

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2009 and 2010 HB1341

Introduced 2/18/2009, by Rep. Kevin Joyce

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Property Tax Code. Awards an assessment freeze homestead exemption to retired police officers and firefighters who meet certain requirements. Provides that the amount of the exemption is the equalized assessed value of the residence in the taxable year for which application is made minus the equalized assessed value of the residence in the taxable year in which the applicant qualified for the exemption plus the first year's equalized assessed value of any added improvements that increased the assessed value of the residence after the base year. Makes corresponding changes to cross-references in the provisions concerning certification, certificate of errors, and delinquency notices. Amends various Acts concerning tax increment financing to deduct the exemption from assessed value calculations for entities that have adopted tax increment allocation financing under these provisions. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

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CORRECTIONAL
BUDGET AND
IMPACT NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IMPACT NOTE ACT MAY APPLY STATE MANDATES ACT MAY REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT 1 AN ACT concerning revenue.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- 4 Section 5. The Economic Development Area Tax Increment
- 5 Allocation Act is amended by changing Section 6 as follows:
- 6 (20 ILCS 620/6) (from Ch. 67 1/2, par. 1006)
- Sec. 6. Filing with county clerk; certification of initial equalized assessed value.
- 9 (a) The municipality shall file a certified copy of any ordinance authorizing tax increment allocation financing for 10 an economic development project area with the county clerk, and 11 the county clerk shall immediately thereafter determine (1) the 12 13 most recently ascertained equalized assessed value of each lot, 14 block, tract or parcel of real property within the economic development project area from which shall be deducted the 15 16 homestead exemptions provided by Sections 15-167.5, 15-170, 17 15-175, and 15-176 of the Property Tax Code, which value shall be the "initial equalized assessed value" of each such piece of 18 19 property, and (2) the total equalized assessed value of all 20 taxable real property within the economic development project 21 area by adding together the most recently ascertained equalized 22 assessed value of each taxable lot, block, tract, or parcel of real property within such economic development project area, 23

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- from which shall be deducted the homestead exemptions provided under Article 15 of the Property Tax Code, and shall certify such amount as the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property within the economic development project area.
 - (b) After the county clerk has certified the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property in the economic development project area, then in respect to every taxing district containing an economic development project area, the county clerk or any other official required by law to ascertain the amount of the equalized assessed value of all taxable property within that taxing district for the purpose of computing the rate per cent of tax to be extended upon taxable property within that taxing district, shall in every year that tax increment allocation financing is in effect ascertain the amount of value of taxable property in an economic development project area by including in that amount the lower of the current equalized assessed value or the certified "total initial equalized assessed value" of all taxable real property in such area. The rate per cent of tax determined shall be extended to the current equalized assessed value of all property in the economic development project area in the same manner as the rate per cent of tax is extended to all other taxable property in the taxing district. The method of allocating taxes established under this Section terminate when the municipality adopts an ordinance dissolving

- 1 the special tax allocation fund for the economic development
- 2 project area, terminating the economic development project
- 3 area, and terminating the use of tax increment allocation
- 4 financing for the economic development project area. This Act
- 5 shall not be construed as relieving property owners within an
- 6 economic development project area from paying a uniform rate of
- 7 taxes upon the current equalized assessed value of their
- 8 taxable property as provided in the Property Tax Code.
- 9 (Source: P.A. 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.)
- 10 Section 10. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing
- 11 Sections 15-10, 20-178, and 21-135 and adding Section 15-167.5
- 12 as follows:
- 13 (35 ILCS 200/15-10)
- 14 Sec. 15-10. Exempt property; procedures for certification.
- 15 All property granted an exemption by the Department pursuant to
- 16 the requirements of Section 15-5 and described in the Sections
- following Section 15-30 and preceding Section 16-5, to the
- 18 extent therein limited, is exempt from taxation. In order to
- 19 maintain that exempt status, the titleholder or the owner of
- 20 the beneficial interest of any property that is exempt must
- 21 file with the chief county assessment officer, on or before
- 22 January 31 of each year (May 31 in the case of property
- exempted by Section 15-167.5 or 15-170), an affidavit stating
- 24 whether there has been any change in the ownership or use of

