



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

S.P. 823

No. 2154

January 15, 2008

An Act Concerning Technical Changes to the Tax Laws

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PERRY of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Representative PIOTTI of Unity. 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5250-I, sub-§12, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. D, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5250-I, sub-§15, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. D, §2,
 is repealed.

6 Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §111, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 378, §2, is repealed.

7 Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §141, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 1981, c. 364, §8, is 8 repealed.

9 Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §145 is enacted to read:

10 §145. Declaration of jeopardy

11 If the State Tax Assessor determines that the collection of any tax will be jeopardized 12 by delay, the assessor, upon giving notice of this determination to the person liable for the 13 tax, may demand an immediate return with respect to any period or immediate payment 14 of any tax declared to be in jeopardy, or both, and may terminate the current reporting 15 period and demand an immediate return and payment with respect to that period. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, taxes declared to be in jeopardy are payable 16 17 immediately, and the assessor may proceed immediately to collect those taxes by any 18 collection method authorized by this Title. The person liable for the tax may stay 19 collection by requesting reconsideration of the declaration of jeopardy in accordance with 20 section 151 and depositing with the assessor, within the time period specified in section 21 151, a bond or other security in the amount of the liability with respect to which the stay 22 of collection is sought. A determination of jeopardy by the assessor is presumed to be 23 correct, and the burden of showing otherwise is on the taxpayer.

Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §187-B, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1999, c. 521, Pt. A,
 §2, is further amended to read:

C. If the return is not filed and the assessor issues a makes a determination of
 jeopardy assessment pursuant to section 141, subsection 2, paragraph D 145, the
 penalty is 100% of the tax due.

29 Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §187-B, sub-§3-A, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 873, §6 and 30 affected by §9, is amended to read:

31 **3-A.** Negligence; fraud. Any A person who files a return under this Title that 32 results in an underpayment of tax, any portion of which is attributable to negligence or 33 intentional disregard of this Title or rules issued adopted pursuant to this Title, but is not 34 attributable to fraud with intent to evade the tax, is liable for a penalty in the amount of 35 \$25 or 25% of that portion of the underpayment, whichever is greater. Any <u>A</u> person 36 who files a return under this Title that results in an underpayment of tax, any portion of 37 which is attributable to fraud with intent to evade the tax, is liable for a penalty in the 38 amount of \$75 or 75% of that portion of the underpayment, whichever is greater. For the

1 purposes of this section, the term "negligence" means any failure to make a reasonable 2 attempt to comply with the provisions of this Title.

3 This subsection takes effect July 1, 1993.

4 Sec. 8. 36 MRSA §187-B, sub-§4-A, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 873, §7 and 5 affected by §9, is amended to read:

6 4-A. Substantial understatement. Any A person who files a return under this Title 7 that results in an underpayment of tax, any portion of which is attributable to a substantial 8 understatement of tax, without negligence or intentional disregard of this Title or rules or 9 regulations issued under adopted pursuant to this Title and without fraud with intent to evade the tax, is liable for a penalty of \$5 or 1% of that portion of the underpayment, 10 whichever is greater, for each month or fraction of a month during which the failure to 11 pay that portion of the underpayment continues, up to a maximum in the aggregate of \$25 12 13 or 25% of the underpayment, whichever is greater.

14 There is a substantial understatement of tax if the amount of the understatement on the 15 return or returns for the period covered by the assessment exceeds 10% of the total tax required to be shown on the return or returns for that period or \$1,000, whichever is 16 17 greater. For purposes of ealculating determining whether an understatement is substantial 18 and <u>calculating</u> the amount of any <u>a</u> substantial understatement that is subject to penalty 19 under this subsection, the amount of any an understatement is reduced by that portion of 20 the understatement that is attributable to the tax treatment of any item by the taxpayer if 21 there is or was substantial authority for such that treatment.

22 This subsection takes effect July 1, 1993.

Sec. 9. 36 MRSA §306, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §11, is further amended to read:

25 §306. Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

Chief assessor. "Chief assessor" shall mean that means the person who is
 primarily responsible for the assessing function in a primary assessing unit or primary
 assessing district, designated as such by the director State Tax Assessor.

Hours of classroom training. "Hours of classroom training" shall mean clock hours means clock hours, not credit hours.

33 3. Municipal assessing unit. "Municipal assessing unit" means a municipality that
 has chosen not to be designated by the State Tax Assessor as a primary assessing area;
 either single unit or district member.

4. Primary assessing area. "Primary assessing area" shall mean that area of the
 State designated by the director as means the basic geographic division of the state's
 State's territory for the purpose of property tax assessment and administration. Said A

primary assessing area may be either a÷ primary assessing unit or a primary assessing
 district.

- A. "Primary assessing unit," a single municipality designated by the director as a
 primary assessing area;
- 5 B. "Primary assessing district," a multi-municipal area of the State designated by the
 6 director as a multi-municipal assessing area.

7 <u>4-A. Primary assessing district.</u> "Primary assessing district" means a
 8 multimunicipal area of the State that has been designated by the State Tax Assessor as a
 9 primary assessing area.

<u>4-B. Primary assessing unit.</u> "Primary assessing unit" means a single municipality
 that has been designated by the State Tax Assessor as a primary assessing area.

12 5. Professional assessor. "Professional assessor" shall mean any means a person 13 who is employed full time by one or more municipalities or by a primary assessing area 14 and devoting, 75% or more of his or her whose time is devoted to assessment 15 administration.

16 6. State supervisory agency. "State supervisory agency" shall mean the Bureau of
 17 Revenue Services.

18 Sec. 10. 36 MRSA §314, as amended by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §§77 and 106; PL
1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

20 §314. Removal

21 Chief assessors The chief assessor holds office for an indefinite term unless otherwise
 22 specified by contract. A chief assessor may be removed from office as follows:

Probationary period. Any <u>A</u> chief assessor serving a probationary term period
 may be removed by the executive committee upon 30 days' written notice stating the
 reason therefor for the removal.

2. Tenure. A chief assessor having who has tenure may be removed for cause by the
 executive committee on in the form and manner provided for the removal of town
 managers in Title 30-A, section 2633. The chief tax assessor shall hold office for an
 indefinite term unless otherwise specified by contract.

30 3. Certification revoked. A chief assessor whose certification is revoked by the
 31 State Tax Assessor shall must be immediately removed from office immediately.

32 Sec. 11. 36 MRSA §329, as amended by PL 1997, c. 526, §14, is further amended 33 to read:

1 §329. Inability to achieve standards

2 Upon an initial determination by If the Bureau of Revenue Services <u>determines</u> that a 3 municipality has not met the minimum standards set forth in this subchapter, the 4 municipality has the following 2 options:

5 1. Acceptance. Upon-such-acceptance If the municipality accepts the bureau's determination, the bureau shall consult with the officers of the municipality and require 6 7 steps by which the municipality shall is to achieve an equitable acceptable level of just assessing practices. Such In requiring those steps, the bureau shall endeavor to 8 accommodate the preferences of the municipal officers and. The steps may include 9 membership, where applicable, in a primary assessing district, the joining with a 10 companion municipality in the hiring of a part time, professional assessor or an assessing 11 12 firm or other arrangements approved by the Bureau of Revenue Services bureau; and

Appeal. The If the municipality deeming itself is aggrieved by the bureau's determination, the municipality may file a written notice of appeal with the State Board of Property Tax Review in accordance with chapter 101, subchapter H-A 2-A.

16 Sec. 12. 36 MRSA §508 is enacted to read:

17 §508. Service charges

18 1. Imposition. A municipality may impose service charges on the owner of 19 residential property, other than student housing or parsonages, that is totally exempt from taxation under section 652 and that is used to provide rental income. Such service 20 charges must be calculated according to the actual cost of providing municipal services to 21 that real property and to the persons who use that property, and revenues derived from the 22 charges must be used to fund, to the extent possible, the costs of those services. The 23 24 municipal legislative body shall identify those institutions and organizations upon which 25 service charges are to be levied.

A municipality that imposes service charges on any institution or organization must
 impose those service charges on every similarly situated institution or organization. For
 the purposes of this section, "municipal services" means all services provided by a
 municipality other than education and welfare.

30 2. Limitation. The total service charges levied by a municipality on any institution 31 or organization under this section may not exceed 2% of the gross annual revenues of the 32 institution or organization. In order to qualify for this limitation, the institution or 33 organization must file with the municipality an audit of the revenues of the institution or 34 organization for the year immediately prior to the year in which the service charge is 35 levied. The municipal officers shall abate the portion of the service charge that exceeds 36 2% of the gross annual revenues of the institution or organization.

37 3. Administration. Municipalities shall adopt any ordinances necessary to carry out
 38 the provisions of this section. Determinations of service charges may be appealed in
 39 accordance with an appeals process provided by municipal ordinance. Unpaid service
 40 charges may be collected in the manner provided in Title 38, section 1208.

Sec. 13. 36 MRSA §551, as amended by PL 1975, c. 252, §14, is further amended
 to read:

3 §551. Real estate; defined

4 Real estate, for the purposes of taxation under this Part, shall include includes all 5 lands in the State and all buildings, mobile homes, camper trailers and other things that 6 are affixed to the same, such as, but not limited to, camp trailers land, together with the 7 any appurtenant water power, shore privileges and rights, forests and mineral deposits 8 appertaining thereto; interests and improvements in land, the fee of which is in the State; 9 interests by contract or otherwise in real estate exempt from taxation; and lines of electric 10 light and power companies. Buildings, mobile homes, camper trailers and other things that are affixed to the land, on leased land or on land not owned by the owner of the 11 buildings, shall be considered must be taxed as real estate for purposes of taxation and 12 13 shall be taxed in the place where said that land is located. Mobile homes, except stock in 14 trade, shall be are considered real estate for purposes of taxation under this Part.

15 Sec. 14. 36 MRSA §574-A, as amended by PL 1989, c. 508, §9, is further 16 amended to read:

17 §574-A. Ineligibility

18 The Legislature finds that when the value of a recreational use lease of forest land 19 exceeds the value of the tree growth which that can be extracted from that land on a 20 sustained basis per acre as determined pursuant to section 576, then the land is no longer 21 primarily used for the continuous growth of forest products. This finding is sufficient 22 cause to remove from taxation under this subchapter those parcels that are more valuable 23 in terms of recreation for recreational use and are being leased on that basis. Therefore, notwithstanding sections 573 or 574 and 574-B, this subchapter shall not apply to any a 24 25 parcel of forest land that is leased for consideration to any individual or group of 26 individuals person to use for recreational purposes does not qualify for taxation under this 27 subchapter if that parcel of land exceeds 100 acres and if the consideration for that lease 28 per acre exceeds the value of the growth which that can be extracted on a sustained basis per acre as determined pursuant to section 576. The owner of the leased parcels shall 29 30 submit a copy of the lease or leases on land subject to the provisions of taxation under 31 this subsection subchapter to the State Tax Assessor for land in the unorganized territory 32 and to the municipal assessors for land in organized municipalities. The State Tax 33 Assessor or the municipal assessor shall determine if whether the value of the lease 34 exceeds the sustained growth value. If the value of the lease is determined to exceed the 35 sustained growth value, the owner of the forest land shall have has 60 days from the date 36 of notification receipt of notice of that determination to either terminate the lease, amend 37 the lease to comply with the requirements of this section or withdraw the land covered by 38 the lease from the tree growth taxation under this subchapter. In the case of A 39 withdrawal, such action shall be pursuant to this section is subject to the provisions of 40 section 581 of this subchapter.

