

HOUSE BILL No. 5218

October 10, 1995, Introduced by Reps. Bullard, Brackenridge, Gernaat and Goschka and referred to the Committee on Tax Policy.

A bill to amend sections 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 19 of Act No. 282 of the Public Acts of 1905, entitled as amended

"An act to provide for the assessment of the property, by whomsoever owned, operated or conducted, of railroad companies, union
station and depot companies, telegraph companies, telephone companies, sleeping car companies, express companies, car loaning
companies, stock car companies, refrigerator car companies, and
fast freight companies, and all other companies owning, leasing,
running or operating any freight, stock, refrigerator, or any
other cars, not being exclusively the property of any railroad
company paying taxes upon its rolling stock under the provisions
of this act, over or upon the line or lines of any railroad or
railroads in this state, and for the levy of taxes thereon by a
state board of assessors, and for the collection of such taxes,
and to repeal all acts or parts of acts contravening any of the
provisions of this act,"

being sections 207.4, 207.9, 207.10, 207.11, 207.14, and 207.19 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to add section 5b.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Section 1. Sections 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 19 of Act No. 282
- 2 of the Public Acts of 1905, being sections 207.4, 207.9, 207.10,

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- 1 207.11, 207.14, and 207.19 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are
- 2 amended and section 5b is added to read as follows:
- 3 Sec. 4. -It shall be the duty of said THE board to make
- 4 an annual assessment upon an assessment roll, to be prepared by
- 5 said board, SHALL ANNUALLY DETERMINE THE TAXABLE VALUE of the
- 6 property , by whomsoever owned, operated or conducted, and
- 7 having a situs in this state as hereinafter defined, of rail-
- 8 road companies, union station and depot companies, telegraph com-
- 9 panies, telephone companies, sleeping car companies, express com-
- 10 panies, car loaning companies, stock car companies, refrigerator
- 11 car companies, and fast freight line companies, and all other
- 12 companies owning, leasing, running, or operating any freight,
- 13 stock, refrigerator, or any other cars not being exclusively-
- 14 the EXCLUSIVE property of any A railroad company paying taxes
- 15 -upon ON its rolling stock under the provisions of this act,
- 16 over or -upon- ON the line or lines of any railroad -or
- 17 railroads in this state. : Provided, That the THE property of
- 18 A telegraph and telephone -companies whose COMPANY WITH gross
- 19 receipts within this state for -the- A year ending December
- 20 -thirty first do not exceed 31 OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000.00 -shall
- 21 be- IS exempt from taxation UNDER THIS ACT. All telegraph and
- 22 telephone companies doing business in this state shall make the
- 23 report required by section 6. of this act to the state board of
- 24 assessors.
- 25 SEC. 5B. AS USED IN THIS ACT, "TAXABLE VALUE" IS THAT VALUE
- 26 DETERMINED UNDER SECTION 27A OF THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX ACT, ACT

- 1 NO. 206 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1893, BEING SECTION 211.27A OF THE 2 MICHIGAN COMPILED LAWS.
- 3 Sec. 9. (1) Subsequent to the filing of the reports
- 4 required in the preceding sections, and prior to the fifteenth
- 5 day of NOT LATER THAN May 15 in each year, -it shall be the duty
- 6 of the state board of assessors -to- SHALL prepare an assessment
- 7 roll as provided in section 4, of this act, upon which they
- 8 shall assess, at the true cash value, on the thirty first day of
- 9 December next preceding the time of making said assessment, SET
- 10 FORTH THE TRUE CASH VALUE AND TAXABLE VALUE OF all the property
- 11 of the companies herein enumerated, subject to taxation under
- 12 this act. -, which said assessments shall- A DETERMINATION OF
- 13 TAXABLE VALUE IS not be final until reviewed as hereinafter
- 14 provided IN THIS ACT. For the purpose of arriving at the amount
- 15 and character TAXABLE VALUE and true cash value of the property
- 16 -belonging to said companies as appearing upon ON the assessment
- 17 roll, for the purpose of assessment and taxation, the said
- 18 board may personally inspect the property -belonging to said
- 19 companies ASSESSED, and may take into consideration CONSIDER
- 20 the reports filed under this act -, the OR reports and returns
- 21 -of said companies filed in the office of any officer of this
- 22 state or in the office of any other governmental agency, and
- 23 -such ANY other evidence or information -as may be obtainable
- 24 OBTAINED or possessed by said THE board. , bearing thereon.
- 25 (2) In determining the true cash TAXABLE value of the
- 26 property of -each A railroad, -and union station, and depot
- 27 company which THAT owns, leases, operates, or uses lines partly

