

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 493

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

TAX EXEMPTIONS/HOMESTEAD: Authorizes the city of New Orleans to establish a homestead exemption audit program in Orleans Parish

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:1704, relative to the homestead exemption; to authorize the establishment  
3 of a homestead exemption audit program in the city of New Orleans; to provide for  
4 program implementation and administration; to authorize the imposition of a fee; and  
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
7 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
8 Louisiana.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 47:1704 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1704. Homestead exemption audit program; city of New Orleans; fees

12 A. The city of New Orleans may establish a homestead exemption audit  
13 program for the property in the city of New Orleans and the parish of Orleans. The  
14 purpose of the audit program is to determine if property in the city of New Orleans  
15 and the parish of Orleans is the subject of more than one homestead exemption or if  
16 property owners in the city of New Orleans and the parish of Orleans are claiming  
17 a homestead exemption on more than one property. Provisions governing the  
18 execution, administration, and enforcement of the audit program and collections  
19 made pursuant to the program shall be established by the city of New Orleans  
20 through the promulgation of rules.

1           B. The city of New Orleans may impose a fee not to exceed ten percent of  
 2           the total amount of taxes, penalties, and interest which may be due and owed by a  
 3           taxpayer through this program. The total amount of taxes, penalties, interest, and  
 4           fees shall be assessed against the taxpayer, to be collected by the tax collector, and  
 5           remitted to the city of New Orleans.

6           C. The city of New Orleans is authorized to employ any agents, assistants,  
 7           auditors, clerks, inspectors, investigators, or other experts to assist in program  
 8           execution and enforcement. The city of New Orleans is authorized to enter into  
 9           contracts with these persons; however, the total fees paid pursuant to the contracts  
 10          shall not exceed the total fees collected by the city of New Orleans pursuant to  
 11          Subsection B of this Section.

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 493 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Abramson

**Abstract:** Authorizes the city of New Orleans to establish a homestead exemption audit program for property located in the city to examine homestead exemption eligibility.

Present constitution authorizes the imposition of ad valorem property taxes on property within La. Further establishes an exemption from state, parish, and special ad valorem property taxes for the bona fide homestead of the property owner for the first \$7,500 of the property's assessed value.

Proposed law authorizes the city of New Orleans to establish a homestead exemption audit program for property located in the city to determine if the property is subject to more than one homestead exemption or if property owners are claiming a homestead exemption on more than one property.

Proposed law requires provisions governing the execution, administration, and enforcement of the audit program and collections made pursuant to the program to be established through the promulgation of rules.

Proposed law authorizes the city to impose a fee not to exceed 10% of the total amount of taxes, penalties, and interest owed by a taxpayer through collections made pursuant to the program to be collected by the tax collector, and remitted to the city. Further authorizes the city to employ and enter into contracts with experts to assist in program execution and enforcement; however, the total fees paid pursuant to the contracts cannot exceed the total fees collected by the city.

(Adds R.S. 47:1704)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Clarify that the rules shall provide for the execution, administration, and enforcement of the audit program and collections made pursuant to the program.