41 Sec. 15. 36 MRSA §575, amended by PL 1985, c. 785, Pt. A, §109, is repealed 42 and the following enacted in its place:

1 §575. Administration; rules

2 <u>The State Tax Assessor may adopt rules necessary to carry out this subchapter. Rules</u>
 3 <u>adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,</u>
 4 <u>subchapter 2-A.</u>

5 Sec. 16. 36 MRSA §581, as amended by PL 2007, c. 425, §1 and repealed and 6 replaced by c. 438, §18, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

7 §581. Withdrawal

8 1. Assessor determination; owner request. If the assessor determines that land 9 subject to this subchapter no longer meets the requirements of this subchapter, the 10 assessor must withdraw the land from taxation under this subchapter. Before withdrawing 11 a parcel from taxation under this subchapter, if the sole reason the land does not meet the 12 requirements of this subchapter is that the owner failed to file the sworn statement 13 required under section 574-B, the assessor shall provide the owner with written notice by 14 regular mail of the deadline to file the sworn statement and permit the owner at least 60 15 days to respond to that notice. An owner of land subject to taxation under this subchapter 16 may at any time request withdrawal of that land from taxation under this subchapter by 17 certifying in writing to the assessor that the land is no longer to be classified under this 18 subchapter.

2. Withdrawal of portion. In the case of withdrawal of a portion of a parcel, the
 owner, as a condition of withdrawal, shall file with the assessor a plan showing the area
 withdrawn and the area remaining subject to taxation under this subchapter. In the case of
 withdrawal of a portion of a parcel, the resulting portions must be treated after the
 withdrawal as separate parcels under section 708.

3. Penalty. If land is withdrawn from taxation under this subchapter, the assessor
 shall impose a penalty upon the owner. The penalty is the greater of:

26 A. An amount equal to the taxes that would have been assessed on the first day of 27 April for the 5 tax years, or any lesser number of tax years starting with the year in which the land was first classified, preceding the withdrawal had that land been 28 29 assessed in each of those years at its just value on the date of withdrawal. That 30 amount must be reduced by all taxes paid on that land over the preceding 5 years, or 31 any lesser number of tax years starting with the year in which the land was first 32 classified, and increased by interest at the prevailing municipal rate from the date or 33 dates on which those amounts would have been payable; and

B. An amount computed by multiplying the amount, if any, by which the just value
 of the land on the date of withdrawal exceeds the 100% valuation of the land pursuant
 to this subchapter on the preceding April 1st by the following rates.

- 37 (1) If the land was subject to valuation under this subchapter for 10 years or less
 38 prior to the date of withdrawal, the rate is 30%.
- (2) If the land was subject to valuation under this subchapter for more than 10
 years prior to the date of withdrawal, the rate is that percentage obtained by
 subtracting 1% from 30% for each full year beyond 10 years that the land was

- subject to valuation under this subchapter prior to the date of withdrawal, except
 that the minimum rate is 20%.
- 3 For purposes of this subsection, just value at the time of withdrawal is the assessed just
- 4 value of comparable property in the municipality adjusted by the municipality's certified
 5 assessment ratio.
- Assessment and collection of penalties. The penalties for withdrawal under this
 section must be paid upon withdrawal to the tax collector as additional property taxes.
 Penalties may be assessed and collected as supplemental assessments in accordance with
 section 713-B.
- 5. Eminent domain. A penalty may not be assessed under this section for a
 withdrawal occasioned by a transfer to an entity holding the power of eminent domain if
 the transfer results from the exercise or threatened exercise of that power.
- 6. Relief from requirements. Upon withdrawal under this section, the land is
 relieved of the requirements of this subchapter immediately and is returned to taxation
 under chapter 105, subchapter 2 beginning the following April 1st.
- 16 7. Reclassification as farmland or open space land. A penalty may not be assessed 17 upon the withdrawal of land from taxation under this subchapter if the owner applies for 18 classification of that land as farmland or open space land under subchapter 10 and that 19 application is accepted. If a penalty is later assessed under section 1112, the period of 120 time that the land was taxed as forest land under this subchapter is included for purposes 131 of establishing the amount of the penalty.
- 8. Report of penalty. A municipality that receives a penalty for the withdrawal of land from taxation under this subchapter must report the total amount received in that reporting year to the State Tax Assessor on the municipal valuation return form described in section 383.
- 26 Sec. 17. 36 MRSA §581-B, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 308, §13, is amended to 27 read:
- 28 §581-B. Reclassification and withdrawal in unorganized territory
- In the case or reclassification or withdrawal of If forest land in the unorganized territory is reclassified or withdrawn from taxation under this subchapter, the State Tax Assessor shall make such supplementary assessments or abatements as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.
- 33 Sec. 18. 36 MRSA §603, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1973, c. 592, §§8 to 10, is
 34 repealed.
- 35 Sec. 19. 36 MRSA §603, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:
- 36 2-A. Enumeration. The following personal property must be taxed in the place
 37 where it is situated:
- 38 <u>A. Portable mills;</u>

- 1 B. All store fixtures, office furniture, furnishings, fixtures and equipment;
- 2 <u>C. Professional libraries, apparatus, implements and supplies;</u>
- 3 D. Coin-operated vending or amusement devices;
- 4 E. All camper trailers, as defined in section 1481; and
- 5 F. Television and radio transmitting equipment.
- 6 Sec. 20. 36 MRSA §652, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §19, is further amended 7 to read:

8 §652. Property of institutions and organizations

- 9 The following property of institutions and organizations is exempt from taxation:
- Property of institutions and organizations. <u>The property of institutions and organizations is exempt from taxation as provided in this subsection.</u>
- A. The real estate and personal property owned and occupied or used solely for their own purposes by benevolent and charitable institutions incorporated by this State <u>are</u> <u>exempt from taxation</u>. Such an institution may not be deprived of the right of exemption by reason of the source from which its funds are derived or by reason of limitation in the classes of persons for whose benefit the funds are applied.
- 17 For the purposes of this paragraph, "benevolent and charitable institutions" includes, but is not limited to, nonprofit nursing homes licensed by the Department of Health 18 19 and Human Services pursuant to Title 22, chapter 405, nonprofit residential care facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 20 22, chapter 1663, nonprofit community mental health service facilities licensed by the 21 22 Commissioner of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 34-B, chapter 3 and 23 nonprofit child care centers incorporated by this State as benevolent and charitable institutions. For the purposes of this paragraph, "nonprofit" refers to an institution 24 that has been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to be exempt 25 26 from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
- B. The real estate and personal property owned and occupied or used solely for their own purposes by literary and scientific institutions <u>are exempt from taxation</u>. If any building or part of a building is used primarily for employee housing, that building, or that part of the building used for employee housing, shall is not be exempt from taxation.
- 32
- C. Further conditions to the right of exemption under paragraphs A and B are that:
- (1) Any corporation claiming exemption under paragraph A must be organized
 and conducted exclusively for benevolent and charitable purposes;

35 (2) A director, trustee, officer or employee of an organization claiming
36 exemption is may not entitled to receive directly or indirectly any pecuniary
37 profit from the operation of that organization, excepting except as reasonable
38 compensation for services in effecting its purposes or as a proper beneficiary of
39 its strictly benevolent or charitable purposes;

1 (3) All profits derived from the operation of an organization claiming exemption 2 and the proceeds from the sale of its property are <u>must be</u> devoted exclusively to 3 the purposes for which it is organized;

4

5 6

7

- (4) The institution, organization or corporation claiming exemption under this subsection shall section must file with the tax assessors upon their request a report for its preceding fiscal year in such detail as the tax assessors may reasonably require;
- 8 (5) An exemption is may not be allowed under this subsection section in favor
 9 of an agricultural fair association holding pari-mutuel racing meets unless it has
 10 qualified the next preceding year as a recipient of a stipend from the Stipend
 11 Fund provided in Title 7, section 86;
- 12 (6) An exemption allowed under paragraph A or B for real or personal property 13 owned and occupied or used to provide federally subsidized residential rental 14 housing is limited as follows: Federally subsidized residential rental housing 15 placed in service prior to September 1, 1993 by other than a nonprofit housing corporation that is acquired on or after September 1, 1993 by a nonprofit housing 16 17 corporation and the operation of which is not an unrelated trade or business to 18 that nonprofit housing corporation is eligible for an exemption limited to 50% of 19 the municipal assessed value of that property. An exemption granted under this 20 subparagraph must be revoked for any year in which the owner of the property is 21 no longer a nonprofit housing corporation or the operation of the residential 22 rental housing is an unrelated trade or business to that nonprofit housing 23 corporation.
- 24 (a) For the purposes of this subparagraph, the following terms have the25 following meanings.
- (i) "Federally subsidized residential rental housing" means residential
 rental housing that is subsidized through project-based rental assistance,
 operating assistance or interest rate subsidies paid or provided by or on
 behalf of an agency or department of the Federal Government.
- 30(ii) "Nonprofit housing corporation" means a nonprofit corporation31organized in the State that is exempt from tax under Section 501(c)(3) of32the Code and has among its corporate purposes the provision of services33to people of low income or the construction, rehabilitation, ownership or34operation of housing.
- 35 (iii) "Residential rental housing" means one or more buildings, together 36 with any facilities functionally related and subordinate to the building or 37 buildings, located on one parcel of land and held in common ownership prior to the conversion to nonprofit status and containing 9 or more 38 39 similarly constructed residential units offered for rental to the general 40 public for use on other than a transient basis, each of which contains 41 separate and complete facilities for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and 42 sanitation.
- 43 (iv) "Unrelated trade or business" means any trade or business whose
 44 conduct is not substantially related to the exercise or performance by a

| 1 2 | nonprofit corporation of the purposes or functions constituting the basis for exemption under Section $501(c)(3)$ of the Code. |
|--|---|
| 3 4 | (b) Eligibility of the following property for exemption is not affected by the provisions of this subparagraph: |
| 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 | (i) Property used as a nonprofit nursing home, residential care facility licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 22, chapter 1663 or a community living arrangement as defined in Title 30-A, section 4357-A or any property owned by a nonprofit organization licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide services to or for the benefit of persons with mental illness or mental retardation; |
| 12 | (ii) Property used for student housing; |
| 13 | (iii) Property used for parsonages; |
| 14 15 16 | (iv) Property that was owned and occupied or used to provide residential rental housing that qualified for exemption under paragraph A or B prior to September 1, 1993; or |
| 17 | (v) Property exempt from taxation under other provisions of law; and |
| 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 | (7) In addition to the requirements of subparagraphs (1) to (4), an exemption is not allowed under paragraph A or B for real or personal property owned and occupied or used to provide residential rental housing that is transferred or placed in service on or after September 1, 1993, unless the property is owned by a nonprofit housing corporation and the operation of the residential rental housing is not an unrelated trade or business to the nonprofit housing corporation.For the purposes of this subparagraph, the following terms have the following meanings. |
| 25 26 27 28 29 | (a) "Nonprofit housing corporation" means a nonprofit corporation organized in the State that is exempt from tax under Section $501(c)(3)$ of the Code and has among its corporate purposes the provision of services to people of low income or the construction, rehabilitation, ownership or operation of housing. |
| 30 31 32 33 34 35 | (b) "Residential rental housing" means one or more buildings, together with any facilities functionally related and subordinate to the building or buildings, containing one or more similarly constructed residential units offered for rental to the general public for use on other than a transient basis, each of which contains separate and complete facilities for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. |
| 36 37 38 39 | (c) "Unrelated trade or business" means any trade or business whose conduct is not substantially related to the exercise or performance by a nonprofit organization of the purposes constituting the basis for exemption under Section $501(c)(3)$ of the Code. |
| 40 41 42 | E. The real estate and personal property owned, occupied and used for their own purposes by posts of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, |

Spanish War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans and Navy Clubs of the U.S.A.
that are used solely by those organizations for meetings, ceremonials or instruction or
to further the charitable activities of the organization, including all facilities <u>that are</u>
appurtenant to <u>such-use that property</u> and used in connection <u>therewith with those</u>
purposes, are exempt from taxation. If an organization is not the sole occupant of the
property, the exemption granted under this paragraph applies only to that portion of
the property owned, occupied and used by the organization for its purposes.