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the property or the status of the owner-resident, or that a disabled veteran who qualifies under Section 15-165 owned and used the property as of January 1 of that year. The nature of any change shall be stated in the affidavit. Failure to file an affidavit shall, in the discretion of the assessment officer, constitute cause to terminate the exemption of that property, notwithstanding any other provision of this Code. Owners of 5 or more such exempt parcels within a county may file a single annual affidavit in lieu of an affidavit for each parcel. The assessment officer, upon request, shall furnish an affidavit form to the owners, in which the owner may state whether there has been any change in the ownership or use of the property or status of the owner or resident as of January 1 of that year. The owner of 5 or more exempt parcels shall list all the properties giving the same information for each parcel as required of owners who file individual affidavits.

However, titleholders or owners of the beneficial interest in any property exempted under any of the following provisions are not required to submit an annual filing under this Section:

- (1) Section 15-45 (burial grounds) in counties of less than 3,000,000 inhabitants and owned by a not-for-profit organization.
- (2) Section 15-40.
- 24 (3) Section 15-50 (United States property).

25 If there is a change in use or ownership, however, notice 26 must be filed pursuant to Section 15-20.

An application for homestead exemptions shall be filed as

- 2 provided in Section 15-167.5 (retired police and firefighter
- 3 assessment freeze homestead exemption), Section 15-170 (senior
- 4 citizens homestead exemption), Section 15-172 (senior citizens
- 5 assessment freeze homestead exemption), and Sections 15-175
- 6 (general homestead exemption), 15-176 (general alternative
- 7 homestead exemption), and 15-177 (long-time occupant homestead
- 8 exemption), respectively.
- 9 (Source: P.A. 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.)
- 10 (35 ILCS 200/15-167.5 new)
- 11 Sec. 15-167.5. Retired police and firefighter assessment
- 12 freeze homestead exemption.
- 13 (a) This Section may be cited as the Senior Citizens
- 14 Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption.
- 15 (b) As used in this Section:
- "Applicant" means a qualified retired police officer or
- firefighter or the spouse or unmarried surviving spouse of a
- 18 qualified retired police officer or firefighter.
- 19 "Base amount" means the base year equalized assessed value
- of the residence plus the first year's equalized assessed value
- of any added improvements that increased the assessed value of
- the residence after the base year.
- "Base year" means the taxable year prior to the taxable
- year for which the applicant first qualifies and applies for
- 25 the exemption if, in the prior taxab<u>le year, the property was</u>

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improved with a permanent structure that was occupied as a residence by the applicant who was liable for paying real property taxes on the property and who was either (i) an owner of record of the property or had legal or equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written instrument or (ii) had a legal or equitable interest as a lessee in the parcel of property that was single family residence. If, in any subsequent taxable year for which the applicant applies and qualifies for the exemption, the equalized assessed value of the residence is less than the equalized assessed value in the existing base year, then that subsequent taxable year becomes the base year unless that lower equalized assessed value is based on an assessed value that results from a temporary irregularity in the property that reduces the assessed value for one or more taxable years. The selected year is the base year for taxable year 2009 and thereafter until a new base year is established under the terms of this paragraph.

"Life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative" means a facility as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities

Act.

"Firefighter" means a person who qualifies as a firefighter under Section 4-106 or as a fireman under Section 6-106 of the Illinois Pension Code.

"Police officer" means a person who qualifies as a police officer under Section 3-106 or as a policeman under Section 5-106 of the Illinois Pension Code.

"Qualified retired police officer or firefighter" means an individual who: (i) is retired and (ii) was required to reside within a certain unit of local government as a condition of his or her employment as a police officer or firefighter.

"Retired" means (i) withdrawn from service as a police officer or firefighter after at least 20 years of continuous service or (ii) eligible to receive benefits under Article 3, 4, 5, or 6 of the Illinois Pension Code.

