

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1962

By: Kiger of the House

and

Murdock of the Senate

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 2011, Sections 2876, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 266, O.S.L. 2018 and 2880.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 194, O.S.L. 2015 (68 O.S. Supp. 2018, Sections 2876 and 2880.1), which relate to valuation increase notices and appeals process; modifying computation of certain time period; modifying deadline for protest filing; modifying time period for purposes of certain written decision; modifying time period for appeal to county board of equalization; modifying definition; modifying period of time for filing appeals to district court; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Ad valorem taxation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 2876, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 266, O.S.L. 2018 (68 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 2876), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2876. A. If the county assessor increases the valuation of any personal property above that returned by the taxpayer, or in the case of real property increases the fair cash value or the taxable fair cash value from the preceding year, or pursuant to the requirements of law if the assessor has added property not listed by the taxpayer, the county assessor shall notify the taxpayer in writing of the amount of such valuation as increased or valuation of property so added.

B. For cases in which the taxable fair cash value or fair cash value of real property has increased, the notice shall include the fair cash value of the property for the current year, the taxable fair cash value for the preceding and current year, the assessed value for the preceding and current year and the assessment percentage for the preceding and current year.

C. For cases in which the county assessor increases the valuation of any personal property above that returned by the taxpayer, the notice shall describe the property with sufficient accuracy to notify the taxpayer as to the property included, the fair cash value for the current year, the assessment percentage for the current year, any penalty for the current year pursuant to subsection C of Section 2836 of this title and the assessed value for the current year.

D. The notice shall be mailed to the taxpayer at the taxpayer's last-known address and shall clearly be marked with the mailing date. The assessor shall have the capability to duplicate the notice, showing the date of mailing. Such record shall be prima facie evidence as to the fact of notice having been given as required by this section.

E. The taxpayer shall have thirty (30) calendar days from the date the notice was mailed in which to file a written protest with the county assessor specifying objections to the increase in fair cash value or taxable fair cash value by the county assessor; provided, in the case of a scrivener's error or other admitted error on the part of the county assessor, the assessor may make corrections to a valuation at any time, notwithstanding the thirty-day period specified in this subsection. The protest shall set out the pertinent facts in relation to the matter contained in the notice in ordinary and concise language and in such manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is intended. The protest shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

F. A taxpayer may file a protest if the valuation of property has not increased or decreased from the previous year if the protest is filed on or before the first Monday in ~~May~~ April. Such protest shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

G. The county assessor shall schedule an informal hearing with the taxpayer to hear the protest as to the disputed valuation or

addition of omitted property. The informal hearing may be held in person or may be held telephonically, if requested by the taxpayer. A taxpayer that is unable to participate in a scheduled informal hearing, either in person or telephonically, shall be given at least two additional opportunities to participate on one of two alternative dates provided by the county assessor, each on a different day of the week, before the county assessor or an authorized representative of the county assessor. The assessor shall issue a written decision in the matter disputed within ~~five (5) working~~ seven (7) calendar days of the date of the informal hearing and shall provide by regular or electronic mail a copy of the decision to the taxpayer. The decision shall clearly be marked with the date it was mailed. Within ~~ten (10) working~~ fifteen (15) calendar days of the date the decision is mailed, the taxpayer may file an appeal with the county board of equalization. ~~For purposes of this section, "working days" shall mean Monday through Friday and shall exclude Saturday and Sunday and any legal holidays.~~ The appeal shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. One copy of the form shall be mailed or delivered to the county assessor and one copy shall be mailed or delivered to the county board of equalization. On receipt of the notice of an appeal to the county board of equalization by the taxpayer, the county assessor shall provide the county board of equalization with all information submitted by the taxpayer, data supporting the disputed valuation and a written explanation of the results of the informal hearing.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 2880.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 194, O.S.L. 2015 (68 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 2880.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2880.1 A. Both the taxpayer and the county assessor shall have the right of appeal from any order of the county board of equalization to the district court of the same county, and right of appeal of either may be either upon questions of law or fact including value, or upon both questions of law and fact. The county assessor is the proper party defendant in any appeal to the district court brought by the taxpayer. The taxpayer is the proper party defendant in any appeal to the district court brought by the county assessor. In either case, the county board of equalization shall not be considered a party in any litigation from an appeal brought pursuant to this section. In case of appeal the trial in the district court shall be de novo. Provided, the county assessor shall not be permitted to appeal an order of the county board of equalization upon a question of the constitutionality of a law upon

which the board based its order, but the county assessor is hereby authorized in such instance to request a declaratory judgment to be rendered by the district court.

B. Notice of appeal shall be filed with the county clerk as secretary of the county board of equalization, which appeal shall be filed in the district court within ~~ten (10)~~ thirty (30) calendar days after the final adjournment of the board of the date the board of equalization order was mailed, or in the event that the order was delivered, from the date of delivery. It shall be the duty of the county clerk to preserve all complaints and to make a record of all orders of the board and both the complaint and orders shall be a part of the record in any case appealed to the district court from the county board of equalization.

C. Either the taxpayer or the county assessor may appeal from the district court to the Supreme Court, as provided for in the Code of Civil Procedure, but no matter shall be reviewed on such appeal which was not presented to the district court.

D. In such appeals to the district court and to the Supreme Court and in requests for declaratory judgment it shall be the duty of the district attorney to appear for and represent the county assessor. The General Counsel or an attorney for the Tax Commission may appear in such appeals or requests for declaratory judgment on behalf of the county assessor, either upon request of the district attorney for assistance, or upon request of the county assessor. It shall be the mandatory duty of the board of county commissioners and the county excise board to provide the necessary funds to enable the county assessor to pay the costs necessary to be incurred in perfecting appeals and requests for declaratory judgment made by the county assessor to the courts.

E. In all appeals taken by the county assessor the presumption shall exist in favor of the correctness of the county assessor's valuation and the procedure followed by the county assessor.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of March, 2019.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 1st day of April, 2019.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____