

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 524

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HADEN.

0599H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 153.030, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to public utility company property assessments.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 153.030, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 153.030, to read as follows:

153.030. 1. All bridges over streams dividing this state from any other state owned, used, leased or otherwise controlled by any person, corporation, railroad company or joint stock company, and all bridges across or over navigable streams within this state, where the charge is made for crossing the same, which are now constructed, which are in the course of construction, or which shall hereafter be constructed, and all property, real and tangible personal, owned, used, leased or otherwise controlled by telegraph, telephone, electric power and light companies, electric transmission lines, pipeline companies and express companies shall be subject to taxation for state, county, municipal and other local purposes to the same extent as the property of private persons.

2. And taxes levied thereon shall be levied and collected in the manner as is now or may hereafter be provided by law for the taxation of railroad property in this state, and county commissions, county boards of equalization and the state tax commission are hereby required to perform the same duties and are given the same powers, including punitive powers, in assessing, equalizing and adjusting the taxes on the property set forth in this section as the county commissions and boards of equalization and state tax commission have or may hereafter be empowered with, in assessing, equalizing, and adjusting the taxes on railroad property; and an authorized officer of any such bridge, telegraph, telephone, electric power and light companies,

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 electric transmission lines, pipeline companies, or express company or the owner of any such toll  
19 bridge, is hereby required to render reports of the property of such bridge, telegraph, telephone,  
20 electric power and light companies, electric transmission lines, pipeline companies, or express  
21 companies in like manner as the authorized officer of the railroad company is now or may  
22 hereafter be required to render for the taxation of railroad property.

23         3. On or before the fifteenth day of April in the year 1946 and each year thereafter an  
24 authorized officer of each such company shall furnish the state tax commission and county clerks  
25 a report, duly subscribed and sworn to by such authorized officer, which is like in nature and  
26 purpose to the reports required of railroads under chapter 151 showing the full amount of all real  
27 and tangible personal property owned, used, leased or otherwise controlled by each such  
28 company on January first of the year in which the report is due.

29         4. If any telephone company assessed pursuant to chapter 153 has a microwave relay  
30 station or stations in a county in which it has no wire mileage but has wire mileage in another  
31 county, then, for purposes of apportioning the assessed value of the distributable property of such  
32 companies, the straight line distance between such microwave relay stations shall constitute  
33 miles of wire. In the event that any public utility company assessed pursuant to this chapter has  
34 no distributable property which physically traverses the counties in which it operates, then the  
35 assessed value of the distributable property of such company shall be apportioned to the physical  
36 location of the distributable property.

37         5. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2019,  
38 a telephone company shall make a one-time election within the tax year to be assessed:

39             (a) Using the methodology for property tax purposes as provided under this section; or

40             (b) Using the methodology for property tax purposes as provided under this section for  
41 property consisting of land and buildings and be assessed for all other property exclusively using  
42 the methodology utilized under section 137.122.

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44 If a telephone company begins operations, including a merger of multiple telephone companies,  
45 after August 28, 2018, it shall make its one-time election to be assessed using the methodology  
46 for property tax purposes as described under paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of this subsection  
47 within the year in which the telephone company begins its operations. A telephone company that  
48 fails to make a timely election shall be deemed to have elected to be assessed using the  
49 methodology for property tax purposes as provided under subsections 1 to 4 of this section.

50         (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to change the original  
51 assessment jurisdiction of the state tax commission.

52         (3) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be construed as applying to any  
53 other utility.

54 (4) (a) The provisions of this subdivision shall ensure that school districts may avoid  
55 any fiscal impact as a result of a telephone company being assessed under the provisions of  
56 paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of this subsection. If a school district's current operating levy  
57 is below the greater of its most recent voter-approved tax rate or the most recent voter-approved  
58 tax rate as adjusted under subdivision (2) of subsection 5 of section 137.073, it shall comply with  
59 section 137.073.

60 (b) Beginning January 1, 2019, any school district currently operating at a tax rate equal  
61 to the greater of the most recent voter-approved tax rate or the most recent voter-approved tax  
62 rate as adjusted under subdivision (2) of subsection 5 of section 137.073 that receives less tax  
63 revenue from a specific telephone company under this subsection, on or before January  
64 thirty-first of the year following the tax year in which the school district received less revenue  
65 from a specific telephone company, may by resolution of the school board impose a fee, as  
66 determined under this subsection, in order to obtain such revenue. The resolution shall include  
67 all facts that support the imposition of the fee. If the school district receives voter approval to  
68 raise its tax rate, the district shall no longer impose the fee authorized in this paragraph.

69 (c) Any fee imposed under paragraph (b) of this subdivision shall be determined by  
70 taking the difference between the tax revenue the telephone company paid in the tax year in  
71 question and the tax revenue the telephone company would have paid in such year had it not  
72 made an election under subdivision (1) of this subsection, which shall be calculated by taking  
73 the telephone company valuations in the tax year in question, as determined by the state tax  
74 commission under paragraph (d) of this subdivision, and applying such valuations to the  
75 apportionment process in subsection 2 of section 151.150. The school district shall issue a  
76 billing, as provided in this subdivision, to any such telephone company. A telephone company  
77 shall have forty-five days after receipt of a billing to remit its payment of its portion of the fees  
78 to the school district. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the issuance or receipt of such  
79 fee shall not be used:

80 a. In determining the amount of state aid that a school district receives under section  
81 163.031;

82 b. In determining the amount that may be collected under a property tax levy by such  
83 district; or

84 c. For any other purpose.

85

86 For the purposes of accounting, a telephone company that issues a payment to a school district  
87 under this subsection shall treat such payment as a tax.

88 (d) When establishing the valuation of a telephone company assessed under paragraph  
89 (b) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the state tax commission shall also determine the  
90 difference between the assessed value of a telephone company if:

- 91 a. Assessed under paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; and  
92 b. Assessed exclusively under subsections 1 to 4 of this section.

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94 The state tax commission shall then apportion such amount to each county and provide such  
95 information to any school district making a request for such information.

96 (e) This subsection shall expire when no school district is eligible for a fee.

97 6. (1) If any public utility company assessed pursuant to this chapter has ownership of  
98 any real or personal property associated with a project which uses wind energy directly to  
99 generate electricity, such wind energy project property shall be valued and taxed by any local  
100 authorities having jurisdiction under the provisions of chapter 137 and other relevant provisions  
101 of the law.

102 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2020, for  
103 any public utility company assessed pursuant to this chapter which has a wind energy project,  
104 such wind energy project shall be assessed using the methodology for real and personal property  
105 as provided in this subsection:

106 (a) Any wind energy property of such company shall be assessed upon the county  
107 assessor's local tax rolls;

108 (b) Any property consisting of land and buildings related to the wind energy project shall  
109 be assessed under chapter 137; and

110 (c) All other business or personal property related to the wind energy project shall be  
111 assessed using the methodology provided under section 137.122.

112 **7. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning January 1,**  
113 **2022, the real and personal property of any public utility company that utilizes any**  
114 **financing authorized under chapter 100 for construction shall be assessed only upon the**  
115 **county assessor's local tax rolls.**

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