8 Further conditions to the right of exemption are that:

9 (1) A director, trustee, officer or employee of any organization claiming 10 exemption may not receive directly or indirectly any pecuniary profit from the 11 operation thereof of that organization, excepting except as reasonable 12 compensation for services in effecting its purposes or as a proper beneficiary of 13 its purposes;

14 (2) All profits derived from the operation thereof of the organization and the 15 proceeds from the sale of its property are must be devoted exclusively to the 16 purposes for which it is organized; and

17 (3) The institution, organization or corporation claiming exemption under this
 18 subsection shall paragraph must file with the tax assessors upon their request a
 19 report for its preceding fiscal year in such detail as the tax assessors may
 20 reasonably require.

F. The real estate and personal property owned and occupied or used solely for their own purposes by chambers of commerce or boards of trade in this State are exempt from taxation.

24 Further conditions to the right of exemption are that:

(1) No <u>A</u> director, trustee, officer or employee of any organization claiming
exemption shall may not receive directly or indirectly any pecuniary profit from
the operation thereof of that organization, excepting except as reasonable
compensation for services in effecting its purposes or as a proper beneficiary of
its purposes;

30 (2) All profits derived from the operation thereof of the organization and the 31 proceeds from the sale of its property are must be devoted exclusively to the 32 purposes for which it is organized; and

(3) The institution, organization or corporation claiming exemption under this
 subsection shall paragraph must file with the tax assessors upon their request a
 report for its preceding fiscal year in such detail as the tax assessors may
 reasonably require.

G. Houses of religious worship, including vestries, and the pews and furniture within the same them; tombs and rights of burial; and property owned and used by a religious society as a parsonage up to the value of \$20,000, and personal property not exceeding \$6,000 in value are exempt from taxation, but so much of except that any portion of a parsonage as that is rented is liable subject to taxation. For purposes of the tax exemption provided by this paragraph a parsonage shall mean, "parsonage" means the principal residence provided by a religious society for its elergyman cleric whether or not <u>the principal residence is</u> located within the same municipality or
 place as the house of religious worship where the elergyman cleric regularly conducts
 religious services.

H. Real estate and personal property owned by or held in trust for fraternal organizations, except college fraternities, operating under the lodge system which shall be that are used solely by those fraternal organizations for meetings, ceremonials, or religious or moralistic moral instruction, including all facilities that are appurtenant to such use that property and used in connection therewith with those purposes are exempt from taxation. If any a building shall not be used in its entirety for such purposes, but shall be is used in part for such those purposes and in part for any other purpose, exemption shall be of only the part used for such those purposes is exempt.

13 Further conditions to the right of exemption <u>under this paragraph</u> are that:

14 (1) No <u>A</u> director, trustee, officer or employee of any organization claiming
 15 exemption shall may not receive directly or indirectly any pecuniary profit from
 16 the operation thereof of that organization, excepting except as reasonable
 17 compensation for services in effecting its purposes or as a proper beneficiary of
 18 its purposes;

19 (2) All profits derived from the operation thereof of the organization and the 20 proceeds from the sale of its property are must be devoted exclusively to the 21 purposes for which it is organized; and

(3) The institution, organization or corporation claiming exemption under this subsection shall paragraph must file with the tax assessors upon their request a report for its preceding fiscal year in such detail as the tax assessors may reasonably require.

J. The real and personal property owned by one or more of the foregoing
 organizations in paragraphs A and B and E to H and occupied or used solely for their
 own purposes by one or more other such organizations are exempt from taxation.

K. The real and personal property leased by and occupied or used solely for its own purposes by an incorporated benevolent and charitable organization which that is exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and the primary purpose of which is the operation of a hospital licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services, <u>a</u> health maintenance organization or <u>a</u> blood bank <u>are exempt from taxation</u>.

35 **L.** Service charges.

4

5

6 7

8

9

10 11

12

22

23

24

25

- (1) The owners of certain institutional and organizational real property, which is
 otherwise exempt from state or municipal taxation, may be subject to service
 charges when these charges are calculated according to the actual cost of
 providing municipal services to that real property and to the persons who use that
 property. These services shall include, without limitation:
- 41 (a) Fire protection;
- 42 (b) Police protection;

| 1 2 | (c) Road-maintenance and construction, traffic control, snow and ice removal; |
|--|---|
| 3 | (d) Water and sewer service; |
| 4 | (e) Sanitation services; and |
| 5 | (f) Any services other than education and welfare. |
| 6 7 8 9 10 | (2) The establishment of service charges is not mandatory, but rather is at the discretion of the municipality in which the exempt property is located. The municipal legislative body shall determine those institutions and organizations on which service charges are to be levied by charging for services on any or all of the following classifications of tax exempt real property: |
| 11 12 13 14 15 16 | (a) Residential properties currently totally exempt from property taxation, yet used to provide rental-income. This classification shall not include student housing or parsonages. If a municipality levies service charges in any of the classifications of this subparagraph, that municipality shall levy these service charges to all institutions and organizations owning property in that classification. |
| 17 18 | (3) With respect to the determination of service charges, appeals shall be made in accordance with an appeals process to be provided for by municipal ordinance. |
| 19 20 | (4) The collection of unpaid service charges shall be carried out in the same manner as provided in Title 38, section 1208. |
| 21 22 | (5) Municipalities shall use the revenues accrued from service charges to fund, as much as possible, the costs of those services. |
| 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | (6) The total service charges levied by a municipality on any institution and organization under this section shall not exceed 2% of the gross annual revenues of the organization. To qualify for this limitation the institution or organization shall file with the municipality an audit of the revenues of the organization for the year immediately prior to the year which the service charge is levied. The municipal officers shall abate the service charge amount that is in excess of 2% of the gross annual revenues. |
| 30 31 | (7) Municipalities shall adopt any necessary ordinances to carry out the provisions of this paragraph regarding service charges. |
| 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 | An organization or institution that desires to secure exemption under this section shall make <u>must file a</u> written application and file accompanied by written proof of entitlement for each parcel to be considered on or before the first day of April in the year in which the exemption is first requested with the assessors of the municipality in which the property would otherwise be taxable. If granted, the exemption continues in effect until the assessors determine that the organization or institution is no longer qualified. Proof of entitlement must indicate the specific basis upon which exemption is claimed. |
| 39 40 | Sec. 21. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶F, as corrected by RR 1991, c. 2, §132, is repealed and the following enacted in its place: |

F. An exemption may not be granted to any person under this subsection unless the
 person is a resident of this State.

3 Sec. 22. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. Z, is 4 further amended to read:

5 H. Any A municipality granting exemptions under this subsection shall have a valid claim against is entitled to reimbursement from the State to recover of 90% of that 6 7 portion of the taxes property tax revenue lost by reason as a result of the exemptions as that exceeds 3% of the total local municipal property tax levy, upon submission of 8 proof of the facts in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance State Tax 9 The claims shall be presented to the Legislature next convening. 10 Assessor. Exemptions granted under this subsection that are reimbursable pursuant to section 11 661 are not eligible for reimbursement under this paragraph. 12

13 Sec. 23. 36 MRSA §655, sub-§1, ¶P, as amended by PL 2005, c. 652, §1 and 14 affected by §3, is further amended to read:

P. All items of individually owned personal property with a just value of less than
\$1,000, except:

(1) Items used for industrial or commercial purposes; and

17

18 (2) Vehicles and camp trailers as defined in section 1481 that are not subject to
an excise tax;

20 Sec. 24. 36 MRSA §692, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 623, §1, is amended 21 to read:

4. Property tax rate. The following percentages of the value of exempt business
 equipment must be included in the total municipal valuation used to determine the
 municipal tax rate for 2008 and subsequent tax years:

A. The applicable percentage specified in section 694, subsection 2, paragraph A for exempt business equipment for which the municipality is entitled to receive reimbursement under section 694, subsection 2, paragraph A;

B. The applicable percentage calculated under section 694, subsection 2, paragraph
B for exempt business equipment for which the municipality receives reimbursement
under section 694, subsection 2, paragraph B; and

C. The applicable percentage calculated under section 694, subsection 2, paragraph
 C for exempt business equipment for which the municipality receives reimbursement
 under section 694, subsection 2, paragraph C.

For purposes of this subsection, the value of exempt business equipment must be adjusted by the percentage of just value upon which the assessment of the total value of all assessed property in the municipality is based, as certified pursuant to section 383.

37 Sec. 25. 36 MRSA §694, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §24, is
 38 further amended to read:

1 B. In the case of municipalities choosing a municipality that chooses reimbursement 2 under this paragraph in which the personal property factor exceeds 5%, the applicable percentage for exempt business equipment is 50% plus an amount equal to 1/2 of the 3 4 personal property factor. For purposes of this paragraph, "personal property factor" means the percentage derived from a fraction, the numerator of which is the value of 5 6 business personal property in the municipality, whether taxable or exempt, and the 7 denominator of which is the value of all taxable property in the municipality plus the value of exempt business equipment. For purposes of this paragraph, the taxable 8 9 value of exempt business equipment is the value that would have been assessed on 10 that equipment if it were taxable.

Sec. 26. 36 MRSA §694, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §25, is
 further amended to read:

In the case of a municipality that has one or more tax increment financing 13 С. 14 districts authorized pursuant to Title 30-A, chapter 206, subchapter 1 and effective under Title 30-A, section 5226, subsection 3 prior to April 1, 2008 or authorized 15 pursuant to Title 30-A, former chapter 207 and effective under Title 30-A, former 16 section 5253, subsection 1, paragraph F, prior to April 1, 2008, the applicable 17 18 percentage with respect to TIF exempt business equipment is 50% plus a percentage amount equal to the percentage amount, if any, by which the municipal tax increment 19 percentage for the tax increment financing district in which the TIF exempt business 20 21 equipment is located exceeds 50%. This paragraph applies only when it will result in a greater percentage of reimbursement for the TIF exempt business equipment than 22 would be provided under the greater of paragraph A or B. 23

24 Sec. 27. 36 MRSA §694, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 623, §1, is amended 25 to read:

3. Reimbursement to unorganized territory education and services. The bureau
 shall reimburse calculate the reimbursement to the Unorganized Territory Education and
 Services Fund for taxes property tax revenue lost by reason of the exemption in the same
 manner as it does for municipalities and at the same percentages as are applicable to
 municipalities.

