

SENATE Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2125

AN ACT concerning property taxation; relating to tax levies and tax statements; modifying the deadline for mailing tax statements to taxpayers to be earlier than the current deadline; modifying the deadline for governing bodies to certify the amount of property tax to be levied to the county clerk; providing for the county clerk's use of the previous year's budget when a taxing subdivision fails to timely file its budget; relating to the revenue neutral rate; modifying the content requirements of the revenue neutral rate hearing notice; extending reimbursement from the taxpayer notification costs fund for printing and postage costs for county clerks for calendar year 2026; prohibiting a filing fee when a previous appeal remains pending before the board of tax appeals; authorizing the continuation of the 20-mill statewide property tax levy for schools; amending K.S.A. 74-2438a and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5142, 79-1801, 79-2001, 79-2930, 79-2988 and 79-2989, as amended by section 204 of 2025 Senate Bill No. 125, and repealing the existing sections.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5142 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-5142. (a) The board of education of each school district shall levy an ad valorem tax upon the taxable tangible property of the school district in the school years specified in subsection (b) for the purpose of:

(1) Financing that portion of the school district's general fund budget that is not financed from any other source provided by law;

(2) paying a portion of the costs of operating and maintaining public schools in partial fulfillment of the constitutional obligation of the legislature to finance the educational interests of the state; and

(3) with respect to any redevelopment school district established prior to July 1, 1997, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1771, and amendments thereto, paying a portion of the principal and interest on bonds issued by cities under authority of K.S.A. 12-1774, and amendments thereto, for the financing of redevelopment projects upon property located within the school district.

(b) The tax required under subsection (a) shall be levied at a rate of 20 mills in the school years ~~2023-2024~~ 2025-2026 and ~~2024-2025-2026-2027~~.

(c) The proceeds from the tax levied by a district under authority of this section, except the proceeds of such tax levied for the purpose described in subsection (a)(3), shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the state school district finance fund.

(d) No school district shall proceed under K.S.A. 79-1964, 79-1964a or 79-1964b, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 74-2438a is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-2438a. (a) Except as provided in subsection (e), the executive director of the state board of tax appeals shall charge and collect a filing fee, established by rules and regulations adopted by the state board of tax appeals, for any appeal in any proceeding under the tax protest, tax grievance or tax exemption statutes or in any other original proceeding for such board to recover all or part of the costs of processing such actions incurred by the state board of tax appeals.

(b) The COTA filing fee fund is hereby renamed the BOTA filing fee fund.

(c) The executive director of the board of tax appeals shall remit to the state treasurer at least monthly all tax appeal filing fees received by the state board of tax appeals. Upon receipt of any such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the amount in the state treasury to the credit of the BOTA filing fee fund.

(d) All expenditures from the BOTA filing fee fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the executive director of the state board of tax appeals or a person or persons designated by such executive director.

(e) No filing fee of any kind shall be charged by the executive director to:

(1) A taxpayer who has filed an appeal for a previous year that has not been decided by the board and is ~~beyond the time period prescribed~~

by K.S.A. 74-2426, and amendments thereto *still pending before the board at the time another appeal is filed for the same parcel*;

(2) any taxpayer filing in regard to single-family residential property for a refund of protested taxes under the provisions of K.S.A. 79-2005, and amendments thereto, or an appeal from a decision rendered pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto;

(3) any not-for-profit organization if the valuation of the property that is the subject of the controversy does not exceed \$100,000; or

(4) any municipality or political subdivision of the state.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-1801 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1801. ~~(a) Except as provided by subsection (b),~~ Each year the governing body of any city, the trustees of any township, the board of education of any school district and the governing bodies of all other taxing subdivisions shall certify, on or before ~~August 25~~ *October 1*, to the proper county clerk the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied. Thereupon, the county clerk shall place the tax upon the tax roll of the county, in the manner prescribed by law, and the tax shall be collected by the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall distribute the proceeds of the taxes levied by each taxing subdivision in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1678a, and amendments thereto.