- 1 within or partly -without OUTSIDE OF this state, the -said-
- 2 board shall be guided, in ascertaining the property subject to
- 3 taxation in Michigan, by CONSIDER the proportion which OF the
- 4 number of miles of all track controlled or used by -said- THAT
- 5 company as owner, lessee or otherwise, within the state of
- 6 Michigan, bears THIS STATE to the entire mileage of all track
- 7 controlled or used by said THAT company as owner, lessee or
- 8 otherwise, both within and without OUTSIDE OF this state. -
- 9 and by THE BOARD SHALL ALSO CONSIDER any other uniform factors
- 10 -which THAT reflect a fair allocation of value to this state.
- 11 (3) In determining the -true cash TAXABLE value of the
- 12 property of -each A telegraph company -and OR telephone company
- 13 -, which THAT owns, leases, operates, or uses lines partly
- 14 within and partly without OUTSIDE OF this state, the said
- 15 board shall be guided, in ascertaining the property subject to
- 16 taxation in Michigan, by CONSIDER the proportion -which OF the
- 17 number of miles of telegraph or telephone lines controlled or
- 18 used by -said THAT company -as owner, lessee or otherwise,
- 19 within the state of Michigan, bears THIS STATE to the entire
- 20 mileage of telegraph or telephone lines controlled or used by
- 21 -said THAT company -as owner, lessee, or otherwise, both within
- 22 and without OUTSIDE OF this state. , and by THE BOARD SHALL
- 23 ALSO CONSIDER any other uniform factors -which THAT reflect a
- 24 fair allocation of value to this state.
- 25 (4) In determining the -true cash TAXABLE value of the
- 26 property of AN express -companies COMPANY, -they THE BOARD
- 27 shall -ascertain and determine the actual value -in money of

- the entire amount of the capital stock and bonded indebtedness of 2 such THAT express company. From the THAT amount, so 3 obtained and determined, said THE board shall DETERMINE AND 4 deduct the actual value of all real -estate PROPERTY owned by 5 it as ascertained by said board THAT EXPRESS COMPANY, and the 6 actual value of all its personal property as ascertained by 7 said board, which OWNED BY THAT EXPRESS COMPANY THAT is not used 8 in the express business of -such THAT express company. -And the 9 remainder thus obtained shall be used in determining the assess 10 ment of such express company in the following manner: The said 11 board shall then divide the REMAINING amount -as obtained above-12 by the total number of miles, as determined by said THE board, 13 of railroad, stage, water, and other routes over which the com-14 pany did business to obtain the value per mile. - and THE BOARD 15 shall then multiply the value per mile -thus-obtained by the 16 total number of miles of -such- THE routes within this state, as 17 determined by -said THE board. -to which result shall be added 18 THE BOARD SHALL THEN ADD TO THE PRODUCT OF THAT CALCULATION the 19 value of all real estate owned by -such THAT express -companies 20 COMPANY in this state, as determined by -said- THE board. -, and 21 the sum so obtained shall be taken and considered as THE SUM OF 22 THIS CALCULATION IS the actual value of the property of such-23 THAT express company - subject to assessment and taxation in 24 this state. -: Provided, That if in any case it shall become 25 apparent to
- (5) IF the said board DETERMINES that the ocean routes of
 27 any A company are so different in character from its other