31 Sec. 28. 36 MRSA §694, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 623, §1, is repealed.

32 Sec. 29. 36 MRSA §1109, sub-§3, ¶M, as amended by PL 2003, c. 619, §2, is
 33 further amended to read:

The identification of the land or of outstanding natural resources on the land by 34 M. a legislatively mandated program, on the state, local or federal level, as particular 35 36 areas, parcels, land types or natural resources for protection, including, but not limited to, the Register of Critical Areas register of critical areas under Title 5 12, 37 chapter 312 section 544-B; the laws governing wildlife sanctuaries and management 38 39 areas under Title 12, section 10109, subsection 1 and sections 12706 and 12708; the laws governing the State's rivers under Title 12, chapter 200; the natural resource 40 protection laws under Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 5-A; and the Maine 41 42 Coastal Barrier Resources Systems under Title 38, chapter 21;

1 Sec. 30. 36 MRSA §1231, as amended by PL 1979, c. 666, §27, is further 2 amended to read:

3 §1231. Returns to State Tax Assessor

4 Each On or before the first day of May in each year, every owner or person in charge 5 or control of personal property such as would not be exempt from taxation if it were 6 located in a city or town of this State, and not otherwise subject to taxation under existing 7 laws of the State, which that on the first day of April in each of that year is situated, 8 whether permanently or temporarily, within an the unorganized township, territory shall -9 on or before the first day of May in each year, return to the State Tax Assessor on a form 10 to be furnished by the State Tax Assessor a complete list of such property upon blanks 11 furnished by said Tax Assessor that would not be exempt from taxation if it were located 12 in a municipality of this State and that is not otherwise subject to taxation under this Part. 13 Such That property shall must be taxed at the rate established by the State Tax Assessor 14 as provided in section 1602.

15 Any such owner or <u>A</u> person who knowingly makes a fraudulent return under this 16 section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture fine of not less than \$100 nor 17 more than \$500 for each violation shall must be adjudged.

18 Sec. 31. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1979, c. 80, §7, is
 19 further amended to read:

20 Α. For the privilege of operating an aircraft within the State, each heavier and 21 lighter than air heavier-than-air aircraft or lighter-than-air aircraft so operated and in 22 this State that is owned or controlled by a resident of this State, or a nonresident 23 operating for compensation or hire within this State and required to register under 24 Title 6, shall be is subject to such an excise tax computed as follows: A sum equal to 25 9 mills on each dollar of the maker's average equipped price for the first or current 26 year of model; 7 mills for the 2nd year; 5 mills for the 3rd year; 4 mills for the 4th 27 year; and 3 mills for the 5th and succeeding years. The minimum tax shall be is \$10. 28 Nonresidents of this State who operate aircraft within this State for compensation or 29 hire shall and are required to register under Title 6 must pay 1/12 of the total excise 30 tax amount computed as required in this subsection paragraph for each calendar 31 month or fraction thereof that the aircraft remains in the State.

(1) Every owner of an aircraft with a current Maine registration, valid through
 April 30, 1980, shall receive a 2-month credit for excise tax paid for the aircraft
 registration year 1979-80 only. The credit provided in this subparagraph shall be
 applied to the aircraft registration renewal for the registration year 1980-81.

36 Sec. 32. 36 MRSA §1483, sub-§13, as amended by PL 1995, c. 12, §1 and 37 affected by §4, is further amended to read:

38 13. Certain buses. Buses used for the transportation of passengers for hire in 39 interstate or intrastate commerce, or both, by carriers granted certificates of public 40 convenience and necessity, or permits, by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, 41 provided such engaged in furnishing common carrier passenger service under an 42 operating authority license issued pursuant to Title 29-A, section 552. At the option of

Page 16 - 123LR3079(01)-1

the appropriate municipality, those buses may be subject to the excise tax provided in
 section 1482 at the option of the appropriate municipality;

3 Sec. 33. 36 MRSA §1484, as amended by PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §152, is further
 amended to read:

5 §1484. Place of payment

6 The excise tax on a vehicle shall imposed by this chapter must be paid in accordance 7 with the following: as provided in this section.

8 1. Aircraft. For registration years beginning on or after March 1, 1982, the The 9 excise tax on an aircraft shall must be paid to the Department of Transportation. The 10 receipts from these excise tax payments shall be reimbursed by the Department of 11 Transportation shall distribute the receipts from each excise tax payment to the 12 municipality where the aircraft is based except as follows.

A. If the aircraft is based at an airport owned by a county, the excise tax payments
 shall <u>must</u> be reimbursed <u>distributed</u> to the that county.

B. If the aircraft is based at the Augusta State Airport, the excise tax payments shall
 <u>must</u> be retained by the department <u>Department of Transportation</u>.

17 C. The location where an aircraft shall be considered based is the location in Maine 18 where it has been hangared, parked, tied down or moored the most nights during the 19 30 day period of active flying preceding payment of the excise tax. If the aircraft has 20 not been based at a Maine location during the 30 day period of active flying 21 preceding payment, then the location where an aircraft shall be considered based is

the location in Maine where it will be hangared, parked, tied down or moored the
 most nights during the 30 day period of active flying next following payment of the
 excise tax.

For the purposes of this subsection, an aircraft is deemed to be based at the location in the State where it has been hangared, parked, tied down or moored the most nights during the 30-day period of active flying preceding payment of the excise tax. If the aircraft has not been hangared, parked, tied down or moored at a location in the State during the 30-day period of active flying preceding payment, then the aircraft is deemed to be based at the location in the State where it will be hangared, parked, tied down or moored the most nights during the 30-day period of active flying next following payment of the excise tax.

32 2. Mobile homes and camper trailers. Mobile homes and camper trailers are
 33 subject to excise tax as provided in this subsection.

A. If the excise tax on a mobile home or camper trailer is paid prior to April 1st, or if the mobile home or camp camper trailer is acquired or is brought into this State after April 1st, the excise tax shall must be paid in the place where the mobile home or camp camper trailer is located.

B. If the excise tax on a mobile home or camper trailer is paid on or after April 1st,
the excise tax shall must be paid in the place where the mobile home or camp camper
trailer was located on April 1st.

1 **3. Motor vehicles.** Motor vehicles are subject to excise tax as provided in this 2 subsection.

A. If the <u>The excise tax on a</u> motor vehicle is owned by an individual resident of this State, the excise tax shall <u>must</u> be paid in the place where the owner resides.

5

6

7

8

B. If the <u>The excise tax on a motor vehicle is owned by a nonresident person, the</u> excise tax shall <u>individual must</u> be paid in the place where he <u>the owner</u> is temporarily or occasionally residing; or, if. If there is no such residing place, the tax <u>must be paid</u> to the <u>Secretary of</u> State.

9 C. If the <u>The excise tax on a</u> motor vehicle is owned by a corporation or a 10 partnership, the excise tax shall <u>must</u> be paid in the following manner.

11 (1) If it the owner is a corporation or partnership other than one described in 12 subparagraph (2), the excise tax shall <u>must</u> be paid to the place in which the 13 owner's registered or main office of that organization is located, except that if the 14 organization owner has an additional permanent place, or places, of business 15 where motor vehicles are customarily kept, the tax on these vehicles shall must 16 be paid to the place where such that permanent place of business is located. The 17 temporary location of an office and the stationing of vehicles in connection with 18 a construction project of less than 24 months duration is not considered to 19 constitute a permanent place of business. In the case of If the owner is a foreign 20 corporation or partnership not maintaining a place of business within the State, 21 the excise tax shall must be paid to the Secretary of State.

(2) In the case of corporations If the owner is a corporation described in Title
35-A, sections 2101 to 2104, any the excise taxes owed shall tax must be paid to
the place in which the registered or main office of that organization is located.

25 (3) If a municipality, county or motor vehicle owner feels the excise tax has 26 been improperly levied under the authority of this paragraph, the owner, county 27 or municipality may request within 3 years from the date of an excise tax levy a 28 determination of this question by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax 29 Assessor's determination is limited to the same 3-year period and shall be binding 30 on all parties. Any-party may seek review of the determination in accordance 31 with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80-C. Upon notification by the 32 State Tax Assessor of a determination made under this section, any municipality 33 or county which has incorrectly accepted excise tax money, within 30 days of 34 that determination, shall pay the money, together with interest at the maximum 35 rate determined by the Treasurer of State, pursuant to section 505, to the 36 municipality or county named in the determination as the proper place of 37 payment.

Within 3 years from the date of an excise tax levy under the authority of this paragraph, a municipality, county or motor vehicle owner that feels the excise tax has been improperly levied may request a determination of this question by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor's determination is limited to the same 3-year period and is binding on all of the parties. Any of the parties may seek review of the determination in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80-C. Within 30 days after receipt of notice of a determination made by the State Tax 1 Assessor under this paragraph, a municipality or county that has incorrectly accepted

2 excise tax money must pay the money, together with interest at the maximum rate

- 3 established by the Treasurer of State pursuant to section 505, to the municipality or
- 4 <u>county identified in the determination as the proper place of payment.</u>
- 5 D. Notwithstanding other provisions of this subsection, if a motor vehicle is leased 6 for a period of one month or longer, the excise tax shall must be paid in the place 7 where it would be paid if the lessee were the owner.

8 E. When an excise tax is paid to the Secretary of State under this subsection, it must
 9 be deposited in the General Fund.

4. When paid to State. When an excise tax is to be paid to the State under this
 section, it shall be paid to the Treasurer of State in the case of aircraft and to the Secretary
 of State in the case of motor vehicles and deposited in the General Fund.

13 Sec. 34. 36 MRSA §1603, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 686, Pt. A, §65, is
 14 further amended to read:

15 1. Definition. For the purposes of this chapter, "municipal cost component" means 16 the cost of funding services in the Unorganized Territory Tax District that would not be borne by the State if the Unorganized Territory Tax District were a municipality, but does 17 not include a state cost allocation charge, including, without limitation, reimbursement to 18 the General Fund for departmental functions such as accounting, personnel administration 19 and supervision. "Municipal cost component" also includes the cost of funding 20 obligations of the unorganized territory under the terms of a tax increment financing 21 district agreement. The "municipal cost component" includes, but is not limited to: 22

A. The cost of education, as would be determined by the Essential Programs and
Services Funding Act if the unorganized territory were a municipality;

B. The cost of services the state funds in the unorganized territory that are funded locally by a municipality; the cost of forest fire protection to be included in the cost component must be determined in accordance with Title 12, section 9205-A and collected in the same manner as other portions of the municipal cost component; and

29 The cost of reimbursement by the State for services a county provides to the C. 30 unorganized territory in accordance with Title 30-A, chapter 305. A county may not be reimbursed for services provided on or after January 1, 1979, unless a legislative 31 allocation is obtained pursuant to this chapter. If a county receives, in addition to its 32 33 budget, funds that are designated by the Legislature for a specific purpose and the 34 county does not spend those funds for that specific purpose in that fiscal year, then 35 the reimbursement under this chapter to that county for the next fiscal year must be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of funds so designated that were not 36 37 expended for that specific purpose-; and

38 D. The cost for payments that the unorganized territory is required to make pursuant
 39 to the terms of a tax increment financing district agreement with respect to taxable
 40 property in the Unorganized Territory Tax District.