~~(b) Prior to January 1, 2021, if the governing body of a city or county must conduct an election for an increase in property tax to fund any appropriation or budget under K.S.A. 25-433a, and amendments thereto, the governing body of the city or county shall certify, on or before October 1, to the proper county clerk the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied. On and after January 1, 2021, if the governing body of a taxing subdivision must conduct a public hearing to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate under K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2988, and amendments thereto, the governing body of the taxing subdivision shall certify, on or before October 1, to the proper county clerk the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied.~~

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2001 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-2001. (a) As soon as the county treasurer receives the tax roll of the county, the treasurer shall enter in a column opposite the description of each tract or parcel of land the amount of unpaid taxes and the date of unredeemed sales, if any, for previous years on such land. The treasurer shall cause a notice to be published in the official county paper once each week for three consecutive weeks, stating in the notice the amount of taxes charged for state, county, township, school, city or other purposes for that year, on each \$1,000 of valuation.

(b) Each year after receipt of the tax roll from the county clerk and before ~~December 15~~ *1*, the treasurer shall mail to each taxpayer, as shown by the rolls, a tax statement which indicates the taxing unit, assessed value of real and personal property, the mill levy and tax due. In addition, with respect to land devoted to agricultural use, such statement shall indicate the acreage and description of each parcel of such land. The tax statement shall also indicate separately each parcel of real property which is separately classified for property tax purposes. The county appraiser shall provide the information necessary for the county treasurer to comply with the provisions of this section. The tax statement also may include the intangible tax due the county. All items may be on one statement or may be shown on separate statements and may be on a form prescribed by the county treasurer. The statement shall be mailed to the last known address of the taxpayer or to a designee authorized by the taxpayer to accept the tax statement, if the designee has an interest in receiving the statement. When any statement is returned to the county treasurer for failure to find the addressee, the treasurer shall make a diligent effort to find a forwarding address of the taxpayer and mail the statement to the new address. All tax statements mailed pursuant to this section shall be mailed by first-class mail. The requirement for mailing a tax statement shall extend only to the initial statement required to be mailed in each year and to any follow-up required by this section. Alternatively, the county treasurer may transmit the tax statement to the taxpayer by electronic means if such

taxpayer consented to service by electronic means.

(c) After receipt of the tax roll from the county clerk and before December 15, the treasurer shall mail to each taxpayer, as shown by the tax rolls, a tax information form which indicates the taxing unit, assessed value of real property for the current and next preceding taxable year, the mill levy for the current and next preceding taxable year and, in the case of unified school districts, the mill levy required by K.S.A. 72-5142, and amendments thereto, shall be separately indicated, the tax due and an itemization of each taxing unit's mill levy for the current and next preceding taxable year and the percentage change in the amount of revenue produced therefrom, if any. In addition, with respect to land devoted to agricultural use, such form shall indicate the acreage and description of each parcel of such land. The tax information form shall also indicate separately each parcel of real property which is separately classified for property tax purposes. The county appraiser shall provide the information necessary for the county treasurer to comply with the provisions of this section. The tax information form may be separate from the tax statement or a part of the tax statement. The tax information form shall be in a format prescribed by the director of property valuation. The tax information form shall be mailed to the last known address of the taxpayer. When a tax information form is returned to the county treasurer for failure to find the addressee, the treasurer shall make a diligent effort to find a forwarding address of the taxpayer and mail the tax information form to the new address. All tax information forms mailed pursuant to this section shall be mailed by first class mail. Alternatively, the county treasurer may transmit the tax information forms to the taxpayer by electronic means if such taxpayer consented to service by electronic means.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2930 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-2930. (a) Two copies of the budget certificate giving the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied and the total amount of the adopted budget of expenditures by fund, along with itemized budget forms for each and every fund and proof of publication of the notice of budget hearing containing the budget summary shall be presented to the county clerk within the time prescribed by K.S.A. 79-1801, and amendments thereto. All such budget information shall be filed electronically with the county clerk. Where action has been taken under any statute to increase the amount of tax to be levied authorized by law, a statement showing the increased amount or tax levy rate voted, or a copy of the charter resolution or ordinance making the change, shall be attached to the budget each year the change is in effect. *If any taxing subdivision does not present or file such budget information with the county clerk by 5:00 p.m. on October 1, then the county clerk shall use the previous year's budget information and amount of ad valorem tax to be levied of such taxing subdivision.*

(b) The county clerk shall make any reductions to the ad valorem tax to be levied, compute the tax levy rates based on the final equalized assessed valuation, and enter such on the budget certificate before attesting the budget, except that with regard to levies made under K.S.A. 75-2551, and amendments thereto, such levies shall be based upon the certified preliminary abstract of property values submitted to the director of property valuation pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1604, and amendments thereto. ~~Beginning in 2022,~~ On or before December 31 each year, a copy of all budgets for taxing subdivisions of the county, properly attested, shall be filed with the director of accounts and reports, along with a copy of the tax levy rate summary. All such budget information shall be filed electronically with the director of accounts and reports.