- 1 routes that the mileage basis of apportionment of the value of
- 2 the entire property to be apportioned in Michigan THIS STATE
- 3 would be unfair if the full mileage of -such THE ocean routes
- 4 were included, then it THE BOARD may make such AN allowance
- 5 for -such THAT COMPANY'S ocean routes -of any company as in its
- 6 judgment will TO bring such THOSE OCEAN routes upon a TO
- 7 parity with -its THAT COMPANY'S other routes. -, being guided
- 8 therein by IN MAKING THIS DETERMINATION, THE BOARD SHALL
- 9 CONSIDER the relative mileage values and earning capacities of
- 10 -such- THE ocean ROUTES and THE other routes For this purpose
- 11 the board of assessors AND shall require special reports of the
- 12 character, mileage, earnings, and value of -such- THE ocean
- 13 routes. -and THE BOARD may exclude from its DETERMINATION OF
- 14 aggregate mileage any ocean routes -respecting ON which the
- 15 EXPRESS company -shall fail FAILS to furnish THE REQUISITE
- 16 reports, and BUT no further penalty shall be imposed for the
- 17 failure to report the mileage of ocean routes. -: Provided fur
- 18 ther, That if any such
- 19 (6) IF A company -shall claim, CLAIMS in writing that
- 20 the mileage basis of apportionment of the value of the entire
- 21 property to be attributed to Michigan is unfair, then such THE
- 22 board shall make -such THE apportionment -as shall THAT in its
- 23 judgment -be- IS fair. being guided by- IN MAKING THAT APPOR-
- 24 TIONMENT, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER the mileage within and
- 25 -without the OUTSIDE OF THIS state, making -proper ANY
- 26 NECESSARY allowance for ocean mileage as -above- provided for IN
- 27 THIS SECTION.

(7) In ascertaining DETERMINING the TAXABLE VALUE AND THE 2 true cash value of the property in Michigan, THIS STATE of car 3 loaning, stock car, refrigerator, fast freight lines, and other 4 car companies, and other companies owning, leasing, running, or 5 operating cars subject to taxation under this act, the -said 6 state board of assessors shall be guided by CONSIDER the 7 relation which PROPORTION OF the aggregate car mileage made or 8 run by the entire number of cars owned or operated by -each of 9 such companies bears A COMPANY to the car mileage made or run by 10 the entire number of cars owned or operated by any such THAT 11 company within this state. Upon said ON THE assessment roll, after the 12 10. 13 name of each of the companies assessed, thereon, shall be 14 placed THE BOARD SHALL PLACE a general description of the prop-15 erty of said companies EACH COMPANY, which shall be deemed to 16 include INCLUDES all of the properties PROPERTY of said 17 companies EACH COMPANY liable to taxation under this act. 18 the case of railroad, union station, and depot companies, -such-19 THE general description may be as follows: "Real estate, roll-20 ing stock, right-of-way and appurtenances, and all other property 21 used in carrying on the corporate business and subject to taxa-22 tion by a state board of assessors.". In the case of telegraph 23 and telephone companies, the -following general description may 24 be used: "Real estate, exchanges, switchboards, conduits, tele-25 graph and telephone poles, and lines, and other appurtenances, 26 and all other property used in carrying on the business of said 27 company, and subject to taxation by a state board of

- I assessors.". In the case of car loaning, stock car, refrigerator
- 2 and fast freight line, and other car companies and other com-
- 3 panies, owning, leasing, running, or operating any cars subject
- 4 to taxation under this act, the -following- general description
- 5 may be -used: "Cars subject to taxation by a state board of
- 6 assessors.". In the case of express companies and sleeping car
- 7 companies, the -following general description may be -used:-
- 8 "Property subject to taxation by a state board of assessors.".
- 9 In -an appropriate A column opposite the -names NAME of -said
- 10 corporations EACH COMPANY ASSESSED shall be extended the cash
- 11 valuations TAXABLE VALUE of the properties of the said com-
- 12 panies so PROPERTY assessed.
- 13 Sec. 11. On the third Monday in May in each year, -it
- 14 shall be the duty of the state board of assessors -to- SHALL
- 15 meet at its office in the city of Lansing and to continue
- 16 in session from day to day for -so- AS long -a period as -may
- 17 be necessary, BUT not later than the fifteenth day of June
- 18 next thereafter 15, for the purpose of reviewing said TO
- 19 REVIEW THE assessment roll. , and any companies ANY INTERESTED
- 20 COMPANY or -persons interested shall have the right to PERSON
- 21 MAY appear during -said THAT period and be heard as to the
- 22 -valuation TAXABLE VALUE of the property of any company -, and
- 23 said ASSESSED. THE board of assessors may, on -such application
- 24 or on its own motion, correct the assessment or valuation
- 25 TAXABLE VALUE of the property of such company in such manner as
- 26 will, in its judgment, make the valuation thereof just and equal;
- 27 and for the purpose of arriving at the true cash ASSESSED. TO