41 Sec. 35. 36 MRSA §1606, as amended by PL 1989, c. 373, §1, is further amended
 42 to read:

§1606. Property taxes credited on assessments; quarterly payments for unorganized territory services and annually for county taxes

3 Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the gross amount of property taxes 4 assessed upon real and personal property in the unorganized territory through the State Tax Assessor for the benefit of any special fund or political subdivision of the State may 5 be credited on the books of the State to the special fund or to the proper fiscal officer of 6 the political subdivision. The Treasurer of State shall pay to that fiscal officer the amount 7 8 of the tax so assessed, in equal quarterly amounts for unorganized territory services, on or 9 before the last day of July, October, January and April and an annual installment for county taxes on or before October 15th following the date of the assessment. The 10 Treasurer of State shall pay to any named party of a tax increment financing district in the 11 unorganized territory those tax dollars obligated to that party under the terms of the tax 12 increment financing district agreement. The payment must be made on or before October 13 15th following the date of assessment or within 30 days after the tax increment financing 14 15 district taxes are paid, whichever is later. The amount of the assessment is appropriated for the purposes of this section. Upon collection by the State Tax Assessor, such those 16 taxes shall must be deposited in the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund. 17 18 All abatements of such taxes shall must be charged against the Unorganized Territory 19 Education and Services Fund and all interest and supplemental assessments shall must be paid into the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund; and neither may be 20 21 charged against or credited to the special fund or political subdivision on account of 22 which the tax was levied. Any excess of supplemental assessments over abatements 23 accruing to the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund shall must be considered as reimbursement to the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund 24 25 for administrative expenses connected with the assessment of those taxes. The intent of the Legislature is to permit the administration of all real and personal property taxes in 26 27 the unorganized territory through the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund 28 as a matter of convenience and economy.

29 Sec. 36. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§1 is amended to read:

Advertise. "Advertisement" "Advertise" means any to make a public
 announcement of whatever kind or character and includes any by any means whatsoever,
 including a notice or announcement in any a radio or television televised broadcast,
 newspaper, magazine, catalog, circular, handbill, sign, placard or any billboard.

34 Sec. 37. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§1-B, as amended by PL 2005, c. 218, §11, is 35 further amended to read:

36 **1-B.** Automobile. "Automobile," for purposes of subsection 17-B, "Automobile" 37 means a self-propelled 4-wheel motor vehicle designed primarily to carry passengers and 38 not designed to run on tracks. "Automobile" includes a pickup truck or van with a 39 registered gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or less.

40 Sec. 38. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§1-F, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 791, Pt. A, §1, is 41 repealed. Sec. 39. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§1-G, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 791, Pt. A, §1, is
 repealed.

3 Sec. 40. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§5-C is enacted to read:

5-C. Loaner vehicle. "Loaner vehicle" means an automobile to be provided to a
 motor vehicle dealer's service customers for short-term use free of charge pursuant to the
 dealer's franchise, as defined in Title 10, section 1171, subsection 6.

7 Sec. 41. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§6-A, as amended by PL 1999, c. 708, §22, is
8 further amended to read:

9 6-A. Manufacturing facility. "Manufacturing facility" means a site at which are 10 located machinery and equipment used directly and primarily in either the production of 11 tangible personal property intended to be sold or leased ultimately for final use or 12 consumption or the production of tangible personal property pursuant to a contract with 13 the United States Federal Government or any agency thereof. It includes the machinery 14 and equipment and all machinery, equipment, structures and facilities located at the site and used in support of production or associated with the production. "Manufacturing 15 facility" does not include a site at which a retailer is primarily engaged in making retail 16 17 sales of tangible personal property not produced by the retailer.

18 Sec. 42. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§11, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 410, §1 and
 19 affected by §6, is further amended to read:

- 20 B. "Retail sale" does not include:
- 21 (1) Any casual sale;

(2) Any sale by a personal representative in the settlement of an estate, unless
the sale is made through a retailer, or unless the sale is made in the continuation
or operation of a business;

- (3) The sale, to a person engaged in the business of renting automobiles, of
 automobiles, integral parts of automobiles or accessories to automobiles, for
 rental or for use in an automobile rented on a short-term basis;
- (4) The sale, to a person engaged in the business of renting video media and
 video equipment, of video media or video equipment for rental;
- 30 (5) The sale, to a person engaged in the business of renting or leasing
 31 automobiles, of automobiles for rental or lease for one year or more;
- (6) The sale, to a person engaged in the business of providing cable or satellite
 television services, of associated equipment for rental or lease to subscribers in
 conjunction with a sale of extended cable or extended satellite television services;
- (7) The sale, to a person engaged in the business of renting furniture, or audio
 media and audio equipment, of furniture, audio media or audio equipment for
 rental pursuant to a rental-purchase agreement as defined in Title 9-A, section 11 105; or

| 1 2 3 4 5 | | (8) The sale of loaner vehicles to a new vehicle dealer licensed as such pursuant to Title 29-A, section 953. For purposes of this subparagraph, "loaner vehicle" means an automobile to be provided to the dealer's service customers for short-term use free of charge pursuant to the dealer's franchise, as defined in Title 10, section 1171, subsection 6.; or |
|-----------------------|----|--|
| 6 7 8 9 | | (9) The sale of automobile repair parts used in the performance of repair services on an automobile pursuant to an extended service contract sold on or after September 20, 2007 that entitles the purchaser to specific benefits in the service of the automobile for a specific duration. |
| 10 11 | | c. 43. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§14, as amended by PL 2005, c. 675, §1 and l by $\S2$, is further amended to read: |
| 12 13 | | Sale price. "Sale price" means the total amount of a retail sale valued in money, received in money or otherwise. |
| 14 | Α. | "Sale price" includes: |
| 15 16 | | (1) Services which Any consideration for services that are a part of a retail sale; and |
| 17 18 19 20 | | (2) All receipts, cash, credits and property of any kind or nature and any amount for which credit is allowed by the seller to the purchaser, without any deduction on account of the cost of the property sold, the cost of the materials used, labor or service cost, interest paid, losses or any other expenses. |
| 21 | B. | "Sale price" does not include: |
| 22 | | (1) Discounts allowed and taken on sales; |
| 23 24 | | (2) Allowances in cash or by credit made upon the return of merchandise pursuant to warranty; |
| 25 26 | | (3) The price of property returned by customers, when the full price is refunded either in cash or by credit; |
| 27 28 | | (4) The price received for labor or services used in installing or applying or repairing the property sold, if separately charged or stated; |
| 29 30 31 | | (5) Any amount charged or collected, in lieu of a gratuity or tip, as a specifically stated service charge, when that amount is to be disbursed by a hotel, motel, restaurant or other eating establishment to its employees as wages; |
| 32 33 34 | | (6) The amount of any tax imposed by the United States on or with respect to retail sales, whether imposed upon the retailer or the consumer, except any manufacturers', importers', alcohol or tobacco excise tax; |
| 35 36 37 38 | | (7) The cost of transportation from the retailer's place of business or other point from which shipment is made directly to the purchaser, provided that those charges are separately stated and the transportation occurs by means of common carrier, contract carrier or the United States mail; |
| 39 | | (8) The fee imposed by Title 10, section 1169, subsection 11; |
| | | |

Ì

1 (9) The fee imposed by section 4832, subsection 1;

2 (10) The lead-acid battery deposit imposed by Title 38, section 1604, subsection
3 2-B; or

4 (11) Any amount charged or collected by a person engaged in the rental of 5 living quarters as a forfeited room deposit or cancellation fee if the prospective 6 occupant of the living quarters cancels the reservation on or before the scheduled 7 date of arrival; or

8 (12) The premium on motor vehicle oil changes imposed by Title 10, section
 9 1020, subsection 6.

10 Sec. 44. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§20 is amended to read:

20. Trailer camp. "Trailer camp" means a place with or without service facilities where space is offered with or without service facilities to the public for tenting or for the parking and accommodation of automobile camper trailers which are, motor homes or truck campers used for living quarters and the. The rental price shall include includes all service charges paid to the lessor.

16 Sec. 45. 36 MRSA §1755, as amended by PL 1997, c. 526, §14, is further 17 amended to read:

18 §1755. No registration unless tax paid

19 Whenever any tangible personal property whose sale or use is subject to tax under chapters 211 to 225 is required by the laws of this State to be registered for use within 20 21 this the State by any law other than this, the applicant for registration, whether or not the 22 owner, shall himself be liable for must either pay the sales tax or use tax or shall prove 23 that said the tax is not owing due. Such The applicant shall file a dealer's certificate or use 24 tax certificate with the registering agency a certificate in such a form as may be 25 prescribed by the State Tax Assessor containing reporting the name of vendor the seller, the date of purchase, the sale price and such other information as may be pertinent to 26 27 determination of tax liability; and the. The registering agency shall forward such the 28 certificate promptly to the Bureau of Revenue Services.

Sec. 46. 36 MRSA §1759, as amended by PL 1979, c. 520, §4, is further amended
 to read:

31 §1759. Bonds

32 When, in the judgment of the State Tax Assessor, either Either as a condition for 33 issuance or subsequent to the issuance of a sellers registration certificate under section 34 1754-B, it is necessary or advisable for the collection of sales or use taxes or both, he the 35 State Tax Assessor may require from a taxpayer a bond written by a surety company 36 qualified to do business in this State and, in such an amount and upon such condition as conditions to be determined by the State Tax Assessor may determine assessor. In lieu of 37 such a bond he the assessor may accept, for delivery to the custody of the Treasurer of 38 39 State, a deposit of money or securities in such an amount and of such a kind as he may approve acceptable to the assessor. Such The deposit shall must be accepted by delivered 40

to the Treasurer of State, who shall safely keep the same it subject to the instructions of
 the Tax Assessor assessor.

3 Sec. 47. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§21-A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 410, §3 and 4 affected by §6, is amended to read:

21-A. Certain loaner vehicles. The use of a loaner vehicle provided by a new
vehicle dealer, as defined in Title 29-A, section 851, subsection 9, to a service customer
pursuant to a manufacturer's or dealer's warranty. For purposes of this subsection,
"loaner vehicle" has the same meaning as in section 1752, subsection 11, paragraph B,
subparagraph (8).