"Residence" has the meaning set forth under Section 15-172.

(c) Beginning in taxable year 2009, an assessment freeze homestead exemption is granted for real property that is improved with a permanent structure that is occupied as a residence by an applicant who is liable for paying real property taxes on the property and who is an owner of record of the property or has a legal or equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written instrument. This homestead exemption also applies to a leasehold interest in a parcel of property improved with a permanent structure that is a single family residence that is occupied as a residence by an applicant who has a legal or equitable ownership interest in the property as lessee and who is liable for the payment of real property taxes on that property.

The amount of this exemption is the equalized assessed value of the residence in the taxable year for which application is made minus the base amount. If the applicant is an unmarried surviving spouse of qualified retired police or

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firefighter for a prior year for the same residence for which
an exemption under this Section has been granted, then the base
year and base amount for that residence are the same as for the

4 applicant for the prior year.

Each year, at the time the assessment books are certified to the county clerk, the board of review or board of appeals shall give to the county clerk a list of the assessed values of improvements on each parcel qualifying for this exemption that were added after the base year for this parcel and that increased the assessed value of the property.

In the case of land improved with an apartment building owned and operated as a cooperative or a building that is a life-care facility that qualifies as a cooperative, the maximum reduction from the equalized assessed value of the property is limited to the sum of the reductions calculated for each unit occupied as a residence by an applicant who is liable, by contract with the owner or owners of record, for paying real property taxes on the property and who is an owner of record of a legal or equitable interest in the cooperative apartment building, other than a leasehold interest. In the instance of a cooperative where a homestead exemption has been granted under this Section, the cooperative association or its management firm shall credit the savings resulting from that exemption only to the apportioned tax liability of the owner who qualified for the exemption. Any person who willfully refuses to credit that savings to an owner who qualifies for the

exemption is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

If a homestead exemption has been granted under this Section and an applicant then becomes a resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act, then the exemption is granted in subsequent years so long as the residence (i) continues to be occupied by the applicant or (ii) if remaining unoccupied, is still owned by the qualified retired police or firefighter for the homestead exemption.

If married applicants, maintain separate residences, then the exemption provided for in this Section may be claimed by only one of such persons and for only one residence.

To receive the exemption, an applicant must submit an application by July 1 of each taxable year to the chief county assessment officer of the county in which the property is located. A county may, by ordinance, establish a date for submission of applications that is different than July 1. The chief county assessment officer shall, annually, give notice of the application period by mail or by publication. The Department shall establish, by rule, a method for verifying the accuracy of applications filed by applicants under this Section. The applications must be clearly marked as applications for the retired police and firefighter assessment freeze homestead exemption.

If an applicant fails to file the application required by this Section in a timely manner and this failure to file is due to a mental or physical condition sufficiently severe so as to

render the applicant incapable of filing the application in a timely manner, the chief county assessment officer may extend the filing deadline for a period of 30 days after the applicant regains the capability to file the application, but in no case may the filing deadline be extended beyond 3 months of the original filing deadline. In order to receive the extension provided in this paragraph, the applicant must provide the chief county assessment officer with a signed statement from the applicant's physician stating the nature and extent of the condition, that, in the physician's opinion, the condition was so severe that it rendered the applicant incapable of filing the application in a timely manner, and the date on which the applicant regained the capability to file the application.

For purposes of this Section, a person who will be retired during the current taxable year is eligible to apply for the homestead exemption during that taxable year. The application must be made during the application period in effect for the county of his or her residence.

The chief county assessment officer may determine the eligibility of a life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative to receive the benefits provided by this Section by use of an affidavit, application, visual inspection, questionnaire, or other reasonable method in order to insure that the tax savings resulting from the exemption are credited by the management firm to the apportioned tax liability of each qualifying resident. The chief county assessment officer may

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request reasonable proof that the management firm has so credited that exemption.