(c) Each fund of the adopted budget certified to the county clerk in no event shall exceed the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied and the proposed expenditures of such fund in the proposed budget as originally published. The governing body of each taxing subdivision shall not certify an amount of ad valorem taxes to be levied that is in

excess of any tax levy rate or amount limitations or any aggregate tax levy limitations. The governing bodies, in fixing the amount may take into consideration and make allowance for the taxes which may not be paid, *except that* such allowance, ~~however,~~ shall not exceed by more than 5% the percentage of delinquency for the preceding tax year.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2988 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-2988. (a) On or before June 15 each year, the county clerk shall calculate the revenue neutral rate for each taxing subdivision and include such revenue neutral rate on the notice of the estimated assessed valuation provided to each taxing subdivision for budget purposes, except that for tax year 2024, the deadline shall be extended to July 1, 2024. The director of accounts and reports shall modify the prescribed budget information form to show the revenue neutral rate.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no tax rate in excess of the revenue neutral rate shall be levied by the governing body of any taxing subdivision unless a resolution or ordinance has been approved by the governing body according to the following procedure:

(1) At least 10 days in advance of the public hearing, the governing body shall publish notice of its proposed intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate by publishing notice:

(A) On the website of the governing body, if the governing body maintains a website; and

(B) in a weekly or daily newspaper of the county having a general circulation therein. The notice shall include, but not be limited to, its proposed tax rate, its revenue neutral rate and the date, time and location of the public hearing.

(2) On or before July 20, the governing body shall notify the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate and provide the date, time and location of the public hearing and its proposed tax rate. For all tax years commencing after December 31, 2021, the county clerk shall notify each taxpayer with property in the taxing subdivision, by mail directed to the taxpayer's last known address, of the proposed intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate at least 10 days in advance of the public hearing. Alternatively, the county clerk may transmit the notice to the taxpayer by electronic means at least 10 days in advance of the public hearing, if such taxpayer and county clerk have consented in writing to service by electronic means. The county clerk is not required to send a notice to a property owner of property that is exempt from ad valorem taxation. The county clerk shall consolidate the required information for all taxing subdivisions relevant to the taxpayer's property on one notice. The notice shall be in a format prescribed by the director of accounts and reports. The notice shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) The following heading:

"NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

[Current year] [County name] County Revenue Neutral Rate Notice  
This is NOT a bill. Do not remit payment.";

(B) the following statement:

"This notice contains estimates of the tax on your property and proposed property tax increases. THE ACTUAL TAX ON YOUR PROPERTY MAY INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM THESE ESTIMATES. Governing bodies of taxing subdivisions must vote in order to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate to increase the total property taxes collected. Governing bodies will vote at public hearings at the dates, times and locations listed. Taxpayers may attend and comment at the hearings. Property tax statements will be issued after mill rates are finalized and taxes are calculated.";

(C) the appraised value and assessed value of the taxpayer's property for the current year and the previous year;

(D) the *mill levy and* amount of property tax of each taxing subdivision on the taxpayer's property from the previous year's tax statement in a column titled: "[Previous year] Tax";

(E) the *revenue neutral rate in mills and* estimated amount of

property tax for the current year of each taxing subdivision on the taxpayer's property based on the revenue neutral rate of each taxing subdivision in a column titled: "[Current year] Tax at Revenue Neutral Rate";

(F) the estimated amount of property tax for the current year of each taxing subdivision on the taxpayer's property based on either: (i) The revenue neutral rate for a taxing subdivision that does not intend to exceed its revenue neutral rate; or (ii) the proposed tax rate provided by the taxing subdivision, if the taxing subdivision notified the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed its revenue neutral rate, *and such mill levy used in the calculation*, in a column titled: "[Current year] ~~Maximum~~ Proposed Tax";