Sec. 48. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§31, ¶A, as amended by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. S,
 §1, is further amended to read:

For use by the purchaser directly and primarily in the production of tangible 12 Α. personal property intended to be sold or leased ultimately for final use or 13 consumption or in the production of tangible personal property pursuant to a contract 14 with the United States Federal Government or any agency thereof, or, in the case of 15 sales occurring after June 30, 2007, in the generation of radio and television 16 17 broadcast signals by broadcast stations regulated under 47 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 73. This exemption applies even if the purchaser sells the 18 machinery or equipment and leases it back in a sale and leaseback transaction. This 19 20 exemption also applies whether the purchaser agrees before or after the purchase of the machinery or equipment to enter into the sale and leaseback transaction and 21 22 whether the purchaser's use of the machinery or equipment in production commences before or after the sale and leaseback transaction occurs; and 23

24 Sec. 49. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§82, as reallocated by RR 1999, c. 1, §48, is 25 amended to read:

82. Sales of property delivered outside this State. Sales of tangible personal property when the seller delivers the property to a location outside this State or to the United States Postal Service, a common carrier or a contract carrier hired by the seller for delivery to a location outside this State, regardless of whether the property is purchased F.O.B. shipping point or other point in this State and regardless of whether passage of title occurs in this State. <u>This exemption does not apply to any subsequent use of the</u> property in this State.

33 Sec. 50. 36 MRSA §1765, as amended by PL 2007, c. 375, §3, is further amended
 34 to read:

35 §1765. Trade-in credit

When one or more <u>items in one</u> of the following <u>items of tangible personal property</u> <u>categories</u> are traded in toward the sale price of another of the same kind of the following <u>items item in that same category</u>, the tax imposed by this Part must be levied only upon the difference between the sale price of the purchased property and the trade-in allowance of the property taken in trade, except for. This section does not apply to transactions
 between dealers involving exchange of the property from inventory:

- 3 **1. Motor vehicles.** Motor vehicles;
- 4 **3. Watercraft.** Watercraft;
- 5 **4. Aircraft.** Aircraft;
- 6 6. Chain saws. Chain saws;
- 7 **7. Special mobile equipment.** Special mobile equipment;
- 8 8. Trailers. Trailers; or
- 9 9. Truck campers. Truck campers.

10 The trade-in credit allowed by this section is not available unless the items traded are 11 in the same category, except that when a truck camper is taken in trade for a camper 12 trailer or a camper trailer is taken in trade for a truck camper, the tax must be levied only 13 upon the difference between the sale price of the purchased property and the trade-in 14 allowance of the property taken in trade.

15 Sec. 51. 36 MRSA §1811, first ¶, as amended by PL 2007, c. 410, §5 and affected by §6 and amended by c. 444, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

18 A tax is imposed on the value of all tangible personal property and taxable services 19 sold at retail in this State. The rate of tax is 7% on the value of liquor sold in licensed 20 establishments as defined in Title 28-A, section 2, subsection 15, in accordance with Title 21 28-A, chapter 43; 7% on the value of rental of living quarters in any hotel, rooming house 22 or tourist or trailer camp; 10% on the value of rental for a period of less than one year of 23 an automobile, including a loaner vehicle that is provided other than to a motor vehicle 24 dealer's service customers pursuant to a manufacturer's or dealer's warranty; 7% on the 25 value of prepared food; and 5% on the value of all other tangible personal property and 26 taxable services. Value is measured by the sale price, except as otherwise provided. The value of rental for a period of less than one year of an automobile is the total rental 27 28 charged to the lessee and includes, but is not limited to, maintenance and service 29 contracts, drop-off or pick-up fees, airport surcharges, mileage fees and any separately 30 itemized charges on the rental agreement to recover the owner's estimated costs of the 31 charges imposed by government authority for title fees, inspection fees, local excise tax 32 and agent fees on all vehicles in its rental fleet registered in the State. All fees must be 33 disclosed when an estimated quote is provided to the lessee.

34 Sec. 52. 36 MRSA §2513, first ¶, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. KKKK, §1
 35 and affected by §7, is further amended to read:

Every insurance company or association that does business or collects premiums or assessments including annuity considerations in the State, including surety companies and companies engaged in the business of credit insurance or title insurance, shall, for the

privilege of doing business in this State, and in addition to any other taxes imposed for 1 2 such that privilege, pay a tax upon all gross direct premiums including annuity 3 considerations, whether in cash or otherwise, on contracts written on risks located or resident in the State for insurance of life, annuity, fire, casualty and other risks at the rate 4 5 of 2% a year. Every surplus lines insurer that does business or collects premiums in the State shall, for the privilege of doing business in this State, and in addition to any other 6 7 taxes imposed for such that privilege, pay a tax upon all gross direct premiums, whether 8 in cash or otherwise, on contracts written on risks located or resident in the State at the 9 rate of 3% a year. The tax must be paid by the insurer's licensed producer with surplus 10 lines authority pursuant to Title 24-A, section 2016. The producer of those contracts must collect the tax and report and pay the tax to the State Tax Assessor as provided in 11 section 2521-A. For purposes of this section, the term "annuity considerations" includes 12 13 amounts paid to an insurance company when received for the purchase of a contract that 14 may result in an annuity, even when the annuitization never occurs or does not occur until some time in the future and the amounts are in the meantime applied to an investment 15 vehicle other than an annuity. This section does not apply to mutual fire insurance 16 17 companies subject to tax under section 2517 or to captive insurance companies formed or 18 licensed under Title 24-A, chapter 83 or under the laws of another state.

19 Sec. 53. 36 MRSA §2513-A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 481, §4, is amended to 20 read:

21 §2513-A. Tax on premiums of risk retention groups

22 Each risk retention group, as defined in Title 24-A, section 6093, shall be is liable for payment of premium taxes with respect to direct business for risks resident or located 23 24 within in this State at the same rate and subject to the same interest, fines and penalties 25 for nonpayment as that applicable to authorized insurers. Each risk retention group shall 26 file an annual report, on or before March 1st 15th, file with the State Tax Assessor and 27 the Superintendent of Insurance and the Treasurer of State containing a sworn statement 28 of the gross premiums charged for coverage placed, and the gross return premiums on the 29 insurance canceled, during, on forms prescribed by the assessor, a return covering the 30 year ending on the preceding December 31st. At the time of filing the report return, each 31 risk retention group shall pay to the Treasurer of State assessor the applicable percentage 32 of the difference between the gross and return premiums reported for the business 33 transacted during the that year.

34 Sec. 54. 36 MRSA §2521-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. KKKK, §5 and 35 affected by §7 and amended by c. 437, §12 and affected by §22, is repealed and the 36 following enacted in its place:

37 §2521-A. Returns; payment of tax

Every insurance company, association, producer or attorney-in-fact of a reciprocal insurer subject to the tax imposed by this chapter shall on or before the last day of each April, the 25th day of each June and the last day of each October file with the State Tax Assessor, on forms prescribed by the assessor, a return for the quarter ending on the last day of the preceding calendar month, except for the return due on the 25th day of June, which is for the quarter ending June 30th. A final return must be filed on or before March 1 15th, covering the prior calendar year. The 3 quarterly returns may be on an estimated

2 basis, as long as each April and June installment equals 35% of the total tax paid for the

3 preceding calendar year or at least 35% of the total tax to be paid for the current calendar

4 year and each October installment equals 15% of the total tax paid for the preceding

5 calendar year or at least 15% of the total tax to be paid for the current calendar year.

6 <u>At the time of filing the returns, each insurance company, association, producer or</u> 7 <u>attorney-in-fact of a reciprocal insurer shall pay to the assessor the amount of tax shown</u> 8 <u>due.</u>

9 <u>An insurance company, association, producer or attorney-in-fact of a reciprocal</u> 10 <u>insurer whose annual tax liability under this chapter does not exceed \$1,000 may file an</u> 11 <u>annual return with payment on or before March 15th covering the prior calendar year.</u>

12 Sec. 55. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§1-C is enacted to read:

13 <u>1-C. Ancillary service. "Ancillary service" means a service that is associated with or</u> 14 incidental to the provision of telecommunications services, including, but not limited to, 15 detailed telecommunications billing service, directory assistance, vertical service and 16 voice mail service.

17 Sec. 56. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§1-D is enacted to read:

18 <u>1-D. Conference bridging service.</u> "Conference bridging service" means an
 ancillary service that links 2 or more participants in an audio or video conference call and
 may include the provision of a telephone number. "Conference bridging service" does not
 include the telecommunications services used to reach the conference bridge.

22 Sec. 57. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§1-E is enacted to read:

1-E. Detailed telecommunications billing service. "Detailed telecommunications
 billing service" means an ancillary service of separately stating information pertaining to
 individual calls on a customer's billing statement.

26 Sec. 58. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§1-F is enacted to read:

27 <u>1-F. Directory assistance.</u> "Directory assistance" means an ancillary service of
 28 providing telephone number information or address information or both.

29 Sec. 59. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. International telecommunications service. "International telecommunications
 service" means a telecommunications service that originates or terminates in the United
 States and terminates or originates outside the United States, respectively. For purposes
 of this subsection, "United States" includes a territory or possession of the United States.

34 Sec. 60. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

35 <u>5-B. Interstate telecommunications service.</u> "Interstate telecommunications
 36 service" means a telecommunications service that originates in one state, territory or

1 possession of the United States and terminates in a different state, territory or possession

- of the United States, For purposes of this subsection, "state" includes the District of
 Columbia.
- 4 Sec. 61. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. V, §25 and 5 affected by §29, is repealed.
- 6 Sec. 62. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§15, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §54, is 7 further amended to read:

8 **15. Sale price.** "Sale price" means the total amount of consideration, including cash, 9 credit, property and services, for which personal property or services are sold, leased or 10 rented, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise, without any deduction 11 for the cost of materials used, labor or service cost, interest, losses and any other expense 12 of the seller. "Sale price" includes any <u>consideration for</u> services that are a part of a sale. 13 "Sale price" does not include:

- 14 A. Discounts allowed and taken on sales;
- B. Allowances in cash or by credit made upon the return of services pursuant towarranty;
- 17 C. The price of services rejected by customers when the full sale price is refunded18 either in cash or by credit;
- D. The amount of any tax imposed by the United States or the State on or with respect to the sale of a service, whether imposed upon the seller or the consumer; or
- E. The cost of transportation from the service provider's place of business or other point from which shipment is made directly to the purchaser, as long as those charges are separately stated and the transportation occurs by means of common carrier, contract carrier or the United States Postal Service.
- Sec. 63. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§20, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. V, §25
 and affected by §29, is repealed.
- 27 Sec. 64. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§20-A is enacted to read:

28 20-A. Telecommunications services. "Telecommunications services" means the electronic transmission, conveyance or routing of voice, data, audio, video or any other 29 information or signals to a point or between or among points. "Telecommunications 30 31 services" includes transmission, conveyance or routing in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, code or protocol of the content for purposes of 32 transmission, conveyance or routing without regard to whether the service is referred to 33 34 as "Voice over Internet Protocol" services or is classified by the Federal Communications 35 Commission as enhanced or value added. "Telecommunications services" does not 36 include:

A. Data processing and information services that allow data to be generated,
 acquired, stored, processed or retrieved and delivered by an electronic transmission to

- 1 <u>a purchaser when the purchaser's primary purpose for the underlying transaction is to</u>
- 2 <u>obtain the processed data or information;</u>
- 3 B. Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer's premises;
- 4 <u>C. Tangible personal property;</u>
- 5 D. Advertising, including, but not limited to, directory advertising;
- 6 <u>E. Billing and collection services provided to 3rd parties;</u>
- 7 <u>F. Internet access service;</u>

G. Radio and television audio and video programming services, regardless of the
 medium, including the furnishing of transmission, conveyance and routing of those
 services by the programming service provider. Radio and television audio and video
 programming services include, but are not limited to, cable service as defined in 47
 United States Code, Section 522(6) and audio and video programming services
 delivered by commercial mobile radio service providers as defined in 47 Code of
 Federal Regulations, Section 20.3;

- 15 <u>H. Ancillary services; or</u>
- 16 <u>I. Digital products delivered electronically, including, but not limited to, software,</u>
 17 <u>music, video, reading materials or ringtones.</u>
- 18 Sec. 65. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§20-B is enacted to read:

19 20-B. Vertical service. "Vertical service" means an ancillary service that is offered 20 in connection with one or more telecommunications services and offers advanced calling 21 features that allow customers to identify callers and to manage multiple calls and call 22 connections. "Vertical service" includes conference bridging service.

