of such assessment. Such 85 board of assessment appeals shall mail to such owner at the last-known 86 address of the owner, postage paid, [within] not later than one week 87 after the completion of such supplemental additions to the grand list, a 88 written or printed notice to appear before such board at a stated time 89 and place and show cause why such property should not be added to 90 such grand list. Any person aggrieved by the action of such board may, [within] not later than two months [from] after the time of such action, 91 92 have the same right of appeal to the Superior Court as provided by 93 section 12-117a. The authority designated by section 12-130 shall make 94 and sign a rate bill for such supplemental additions to the grand list and 95 a warrant with respect to such additions [which] that shall be forwarded 96 by the tax collector to such person, and such collector shall have the 97 same powers for the collection of the tax based on such supplemental 98 additions to such list as for the collection of other taxes.

99 Sec. 5. Section 15-101bb of the general statutes is repealed and the 100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

Property subject to taxation under this chapter shall be assessed by
the assessor or board of assessors of the town in which it is located at
[seventy per cent] the percentage set forth in subsection (b) of section
12-62a, as amended by this act, for the applicable assessment year of the

105 fair market value as determined by a person certified by the state as a 106 real estate appraiser, provided such appraiser is selected by a majority 107 vote of the chief executive officers of the towns of East Granby, Suffield, 108 Windsor and Windsor Locks. The services of the appraiser selected shall 109 be paid for by the towns of East Granby, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor 110 Locks in proportion to the percentages for each town set forth in section 111 15-101cc. Not later than August first in any assessment year, the 112 appraiser shall provide to the assessor or board of assessors of each of 113 the towns listed in said section and to the lessee of the property, the fair 114 market value of the property subject to taxation under this chapter as of 115 October first in such assessment year. The appraiser shall be responsible 116 for making a determination of taxability or nontaxability of leasehold 117 interests under this chapter. If any town or the lessee is aggrieved by the 118 determination of the appraiser concerning (1) the taxability of real 119 property under the provisions of this chapter, or (2) the valuation 120 thereof, such town or the lessee may, [within] not later than thirty days 121 [of] <u>after</u> the receipt of written notice of such determination, appeal to 122 the superior court for the judicial district where such property is located. 123 Such appeals shall be preferred cases, to be heard, unless cause appears 124 to the contrary, at the first session, by the court.

Sec. 6. Section 12-62r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

127 (a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Apartment property" means a building containing four or more
dwelling units used for human habitation, the parcel of land on which
such building is situated, any accessory buildings or other
improvements located on such parcel and condominium units
converted after July 1, 2018, unless such conversion is made pursuant to
subsection (i) of this section;

(2) "Residential property" means (A) a building containing three or
fewer dwelling units used for human habitation, the parcel of land on
which such building is situated, and any accessory buildings or other

improvements located on such parcel, (B) common interest
communities, as defined in section 47-202, including common interest
communities converted from apartment properties prior to July 1, 2018,
or (C) condominiums, as defined in section 47-68a, that are used for
residential purposes, including condominiums converted from
apartment properties prior to July 1, 2018;

143 (3) "Base year" means the assessment year commencing October 1,144 2010;

(4) "Adjusted tax levy" means the total amount of taxes raised bytaxation in a fiscal year by a municipality;

(5) "Owner-occupied residential property" means a dwelling unit in
a residential property that is occupied as a primary residence by the
owner of the property; and

150 (6) "Common ownership" means that more than fifty per cent of the 151 voting control of the owner of a unit described in subdivision (2) of this 152 subsection is directly or indirectly owned by a common owner or 153 owners, either corporate or noncorporate. Whether voting control is 154 indirectly owned shall be determined in accordance with Section 318 of 155 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding 156 internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to 157 time.

158 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any 159 special act, municipal charter or any home rule ordinance, any 160 municipality in which the provisions of section 12-62n were effective for 161 the assessment year commencing October 1, 2010, shall make annual 162 adjustments to the assessment rate charged to apartment and residential 163 property in accordance with the provisions of this section, but in no 164 event shall the assessment rate for any class of property be in excess of 165 [seventy per cent] the percentage set forth in subsection (b) of section 166 12-62a, as amended by this act, for the applicable assessment year.

167 (c) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2011, in any

168 municipality that adopts the property tax system under this section, 169 apartment property shall be assessed at a rate of fifty per cent. For 170 assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2012, the assessor 171 shall determine a rate of assessment for apartment property that will 172 have the effect of phasing in proportionate increases in the rate so that, 173 by the assessment year commencing October 1, 2015, the assessment rate 174 for apartment property shall be [seventy per cent] the percentage set 175 forth in subsection (b) of section 12-62a, as amended by this act, for the 176 applicable assessment year.