(G) the difference between the amount of the current year's ~~maximum proposed~~ tax and the previous year's tax, reflected in dollars and a percentage, for each taxing subdivision in a column titled: "[Current year] ~~Maximum~~ Proposed Tax Exceeding [Previous year] Tax"; *and*

(H) the date, time and location of the public hearing of each taxing subdivision that notified the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed its revenue neutral rate in a column titled: "Date, Time and Location of Public Hearing"; *and*

~~(I) for each taxing subdivision public hearing listed pursuant to subparagraph (H), the difference between the current year's maximum tax and the estimated amount of property tax based on the revenue neutral rate of such taxing subdivision in a column titled: "[Current year] Maximum Tax Exceeding Tax at Revenue Neutral Rate".~~

*The columns described in subparagraphs (D) through (G) shall include a total of the amounts at the end of each column. For each taxing subdivision, the notice shall include the total amount of revenue from the property tax levy for the previous year, the proposed total amount of revenue from the property tax levy for the current year and the difference or change between such amounts, reflected in dollars and a percentage. Although the state of Kansas is not a taxing subdivision for purposes of this section, the notice shall include the previous year's tax amount and the estimate of the tax for the current year on the taxpayer's property based on the statutory mill levies.*

(3) The public hearing to consider exceeding the revenue neutral rate shall be held not sooner than August 20 and not later than September 20. The governing body shall provide interested taxpayers desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within reasonable time limits and without unreasonable restriction on the number of individuals allowed to make public comment. The public hearing may be conducted in conjunction with the proposed budget hearing pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2929, and amendments thereto, if the governing body otherwise complies with all requirements of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit additional public hearings that provide additional opportunities to present testimony or public comment prior to the public hearing required by this section.

(4) A majority vote of the governing body, by the adoption of a resolution or ordinance to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate, shall be required prior to adoption of a proposed budget that will result in a tax rate in excess of the revenue neutral rate. Such vote of the governing body shall be conducted at the public hearing and on the same day as the commencement of the public hearing after the governing body has heard from interested taxpayers and shall be a roll call vote. If the governing body approves exceeding the revenue neutral rate, the governing body shall not adopt a budget that results in a tax rate in excess of its proposed tax rate as stated in the notice provided pursuant to this section. A copy of the resolution or ordinance to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate and a certified copy of any roll call vote reporting, at a minimum, the name and vote of each member of the governing body related to exceeding the revenue neutral rate, whether approved or not, shall be included with the adopted

budget, budget certificate and other budget forms filed with the county clerk and the director of accounts and reports and shall be published on the website of the department of administration.

(c) (1) Any governing body subject to the provisions of this section that does not comply with subsection (b) shall refund to taxpayers any property taxes over-collected based on the amount of the levy that was in excess of the revenue neutral rate.

(2) Any taxpayer of the taxing subdivision that is the subject of the complaint or such taxpayer's duly authorized representative may file a complaint with the state board of tax appeals by filing a written complaint, on a form prescribed by the board, that contains the facts that the complaining party believes show that a governing body of a taxing subdivision did not comply with the provisions of subsection (b) and that a reduction or refund of taxes is appropriate. The complaining party shall provide a copy of such complaint to the governing body of the taxing subdivision making the levy that is the subject of the complaint. Notwithstanding K.S.A. 74-2438a, and amendments thereto, no filing fee shall be charged by the executive director of the state board of tax appeals for a complaint filed pursuant to this paragraph. The governing body of the taxing subdivision making the levy that is the subject of the complaint shall be a party to the proceeding. Notice of any summary proceeding or hearing shall be served upon such governing body, the county clerk, the director of accounts and reports and the complaining party. It shall be the duty of the governing body to initiate the production of evidence to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, the validity of such levy. If upon a summary proceeding or hearing, it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the board that the governing body of the taxing subdivision did not comply with subsection (b), the state board of tax appeals shall order such governing body to refund to taxpayers the amount of property taxes over collected or reduce the taxes levied, if uncollected. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed as prohibiting any other remedies available under the law.