23 Sec. 66. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§21-A is enacted to read:

24 <u>21-A. Voice mail service. "Voice mail service" means an ancillary service that</u> 25 enables the customer to store, send or receive recorded messages. "Voice mail service" 26 does not include a vertical service that the customer may be required to have in order to 27 use the voice mail service.

28 Sec. 67. 36 MRSA §2552, sub-§1, ¶J, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 386, Pt. S, §6
 29 and affected by §9, is amended to read:

- 30 J. Personal support services; and
- 31 Sec. 68. 36 MRSA §2552, sub-§1, ¶K, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 386, Pt. S, §6
 32 and affected by §9, is amended to read:
- 33 K. Residential training services-; and
- 34 Sec. 69. 36 MRSA §2552, sub-§1, ¶L is enacted to read:
- 35 L. Ancillary services.

Sec. 70. 36 MRSA §2556, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. V, §25 and
 affected by §29, is amended to read:

3 4. Bundled services. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part chapter, otherwise nontaxable charges that are aggregated with and not separately stated from 4 taxable mobile telecommunications charges are subject to taxation unless the home 5 service provider can, to the satisfaction of the assessor, reasonably identify such charges 6 7 from books and records kept in the regular course of its business. A customer may not rely upon the nontaxability of bundled services unless the customer's home service 8 provider separately states the otherwise nontaxable services or the home service provider 9 elects, after receiving written notice from the customer in the form required by the 10 provider, to provide verifiable data based upon the home service provider's books and 11 records that are kept in the regular course of business and that reasonably identify the 12 nontaxable charges. 13

14 Sec. 71. 36 MRSA §2557, sub-§30, as amended by PL 2005, c. 218, §35, is 15 further amended to read:

16 **30. Sales for resale.** Sales of services to another service provider for resale; and

Sec. 72. 36 MRSA §2557, sub-§31, as amended by PL 2005, c. 622, §12, is
 further amended to read:

19 **31.** Construction contracts with exempt organizations. Sales to a construction 20 contractor or its subcontractor of fabrication services that are to be physically 21 incorporated in, and become a permanent part of, real property for sale to any 22 organization or government agency provided exemption under this section, except as 23 otherwise provided by section 2560_{73}

- 24 Sec. 73. 36 MRSA §2557, sub-§32 is enacted to read:
- 25 **32. Prepaid calling service.** Sales of prepaid calling service;
- 26 Sec. 74. 36 MRSA §2557, sub-§33 is enacted to read:

27 <u>33. International telecommunications service.</u> Sales of international
 28 telecommunications service; and

29 Sec. 75. 36 MRSA §2557, sub-§34 is enacted to read:

30 34. Interstate telecommunications service. Sales of interstate telecommunications
 31 service.

- 32 Sec. 76. 36 MRSA §2865, as amended by PL 1985, c. 764, §21, is further 33 amended to read:
- 34 **§2865.** Mine site and valuation determinations
- 35 The State Tax Assessor shall make the following determinations.

1 1. Mine site. He The State Tax Assessor shall determine the area of a mine site, 2 taking into account all relevant information, including, but not limited to, plans or permits 3 approved under the site location of development law, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, 4 Article 6. He The assessor shall give notice to a the mining company and to the 5 municipality in which a the mine site is located, in writing, of his the determination and 6 that . The assessor's determination shall be is reviewable under section 151.

2. Valuation. If a mine site is located in a municipality, he the assessor shall
determine the valuation of mining property and the percentage of that valuation
represented by land and buildings that are not exempt from property taxes. That valuation
of land and buildings shall must be applied in determining the property taxes. A The
municipality in which a the mine site is located may appeal that determination to the State
Board of Property Tax Review as provided under in chapter 101, subchapter H-A 2-A.

Sec. 77. 36 MRSA §2903, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 738, §4, is
 amended to read:

B. Brought into this State in the ordinary standardized standard equipment fuel tank
attached to and forming a part of a motor vehicle and used in the operation of that
vehicle in this State;

18 Sec. 78. 36 MRSA §2903, sub-§4, ¶D, as amended by PL 2003, c. 588, §12, is
 19 further amended to read:

D. Bought or used by any person to propel jet or turbojet engine an aircraft in international flights. For purposes of this paragraph, fuel is bought or used to propel an aircraft in an international flight if either the point of origin of the flight leg immediately preceding the delivery of the fuel into the fuel tanks of the aircraft or the destination point of the flight leg immediately following the delivery of the fuel into the fuel tanks of the aircraft is outside the United States;

26 Sec. 79. 36 MRSA §3202, sub-§2-D is enacted to read:

27 <u>2-D. Gross gallons. "Gross gallons" means actual measured gallons of special fuel</u>
 28 received, sold or used, without adjustment for temperature or barometric pressure.

29 Sec. 80. 36 MRSA §3202, sub-§5-C is enacted to read:

30 5-C. Retail dealer. "Retail dealer" means a person that operates in this State a place 31 of business from which special fuel is sold at retail and delivered directly into the fuel 32 tanks of motor vehicles or watercraft. A retailer or supplier is a retail dealer only with 33 respect to special fuel delivered into a retail storage tank operated by that retailer or 34 supplier or into a retail storage tank of a consignee or commission agent.

35 Sec. 81. 36 MRSA §3203, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1999, c. 414, §27, is
 36 further amended to read:

5. Allowance for certain losses of undyed distillates. An allowance of not more
than 1/4 of 1% from the amount of undyed diesel fuel distillates received by a supplier,
plus 1/4 of 1% on all transfers in vessels, tank cars or full tank truck loads by the supplier

1 in the regular course of business from one of the supplier's places of business to another 2 of the supplier's places of business within the State, may be allowed by the assessor to 3 cover the loss through shrinkage, evaporation or handling sustained by the supplier. The 4 total allowance for these losses must be supported by documentation satisfactory to the 5 assessor and may not exceed 1/2 of 1% of the receipts by the supplier. The allowance 6 must be calculated on an annual basis. A further deduction may not be allowed unless the 7 assessor is satisfied upon definite proof submitted to the assessor that a further deduction 8 should be allowed for a loss sustained through fire, accident or some unavoidable 9 calamity.

10 Sec. 82. 36 MRSA §4641-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 559, Pt. I, §4 and 11 affected by §15, is amended to read:

12 1. Transfer of real property by deed. The State Tax Assessor shall provide for the 13 collection of the tax on the transfer of real property by deed by each register of deeds and 14 for that purpose may provide for the installation of a meter machine in each registry office. When any deed is offered for recordation, the register of deeds shall ascertain and 15 16 compute the amount of tax due on the deed and shall collect that amount. The amount of tax must be computed on the value of the property as set forth in the declaration of value 17 prescribed by section 4641-D. Payment of tax must be evidenced by affixing such indicia 18 19 an indicium of payment as prescribed by the assessor to the declaration of value provided for in section 4641-D. 20

21 Sec. 83. 36 MRSA §4641-B, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. H, §1 22 and c. 427, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

23 4. Distribution of State's share of proceeds. The State Tax Assessor shall pay all net receipts received pursuant to this section to the Treasurer of State, and shall at the 24 25 same time provide the Treasurer of State with documentation showing the amount of revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 1 and the amount 26 27 of revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 2. The Treasurer of State shall credit 1/2 of the revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, 28 subsection 1 to the General Fund and shall monthly pay the remaining 1/2 of those 29 30 revenues to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853, except that in 31 32 fiscal year 2007-08 and fiscal year 2008-09, \$5,000,000 of the remaining 1/2 of those 33 revenues must be transferred to the General Fund before any payments are made to the 34 Maine State Housing Authority. Neither the Governor nor the Legislature may divert the 35 revenues payable to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to any other fund or for any other use. Any proposal to enact or amend a law to allow distribution of less than 1/236 of the revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 1 to the 37 38 Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund must be submitted to the Legislative Council and 39 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over affordable 40 housing matters at least 30 days prior to any vote or public hearing on the proposal. The 41 Treasurer of State shall credit to the General Fund all of the revenues derived from the tax imposed by section 4641-A, subsection 2. 42

Sec. 84. 36 MRSA §5142, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. V, §1,
 is further amended to read:

3 **3-A.** Gain or loss on sale of partnership interest. Notwithstanding subsection 3, 4 the gain or loss on the sale of a partnership interest is sourced to this State in an amount 5 equal to the gain or loss multiplied by the ratio obtained by dividing the original cost of partnership tangible property located in Maine by the original cost of partnership tangible 6 property everywhere, determined at the time of the sale. Tangible property includes 7 8 property owned or rented and is valued in accordance with section 5211, former subsection 10. If more than 50% of the value of the partnership's assets consist of 9 intangible property, gain or loss from the sale of the partnership interest is sourced to this 10 State in accordance with the sales factor of the partnership for its first full tax period 11 12 immediately preceding the tax period of the partnership during which the partnership interest was sold. For purposes of this subsection, the sales factor of a partnership is 13 14 determined in accordance with section 5211, subsections 14, 15 and 16-A. This subsection does not apply to the sale of a limited partner's interest in an investment 15 partnership where more than 80% of the value of the partnership's total assets consists of 16 17 intangible personal property held for investment, except that such property cannot include an interest in a partnership unless that partnership is itself an investment partnership. 18

19 If the apportionment provisions of this section do not fairly represent the extent of the 20 partnership's business activity in this State, the taxpayer may petition for, or the State Tax 21 Assessor may require, in respect to all or any part of the partnership's business activity the 22 employment of any other method to effectuate an equitable apportionment to this State of 23 the partner's income from the sale of the partnership interest.

24 Sec. 85. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§9, as repealed by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. V, §3 and 25 affected by §15, is reenacted to read:

9. Property factor. The property factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the
 average value of the taxpayer's real and tangible personal property owned or rented and
 used in this State during the tax period and the denominator of which is the average value
 of all the taxpayer's real and tangible personal property owned or rented and used during
 the tax period.