Except as provided in this Section, all information received by the chief county assessment officer or the Department from applications filed under this Section, or from any investigation conducted under the provisions of this Section, shall be confidential, except for official purposes or pursuant to official procedures for collection of any State or local tax or enforcement of any civil or criminal penalty or sanction imposed by this Act or by any statute or ordinance imposing a State or local tax. Any person who divulges any such information in any manner, except in accordance with a proper judicial order, is quilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent the Director or chief county assessment officer from publishing or making available reasonable statistics concerning the operation of the exemption contained in this Section in which the contents of claims are grouped into aggregates in such a way that information contained in any individual claim shall not be disclosed.

21 (35 ILCS 200/20-178)

Sec. 20-178. Certificate of error; refund; interest. When the county collector makes any refunds due on certificates of error issued under Sections 14-15 through 14-25 that have been either certified or adjudicated, the county collector shall pay

the taxpayer interest on the amount of the refund at the rate of 0.5% per month.

No interest shall be due under this Section for any time prior to 60 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly. For certificates of error issued prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly, the county collector shall pay the taxpayer interest from 60 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly until the date the refund is paid. For certificates of error issued on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly, interest shall be paid from 60 days after the certificate of error is issued by the chief county assessment officer to the date the refund is made. To cover the cost of interest, the county collector shall proportionately reduce the distribution of taxes collected for each taxing district in which the property is situated.

This Section shall not apply to any certificate of error granting a homestead exemption under Section <u>15-167.5</u>, 15-170, 15-172, 15-175, 15-176, or 15-177.

21 (Source: P.A. 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.)

22 (35 ILCS 200/21-135)

Sec. 21-135. Mailed notice of application for judgment and sale. Not less than 15 days before the date of application for judgment and sale of delinquent properties, the county

collector shall mail, by registered or certified mail, a notice of the forthcoming application for judgment and sale to the person shown by the current collector's warrant book to be the party in whose name the taxes were last assessed or to the current owner of record and, if applicable, to the party specified under Section 15-167.5 or 15-170. The notice shall include the intended dates of application for judgment and sale and commencement of the sale, and a description of the properties. The county collector must present proof of the mailing to the court along with the application for judgement.

In counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, a copy of this notice shall also be mailed by the county collector by registered or certified mail to any lienholder of record who annually requests a copy of the notice. The failure of the county collector to mail a notice or its non-delivery to the lienholder shall not affect the validity of the judgment.

In counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, notice shall not be mailed to any person when, under Section 14-15, a certificate of error has been executed by the county assessor or by both the county assessor and board of appeals (until the first Monday in December 1998 and the board of review beginning the first Monday in December 1998 and thereafter), except as provided by court order under Section 21-120.

The collector shall collect \$10 from the proceeds of each sale to cover the costs of registered or certified mailing and the costs of advertisement and publication. If a taxpayer pays

- 1 the taxes on the property after the notice of the forthcoming
- 2 application for judgment and sale is mailed but before the sale
- 3 is made, then the collector shall collect \$10 from the taxpayer
- 4 to cover the costs of registered or certified mailing and the
- 5 costs of advertisement and publication.
- 6 (Source: P.A. 93-899, eff. 8-10-04.)
- 7 Section 15. The County Economic Development Project Area
- 8 Property Tax Allocation Act is amended by changing Section 6 as
- 9 follows:
- 10 (55 ILCS 85/6) (from Ch. 34, par. 7006)
- 11 Sec. 6. Filing with county clerk; certification of initial
- 12 equalized assessed value.
- 13 (a) The county shall file a certified copy of any ordinance
- 14 authorizing property tax allocation financing for an economic
- development project area with the county clerk, and the county
- 16 clerk shall immediately thereafter determine (1) the most
- 17 recently ascertained equalized assessed value of each lot,
- 18 block, tract or parcel of real property within the economic
- 19 development project area from which shall be deducted the
- 20 homestead exemptions under Article 15 of the Property Tax Code,
- 21 which value shall be the "initial equalized assessed value" of
- 22 each such piece of property, and (2) the total equalized
- assessed value of all taxable real property within the economic
- 24 development project area by adding together the most recently

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ascertained equalized assessed value of each taxable lot, block, tract, or parcel of real property within such economic development project area, from which shall be deducted the homestead exemptions provided by Sections 15-167.5, 15-170, 15-175, and 15-176 of the Property Tax Code. Upon receiving written notice from the Department of its approval and certification of such economic development project area, the county clerk shall immediately certify such amount as the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable property within the economic development project area.