1 DETERMINE THE TAXABLE value of the properties PROPERTY 2 assessed, on said assessment roll, THE BOARD may subpoena wit-3 nesses as provided in section 3 of this act, and have such 4 MAY HOLD ANY hearing as may be deemed IT CONSIDERS necessary. 5 In case it shall appear or be made to appear to the members of 6 said board, acting in review for assessment purposes, that IF 7 the property of any corporation A COMPANY subject to taxation 8 under the provisions of this act shall have HAS been omitted 9 from -said THE assessment roll, -it THE BOARD shall place -the 10 same thereon THAT PROPERTY ON THE ASSESSMENT ROLL and -make the 11 assessment thereof ASSESS THE PROPERTY as required in sections 9 12 and 10. of this act: Provided, That any such AN assessment 13 UNDER THIS SECTION shall take place in time to allow NOT BE 14 MADE IF THERE ARE LESS THAN 5 full days for the review of the 15 same before the expiration of the time herein provided for the 16 completion of the review. After said state THE board of 17 assessors shall have completed COMPLETES the review of said 18 rolls as herein provided THE ASSESSMENT ROLL, they shall place 19 opposite each description of property in -said THE ASSESSMENT 20 roll, in a column provided for that purpose, the true cash value 21 AND TAXABLE VALUE of the same THAT PROPERTY as ascertained 22 and determined by them. and such valuation so fixed THE TAX-23 ABLE VALUE DETERMINED by them -shall be- IS the final valuation 24 -upon ON which the tax -upon said ON THAT property shall be 25 levied and spread. -as herein provided.- After -said THE board 26 shall have completed the COMPLETES ITS review of said THE 27 ASSESSMENT roll, a majority -thereof OF THE BOARD shall certify

- 1 -under their hands officially and spread on said roll, a
- 2 certificate to the effect that the same ASSESSMENT ROLL has
- 3 been acted upon and reviewed in accordance with -law THIS ACT,
- 4 -which certificate shall state all OF the alterations, changes,
- 5 corrections, and additions made -in or to the -assessment or
- 6 valuation TAXABLE VALUE of the property appearing on said
- 7 THE ASSESSMENT roll, and SHALL STATE all the alterations,
- 8 changes, and corrections made in the determination of the true
- 9 cash- TAXABLE value of the property of the state other than that
- 10 included in this act -upon ON which ad valorem taxes are
- 11 assessed for state, county, township, school, and municipal pur-
- 12 poses for the current year, and SHALL also STATE all OF the
- 13 alterations, changes, and corrections made in the computation
- 14 of COMPUTING the average rate as -hereinafter provided IN THIS
- 15 ACT.
- 16 Sec. 14. (1) Said THE board shall tax the property of
- 17 the -several companies -as DESCRIBED IN THIS ACT assessed by
- 18 -it THE BOARD at the rate -as determined by -it, and the
- 19 BOARD. THE amount of tax to be paid by each of said companies
- 20 COMPANY ASSESSED shall be extended -upon-said ON THE assessment
- 21 roll, opposite the description of -their respective properties-
- 22 THAT COMPANY'S PROPERTY. After the completion of said tax roll
- 23 IS COMPLETED, and prior to the twentieth day of BEFORE June
- 24 20 in each year, the -said board shall attach -thereto TO THE
- 25 TAX ROLL a certificate signed by the members of the board, or
- 26 a majority thereof, which OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, THAT
- 27 shall be as follows: STATE "We do hereby certify that we have

1 set down in the above assessment roll — all OF the property of 2 railroad companies, express companies, union station and depot 3 companies, telegraph and telephone companies, car loaning, stock 4 car, refrigerator, and fast freight line, and other car com-5 panies, and other companies owning, leasing, running, or operat-6 ing cars, and sleeping car companies - liable to be taxed in 7 this state, according to our best information, and that we have 8 -estimated DETERMINED the same at what we believe to be the 9 true cash value thereof TAXABLE VALUE OF THAT PROPERTY, and that 10 we have assessed the taxes thereon ON THAT PROPERTY at the if average rate of taxes for state, county, township, school, 12 municipal, and other purposes levied through this state during 13 the preceding year as determined by us.". (2) The -said tax roll shall -thereupon be -forthwith-15 delivered to the commissioner of revenue, who shall immediately 16 notify by registered mail -the-several companies EACH COMPANY 17 taxed thereon to pay the taxes extended thereon ON THE TAX 18 ROLL to the state treasurer. The -said taxes -shall be 19 ASSESSED ARE payable on the first day of July 1 following the 20 assessment and levy -thereof OF THOSE TAXES, and -shall be ARE 21 in lieu of all AD VALOREM taxes for state and local purposes, not 22 including special assessments on property particularly benefited 23 - made in any county, city, village, or township. All taxes 24 not paid before the first day of August 1 in the year in which 25 -the same THOSE TAXES are payable shall bear interest 26 thereafter FROM AUGUST 1 at the rate of 1% per month or any