177 (d) (1) In any municipality that adopts the property tax system under 178 this section, for the assessment [year] years commencing [October 1, 179 2011, and only for said assessment year, the assessor shall determine a 180 rate of assessment for residential property that will have the effect of 181 increasing the average property tax for residential property as a result 182 of revaluation by three and one-half per cent over the property tax for 183 such property class in the base year, but in no event shall the assessment 184 rate be less than twenty-three per cent. For assessment years 185 commencing on and after October 1, 2011, the] October 1, 2024, to 186 October 1, 2028, inclusive, the assessor shall increase the rate of assessment for residential property as follows: 187

(A) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2024, seven and
 fourteen-hundredths per cent;

(B) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2025, six and
 sixty-seven-hundredths per cent;

- (C) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2026, three and
 seventy-five-hundredths per cent;
- (D) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2027, four and
 eighty-two-hundredths per cent; and
- (E) For the assessment year commencing October 1, 2028, three and
 forty-five-hundredths per cent.

<u>(2) The</u> assessor shall then calculate an adjustment to the rate of
 assessment for residential property in accordance with subsection (e) of
 this section.

201 (e) Not later than January thirty-first or the completion of the grand 202 list, whichever is later, the assessor shall annually calculate the 203 residential assessment ratio. The assessor shall first adjust the adjusted 204 tax levy for the preceding fiscal year in accordance with any change in 205 the consumer price index for all urban consumers in the northeast 206 region in the preceding fiscal year, as reported generally in February for 207 the year-over-year January index. If, after such adjustment, (1) the 208 adjusted tax levy in the current fiscal year exceeds the adjusted tax levy 209 in the prior fiscal year by more than one hundred per cent of the rate of 210 inflation, as determined in accordance with such consumer price index, 211 the assessor, in his or her calculation of the assessment ratios for the next 212 grand list, shall increase the rate of assessment for residential properties 213 from the prior grand list year by five per cent; (2) the adjusted tax levy 214 in the current fiscal year exceeds the adjusted tax levy in the prior fiscal year by more than fifty per cent, but not more than one hundred per 215 216 cent, of such rate of inflation, the assessor shall increase such rate of 217 assessment by three and one-half per cent; (3) the adjusted tax levy in 218 the current fiscal year exceeds the adjusted tax levy in the prior fiscal 219 year by not more than fifty per cent of such rate of inflation, the assessor 220 shall increase such rate of assessment by two and one-half per cent; (4) 221 the adjusted tax levy in the current fiscal year is equal to the adjusted 222 tax levy in the prior fiscal year, or is less than one-half per cent less than 223 the adjusted tax levy in the prior fiscal year, the assessor shall increase 224 such rate of assessment by one and one-half per cent; and (5) the 225 adjusted tax levy in the current fiscal year is less than the adjusted tax 226 levy in the prior fiscal year by at least one-half per cent, the assessor 227 shall make no change in such rate of assessment.

(f) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2016,
any municipality that adopts the property tax system under this section
may, by vote of its legislative body, enact an ordinance to establish a
program to encourage homeownership by adjusting the annual

232 assessment rate for nonowner-occupied residential properties so that, 233 while the annual assessment rate for owner-occupied residential 234 properties shall be calculated at all times in accordance with subsection 235 (e) of this section, the annual assessment rate for nonowner-occupied 236 residential properties shall be calculated at a rate that shall keep the 237 annual assessment rate for owner-occupied residential properties lower 238 than that of nonowner-occupied residential properties. Any ordinance enacted pursuant to this subsection may be amended only in a year in 239 240 which such municipality conducts a revaluation of real property 241 pursuant to section 12-62.

242 (g) Not later than June fifteenth in any year in which the adjusted tax 243 levy in the current fiscal year increases by more than two and six-tenths 244 per cent over the adjusted tax levy in the prior fiscal year, one per cent 245 of the total number of electors of such municipality may petition in 246 writing for a referendum on the budget establishing such increase. Any 247 such referendum shall be held not more than ten days after receipt of 248 such petition by the town clerk and shall be conducted in accordance 249 with the provisions of chapter 90. Such budget shall not become 250 effective unless a majority of the electors voting in such referendum vote 251 in favor thereof. Only one referendum may be held, and, if the vote is 252 against the budget, such municipality shall so adjust the budget as to 253 limit any increase to be equal to or less than two and six-tenths per cent.

(h) Nothing in this section shall change the assessment of apartment
property created or converted by the Capital Region Development
Authority created pursuant to section 20-601. Such apartment property
shall continue to be assessed as residential property.

(i) If a purchaser of a building containing four or more residential units invests an amount in excess of thirty-five per cent of the purchase price of such building within three years after the purchase date recorded on the land records, then the purchaser shall be entitled to convert the building into a common interest community and such form of ownership shall remain in perpetuity, unless dissolved by the owner of such building. Such property shall be treated as residential property 265 for tax purposes.

(j) Verification of investments made pursuant to subsection (i) of this
section shall be determined by the assessor for the municipality in which
the building is located. If an owner disagrees with the decision of the
assessor, such owner may take an appeal pursuant to section 12-117a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October</i> 1, 2024	12-62a
Sec. 3	<i>October</i> 1, 2024	12-80a(b)(1)
Sec. 4	<i>October</i> 1, 2024	12-115
Sec. 5	<i>October</i> 1, 2024	15-101bb
Sec. 6	<i>October</i> 1, 2024	12-62r

Statement of Purpose:

To provide a five-year phase-in of a property tax exemption for motor vehicles and increase the uniform property assessment rate over the same period.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]