(b) After the county clerk has certified the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property in the economic development project area, then in respect to every taxing district containing an economic development project area, the county clerk or any other official required by law to ascertain the amount of the equalized assessed value of all taxable property within that taxing district for the purpose of computing the rate percent of tax to be extended upon taxable property within the taxing district, shall in every year that property tax allocation financing is in effect ascertain the amount of value of taxable property in an economic development project area by including in that amount the lower of the current equalized assessed value or the certified "total initial equalized assessed value" of all taxable real property in such area. The rate percent of tax determined shall be extended to the current equalized assessed value of all

property in the economic development project area in the same 1 2 manner as the rate percent of tax is extended to all other 3 taxable property in the taxing district. The method of allocating taxes established under this Section 5 terminate when the county adopts an ordinance dissolving the special tax allocation fund for the economic development 6 7 project area. This Act shall not be construed as relieving 8 property owners within an economic development project area 9 from paying a uniform rate of taxes upon the current equalized 10 assessed value of their taxable property as provided in the 11 Property Tax Code.

- 12 (Source: P.A. 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.)
- Section 20. The Illinois Municipal Code is amended by changing Section 11-74.4-9 as follows:
- 15 (65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-9) (from Ch. 24, par. 11-74.4-9)
- Sec. 11-74.4-9. Equalized assessed value of property.
- If a municipality by ordinance provides for tax 17 18 increment allocation financing pursuant to Section 11-74.4-8, the county clerk immediately thereafter shall determine (1) the 19 20 most recently ascertained equalized assessed value of each lot, 21 block, tract or parcel of real property within 22 redevelopment project area from which shall be deducted the 23 homestead exemptions under Article 15 of the Property Tax Code, 24 which value shall be the "initial equalized assessed value" of

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each such piece of property, and (2) the total equalized assessed value of all taxable real property within such redevelopment project area by adding together the most recently ascertained equalized assessed value of each taxable lot, block, tract, or parcel of real property within such project area, from which shall be deducted the homestead exemptions provided by Sections 15-167.5, 15-170, 15-175, and 15-176 of the Property Tax Code, and shall certify such amount as the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property within such project area.

(b) In reference to any municipality which has adopted tax increment financing after January 1, 1978, and in respect to which the county clerk has certified the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the property in the redevelopment area, the municipality may thereafter request the clerk in writing to adjust the initial equalized value of all taxable real property within the redevelopment project area by deducting therefrom the exemptions under Article 15 of the Property Tax Code applicable to each lot, block, tract or parcel of real property within such redevelopment project area. The county clerk shall immediately after the written request to adjust the total initial equalized value is received determine the total homestead exemptions in the redevelopment project area provided by Sections 15-167.5, 15-170, 15-175, and 15-176 of the Property Tax Code by adding together the homestead exemptions provided by said Sections on each lot, block, tract

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- or parcel of real property within such redevelopment project
 area and then shall deduct the total of said exemptions from
 the total initial equalized assessed value. The county clerk
 shall then promptly certify such amount as the "total initial
 equalized assessed value as adjusted" of the taxable real
 property within such redevelopment project area.
 - (c) After the county clerk has certified the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property in such area, then in respect to every taxing district containing a redevelopment project area, the county clerk or any other official required by law to ascertain the amount of the equalized assessed value of all taxable property within such district for the purpose of computing the rate per cent of tax to be extended upon taxable property within such district, shall in every year that tax increment allocation financing is in effect ascertain the amount of value of taxable property in a redevelopment project area by including in such amount the lower of the current equalized assessed value or the certified "total initial equalized assessed value" of all taxable real property in such area, except that after he has certified the "total initial equalized assessed value as adjusted" he shall in the year of said certification if tax rates have not been extended and in every year thereafter that tax increment allocation financing is in effect ascertain the amount of value of taxable property in a redevelopment project area by including in such amount the lower of the current equalized