31 Sec. 86. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§10, as repealed by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. V, §4 and
 32 affected by §15, is reenacted to read:

10. Property valuation at original cost. Property owned by the taxpayer is valued
 at its original cost. Property rented by the taxpayer is valued at 8 times the net annual
 rental rate. Net annual rental rate is the annual rental rate paid by the taxpayer.

36 Sec. 87. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§11, as repealed by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. V, §5 and
 37 affected by §15, is reenacted to read:

38 <u>11. Determination of average value of property</u>. The average value of property 39 shall be determined by averaging the values at the beginning and ending of the tax period 40 but the Tax Assessor may require the averaging of monthly values during the tax period if

41 reasonably required to reflect properly the average value of the taxpayer's property.

1 Sec. 88. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§12, as repealed by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. V, §6 and 2 affected by §15, is reenacted to read:

3 12. Payroll factor. The payroll factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the 4 total amount paid in this State during the tax period by the taxpayer for compensation. 5 and the denominator of which is the total compensation paid everywhere during the tax 6 period. Eighty-five percent of any amounts paid pursuant to a contract by the taxpayer to an employee-leasing company for leased employees, and 100% of the amount paid 7 8 pursuant to a contract to a temporary services company for temporary employees, must be 9 included in the taxpayer's payroll factor. The payroll factor of an employee-leasing 10 company or a temporary services company must exclude compensation paid to leased or temporary employees who are providing personal services to client companies. 11

12 Sec. 89. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§13, as repealed by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. V, §7 and 13 affected by §15, is reenacted to read:

- 14 **13. When compensation paid in this State.** Compensation is paid in this State, if:
- 15 A. The individual's service is performed entirely within the State; or

B. The individual's service is performed both within and without the State, but the
 service performed without the state is incidental to the individual's service within the
 State; or

19 C. Some of the service is performed in the State and the base of operations or, if 20 there is no base of operations, the place from which the service is directed or 21 controlled is in the State, or the base of operations or the place from which the service 22 is directed or controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is 23 performed, but the individual's residence is in this State.

24 Sec. 90. 36 MRSA §5215, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1993, c. 672, §1 and 25 affected by §2, is further amended to read:

26 6. Recapture. If, during any taxable year, any qualified investment property is disposed of, or otherwise ceases to be property covered by subsection 2 3, paragraph A 27 28 with respect to the taxpayer, before the end of the useful life that was taken into account 29 in computing the credit under subsection 1, then the tax under this Part for that taxable year must be increased by an amount equal to the aggregate decrease in the credit allowed 30 under subsection 1 for all prior taxable years that would have resulted solely from 31 32 substituting for the useful life, in determining qualified investment under the Internal 33 Revenue Code of 1954 as of December 31, 1985, the period beginning with the time the 34 property was placed in service by the taxpayer and ending with the time the property 35 ceased to be property covered by subsection 23.

36 Sec. 91. 36 MRSA §5219-K, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. B, §9,
 37 is further amended to read:

1. Credit allowed. A taxpayer is allowed a credit against the tax due under this Part equal to the sum of 5% of the excess, if any, of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year, over the base amount; and 7.5% of the basic research payments determined

1 under subsection (e)(1)(A) of Section 41 of the Code, Section 41(e)(1)(A). The term 2 "base amount" means the average amount per year spent on qualified research expenses 3 over the last previous 3 taxable years by the taxpayer. The As used in this section, unless 4 the context otherwise indicates, the terms "qualified research expenses," "qualified 5 organization base period amount," "basic research" and any other terms affecting the 6 calculation of the credit, unless the context otherwise requires, have the same meanings 7 as under the Code, Section 41 of the Code, as amended and in effect on December 31. 8 1994, but only apply only to expenditures for research conducted in this State. In 9 determining the amount of the credit allowable under this section, the State Tax Assessor 10 may aggregate the activities of all corporations that are members of a controlled group of 11 corporations, as defined by subsection (f)(1)(A) of Section 41 of the Code, Section 12 41(f)(1)(A) and in addition may aggregate the activities of all entities, whether or not 13 incorporated, that are under common control, as defined by subsection (f)(1)(B) of 14 Section 41 of the Code, Section 41(f)(1)(B).

15 Sec. 92. 36 MRSA §5219-K, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1997, c. 504, §18, is
 16 further amended to read:

3. Limitation on credit allowed. The credit allowed under this section is limited to
100% of a corporation's first \$25,000 of tax due, as determined before the allowance of
any credits, plus 75% of the corporation's tax due, as determined in excess of \$25,000.
The State Tax Assessor assessor shall adopt rules similar to those authorized under
Section 38(c) (3)(B) of the Code, Section 38(c)(5)(B) for purposes of apportioning the
\$25,000 among members of a controlled group.

Sec. 93. 36 MRSA §5219-L, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 557, Pt. B, §10
 and affected by §14 and Pt. G, §1, is amended to read:

25 1. Super credit allowed for substantial expansions of research and development. 26 A taxpayer qualifying that qualifies for a the research expense tax credit allowed under 27 section 5219-K is allowed an additional credit against the tax due <u>under this Part</u> equal to 28 the excess, if any, of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year over the super 29 credit base amount. For purposes of this section, "super credit base amount" means the 30 average amount spent on qualified research expenses by the taxpayer in the 3 taxable 31 years immediately preceding the effective date of this section, increased by 50%. The 32 super credit allowed under this subsection applies only to the expenditures for research 33 conducted in this State. The term For purposes of this section, "qualified research 34 expenses" has the same meaning as under Section 41 of the Code, as amended and in 35 effect on December 31, 1994 Section 41 but applies only to expenditures for research 36 conducted in this State.

37 Sec. 94. 36 MRSA §5256, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1981, c. 698, §188, is
38 further amended to read:

39 3. Termination of taxable year for jeopardy. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2,
40 if the assessor makes a determination of jeopardy and terminates the taxpayer's taxable
41 year under section 141, relating to tax in jeopardy 145, the tax shall must be computed for
42 the period determined by such that action.

Sec. 95. 36 MRSA §6651, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 372, §1 and c.
 437, §21, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Eligible property. "Eligible property" means qualified business property first 3 4 placed in service in the State, or constituting construction in progress commenced in the State, after April 1, 1995 but does not include property that is eligible business equipment 5 as defined in section 691, subsection 1. "Eligible property" includes, without limitation, 6 repair parts, replacement parts, additions, accessions and accessories to other qualified 7 business property placed in service on or before April 1, 1995 if the part, addition, 8 9 accession or accessory is first placed in service, or constitutes construction in progress, in 10 the State after April 1, 1995, unless that property is eligible business equipment as defined in section 691, subsection 1. "Eligible property" includes used qualified business 11 property if the qualified business property was first placed in service in the State, or 12 constituted construction in progress commenced in the State, after April 1, 1995 but does 13 14 not include property that is eligible business equipment as defined in section 691, subsection 1. "Eligible property" also includes inventory parts. 15

16 Sec. 96. Retroactivity. Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised 17 Statutes, Title 36, section 1752, subsection 11, paragraph B and section 1765 apply 18 retroactively to September 20, 2007. That section of this Act that repeals and replaces 19 Title 36, section 1811, first paragraph, applies retroactively to September 20, 2007. That 20 section of this Act that repeals and replaces Title 36, section 2521-A applies to tax 21 periods beginning on or after January 1, 2007. Those sections of this Act that reenact 22 Title 36, section 5211, subsections 9 to 13 apply retroactively to June 7, 2007.

23

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes and corrections to the laws governing taxation, including repealing superfluous or redundant definitions and effective dates, updating references to the Internal Revenue Code and correcting grammar, punctuation and internal cross-references. In addition, this bill also:

Clarifies the effect of a determination by the State Tax Assessor that collection of
 a tax will be jeopardized by delay;

2. Relocates a provision relating to service charges imposed by municipalities for
 municipal services provided with respect to certain tax-exempt property that is
 inappropriately located in a statute providing exemptions for property of certain
 institutions and organizations;

34 3. Replaces the imprecise term "camp trailer" with the defined term "camper trailer";

4. Corrects a conflict created by Public Law 2007, chapters 425 and 438, which affected the same provision of law, by incorporating changes made by both laws;

5. Eliminates certain defunct organizations from a list of exempt institutions andorganizations;

1 6. Eliminates a reference to the Commissioner of Finance, an office that no longer 2 exists;

7. Clarifies the computation of "property tax revenue lost" for purposes of
 determining the reimbursement to municipalities with respect to the business equipment
 tax exemption;

8. Amends the excise tax law to reflect the fact that licensing of common carriers has
been transferred from the Public Utilities Commission to the Department of
Transportation;

9 9. Clarifies certain requirements relating to payment of excise taxes on aircraft;

10 10. Clarifies that the same definition of "automobile" applies throughout the sales 11 and use tax law and relocates the definition of "loaner vehicle" to the definitions section;

12 11. Clarifies that repair parts used in the performance of repair services under certain
 extended warranty contracts are not deemed to be "sold" for purposes of the sales and use
 tax law;

15 12. Clarifies requirements relating to payment of use tax on property registered for 16 use in this State;

17 13. Clarifies requirements relating to furnishing of bonds by certain taxpayers;

18 14. Clarifies that the sales tax exemption for property delivered outside the State
 19 does not apply to subsequent use of the property in the State. The proposed change
 20 reflects current Maine Revenue Services administrative policy;

15. Restores a trade-in credit that was inadvertently repealed by legislation enacted
 in the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature;

16. Clarifies the responsibilities of a surplus lines producer under the insurance
 company tax law. The proposed changes reflect current Maine Revenue Services
 administrative policy;

17. Clarifies that the annual return filed by risk retention groups is to be filed with the State Tax Assessor rather than the Treasurer of State and that the due date of the return is March 15th rather than March 1st. The proposed changes make the requirements similar to those for other insurance taxes and reflect current Maine Revenue Services administrative policy;

18. Corrects a conflict created by Public Law 2007, chapters 240 and 437, which
 affected the same provision of law, by incorporating changes made by both laws;

19. Amends provisions of the service provider tax law relating to
 telecommunications services to reflect current telecommunications technology;

20. Clarifies the meaning of "international flight" for purposes of exempting certain
 fuel used in international flights from the gasoline tax;

1 21. Clarifies provisions of the special fuel tax law by adding definitions;

2 22. Corrects a conflict created by Public Law 2007, chapters 440 and 444, which 3 affected the same provision of law, by incorporating changes made by both laws;

4 24. Corrects a conflict created by Public Law 2007, chapters 372 and 437, which 5 affected the same provision of law, by incorporating changes made by both laws;

6 25. Clarifies the authority of the State Tax Assessor to include in the establishment 7 of the applicable tax mill rate in the unorganized territory the costs of payments that the 8 unorganized territory district is obligated to make under a tax increment financing 9 agreement and clarifies that the Treasurer of State is authorized to make the payments 10 obligated under an unorganized territory tax increment financing agreement after the tax 11 increment financing taxes are paid;

12 26. Clarifies that the premium charged for motor vehicle oil changes is not included 13 in the sale price for purposes of the sales tax; and

14 27. Reenacts definitions that were repealed mistakenly in Public Law 2007, chapter15 240.