27 fraction thereof, except that OF A MONTH. HOWEVER, if 1/2 of

- 1 the amount of -said- THE taxes -shall be DUE ARE paid before
- 2 -the first day of August 1, -then the remainder REMAINING
- 3 TAXES DUE may be paid before the first day of December 1
- 4 -following without interest, otherwise the amount of said
- 5 taxes unpaid on the first day of August 1 shall bear interest
- 6 as -above provided IN THIS SECTION. The taxes -so extended
- 7 against said company shall forthwith become LEVIED ARE a debt
- 8 from each of said companies to the state OF THE COMPANY
- 9 ASSESSED and -shall constitute ARE a lien -upon ON all OF the
- 10 property of -said companies THAT COMPANY, real, personal, and
- 11 mixed. which A lien shall take UNDER THIS SECTION TAKES
- 12 precedence -of- OVER all demands, judgments, assignments by war-
- 13 ranty deed or otherwise, or decrees against said companies,
- 14 which THE COMPANY ASSESSED. A lien and debt UNDER THIS SECTION
- 15 may be enforced by THE seizure or sale of -said THE property
- 16 ASSESSED or -such- ANY portion -thereof as may be OF THE PROP-
- 17 ERTY ASSESSED necessary to satisfy the same as hereinbefore
- 18 provided LIEN AND DEBT. The state board of assessors shall,
- 19 upon the completion of -said THE TAX roll and the correction
- 20 -hereinbefore OF THE TAX ROLL AS provided -for IN THIS ACT,
- 21 annex to -said THE TAX roll a warrant, signed by the -said
- 22 state board or a majority of them THE BOARD, commanding
- 23 the commissioner of revenue to collect the -several sums men-
- 24 tioned in the last column of such roll, and being the sum for
- 25 which the said company was assessed and was liable to pay for a
- 26 tax upon its property, under the provisions of this act for the
- 27 purposes provided for in this act; and the said TAXES DUE UNDER

1 THIS ACT. THE warrant shall authorize and command the 2 commissioner of revenue, in case any corporation, company, or 3 person named in the -assessment TAX roll -shall neglect or 4 refuse to DOES NOT pay its THE tax DUE UNDER THIS ACT, to levy 5 the -same TAX DUE by distress and sale of the -properties 6 PROPERTY of said THAT corporation, company, or person or such 7 ANY portion thereof as shall be OF THAT PROPERTY necessary to 8 raise sufficient money to satisfy -said THE tax DUE and the 9 expense of -said THE sale, after giving the -same CORPORATION, 10 COMPANY, OR PERSON notice of said sales THE SALE as provided 11 -for in the general laws of this state for the sale of property 12 seized for taxes and offered for sale. -: Provided, That he 13 HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER may bring an action in the name of the 14 people of the THIS state of Michigan in any court of compe-15 tent jurisdiction in the THIS state, of Michigan, or in any 16 other state, for the enforcement of said TO ENFORCE THE lien 17 and -upon the recovery of AFTER OBTAINING A judgment or decree, 18 therein, the same JUDGMENT OR DECREE may be collected by exe-19 cution, levy, and sale. , as in other cases, upon judgments in 20 courts of record. Sec. 19. If said THE board shall wilfully assess 22 WILLFULLY ASSESSES any property at more or less than what the 23 members taking part in making -such- THAT assessment believe to 24 be its -true cash- TAXABLE value, -the members EACH MEMBER 25 voting in favor of -such THAT assessment -shall be IS guilty of

26 a misdemeanor , and on conviction thereof shall be punished

27 PUNISHABLE by imprisonment in the county jail FOR not exceeding

- 1 MORE THAN 1 year or by a fine OF not exceeding 5,000 dollars
- 2 each MORE THAN \$5,000.00.