assessed value or the certified "total initial equalized 1 2 assessed value as adjusted" of all taxable real property in such area. The rate per cent of tax determined shall be 3 extended to the current equalized assessed value of all 5 property in the redevelopment project area in the same manner as the rate per cent of tax is extended to all other taxable 6 7 property in the taxing district. The method of extending taxes established under this Section shall terminate when the 8 9 municipality adopts an ordinance dissolving the special tax 10 allocation fund for the redevelopment project area. This 11 Division shall not be construed as relieving property owners 12 within a redevelopment project area from paying a uniform rate of taxes upon the current equalized assessed value of their 13 taxable property as provided in the Property Tax Code. 14

- (Source: P.A. 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.) 15
- 16 Section 25. The Economic Development Project Area Tax Increment Allocation Act of 1995 is amended by changing Section 17 45 as follows: 18
- 19 (65 ILCS 110/45)
- 20 Sec. 45. Filing with county clerk; certification of initial 21 equalized assessed value.
- (a) A municipality that has by ordinance approved an 22 23 economic development plan, established an economic development 24 project area, and adopted tax increment allocation financing

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for that area shall file certified copies of the ordinance or ordinances with the county clerk. Upon receiving the ordinance or ordinances, the county clerk shall immediately determine (i) the most recently ascertained equalized assessed value of each lot, block, tract, or parcel of real property within the economic development project area from which shall be deducted the homestead exemptions under Article 15 of the Property Tax Code (that value being the "initial equalized assessed value" of each such piece of property) and (ii) the total equalized assessed value of all taxable real property within the economic development project area by adding together the most recently ascertained equalized assessed value of each taxable lot, block, tract, or parcel of real property within the economic development project area, from which shall be deducted the homestead exemptions provided by Sections 15-167.5, 15-170, 15-175, and 15-176 of the Property Tax Code, and shall certify that amount as the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property within the economic development project area.

(b) After the county clerk has certified the "total initial equalized assessed value" of the taxable real property in the economic development project area, then in respect to every taxing district containing an economic development project area, the county clerk or any other official required by law to ascertain the amount of the equalized assessed value of all taxable property within the taxing district for the purpose of

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computing the rate per cent of tax to be extended upon taxable property within the taxing district shall, in every year that tax increment allocation financing is in effect, ascertain the amount of value of taxable property in an economic development project area by including in that amount the lower of the current equalized assessed value or the certified "total initial equalized assessed value" of all taxable real property in the area. The rate per cent of tax determined shall be extended to the current equalized assessed value of all property in the economic development project area in the same manner as the rate per cent of tax is extended to all other taxable property in the taxing district. The method of extending taxes established under this Section shall terminate when the municipality adopts an ordinance dissolving the special tax allocation fund for the economic development project area. This Act shall not be construed as relieving owners or lessees of property within an economic development project area from paying a uniform rate of taxes upon the current equalized assessed value of their taxable property as provided in the Property Tax Code.

21 (Source: P.A. 95-644, eff. 10-12-07.)

Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding Section 8.33 as follows:

24 (30 ILCS 805/8.33 new)

- Sec. 8.33. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
- of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the
- 3 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of
- 4 the 96th General Assembly.
- 5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 6 becoming law.

1 INDEX 2 Statutes amended in order of appearance 20 ILCS 620/6 from Ch. 67 1/2, par. 1006 3 35 ILCS 200/15-10 5 35 ILCS 200/15-167.5 new 35 ILCS 200/20-178 6 35 ILCS 200/21-135 7 55 ILCS 85/6 from Ch. 34, par. 7006 8 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-9 from Ch. 24, par. 11-74.4-9 10 65 ILCS 110/45

30 ILCS 805/8.33 new