(d) On and after January 1, 2022, in the event that the tax levied by a school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5142, and amendments thereto, increases the property tax revenue generated for the purpose of calculating the revenue neutral rate from the previous tax year and such amount of increase in revenue generated from such tax levied is the only reason that the school district would exceed the total property tax revenue from the prior year, the school district shall be deemed to not have exceeded the revenue neutral rate in levying a tax rate in excess of the revenue neutral rate to take into account the increase in revenue from only such tax levied.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if the governing body of a taxing subdivision must conduct a public hearing to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate under this section, the governing body of the taxing subdivision shall certify, on or before October 1, to the proper county clerk the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied.

(2) If a governing body of a taxing subdivision did not comply with the provisions of subsection (b) and certifies to the county clerk an amount of ad valorem tax to be levied that would result in a tax rate in excess of its revenue neutral rate, the county clerk shall reduce the ad valorem tax to be levied to the amount resulting from such taxing subdivision's revenue neutral rate.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Taxing subdivision" means any political subdivision of the state that levies an ad valorem tax on property.

(2) "Revenue neutral rate" means the tax rate for the current tax year that would generate the same property tax revenue as levied the previous tax year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation. To calculate the revenue neutral rate, the county clerk shall divide the property tax revenue for such taxing subdivision levied for the previous tax year by the total of all taxable assessed valuation in such taxing

subdivision for the current tax year, and then multiply the quotient by 1,000 to express the rate in mills. The revenue neutral rate shall be expressed to the third decimal place.

(g) In the event that a county clerk incurred costs of printing and postage that were not reimbursed pursuant to K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2989, and amendments thereto, such county clerk may seek reimbursement from all taxing subdivisions required to send the notice. Such costs shall be shared proportionately by all taxing subdivisions that were included on the same notice based on the total property tax levied by each taxing subdivision. Payment of such costs shall be due to the county clerk by December 31.

(h) The department of administration or the director of accounts and reports shall make copies of adopted budgets, budget certificates, other budget documents and revenue neutral rate documents available to the public on the department of administration's website on a permanently accessible web page that may be accessed via a conspicuous link to that web page placed on the front page of the department's website. The department of administration or the director of accounts and reports shall also make the following information for each tax year available on such website:

- (1) A list of taxing subdivisions by county;
- (2) whether each taxing subdivision conducted a hearing to consider exceeding its revenue neutral rate;
- (3) the revenue neutral rate of each taxing subdivision;
- (4) the tax rate resulting from the adopted budget of each taxing subdivision; and
- (5) the percent change between the revenue neutral rate and the tax rate for each taxing subdivision.

(i) Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, in the event any governing body does not comply with the provisions of subsection (b) because such governing body did not intend to exceed its revenue neutral rate but the final taxable assessed valuation of such taxing subdivision used to calculate the actual tax levy is less than the estimated assessed valuation used to calculate the revenue neutral rate, such governing body shall be permitted to levy a tax rate that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as levied the previous year or less.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2989, as amended by section 204 of 2025 Senate Bill No. 125, is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-2989. (a) For calendar years 2024 ~~and~~, 2025 *and* 2026, if a county clerk has printing or postage costs pursuant to K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2988, and amendments thereto, the county clerk shall notify and provide documentation of such costs to the secretary of revenue. The secretary of revenue shall certify the amount of moneys attributable to such costs and shall transmit a copy of such certification to the director of accounts and reports. Upon such receipt of such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer an amount of moneys equal to such certified amount from the state general fund to the taxpayer notification costs fund of the department of revenue. The secretary of revenue shall transmit a copy of each such certification to the director of legislative research and the director of the budget.

(b) There is hereby established in the state treasury the taxpayer notification costs fund that shall be administered by the secretary of revenue. All expenditures from the taxpayer notification costs fund shall be for the purpose of paying county printing and postage costs pursuant to K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 79-2988, and amendments thereto. All expenditures from such fund shall be made in accordance with appropriations acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of revenue or the secretary's designee.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 74-2438a and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5142, 79-1801, 79-2001, 79-2930, 79-2988 and 79-2989, as amended by section 204 of 2025 Senate Bill No. 125, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas register.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

\_\_\_\_\_  
HOUSE adopted  
Conference Committee Report\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

Passed the SENATE  
as amended \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE adopted  
Conference Committee Report\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor.*