## **HOUSE BILL No. 2714**

By Committee on Taxation

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AN ACT concerning property taxation; relating to valuation, appeals, procedure; state of board of tax appeals, filing fees, procedure, appeals to district court; amending K.S.A. 79-309, 79-501, 79-504, 79-1412a and 79-1456 and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 74-2426, 74-2433, 74-2438, 74-2438a, 77-618, 79-425a, 79-503a, 79-1448, 79-1476 and 79-2005 and repealing the existing sections.

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

New Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary and except as otherwise provided by subsection (b), the valuation established for property for utilization as the basis for ad valorem taxation in the first year of a biennium, the first of which shall commence on January 1, 2017, shall be utilized for ad valorem taxation purposes for each year during the applicable biennium.

- (b) (1) For any improvement to existing property or any other property for which a valuation has not been established for utilization as the basis for ad valorem taxation as of the first year of a biennium, there shall be established a valuation or increased valuation for such property, which shall be utilized for ad valorem taxation purposes for the year of valuation and the remaining portion of the applicable biennium.
- (2) In the event a valuation of property is reduced pursuant to law during a biennium, such reduced valuation shall be utilized for ad valorem taxation purposes for the year in which such valuation is reduced and the remaining portion of the applicable biennium.
- (c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to conflict with any other provision of law relating to the appraisal of property for taxation purposes or the appeals process associated therewith.
- (d) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to all taxable years commencing after December 31, 2016.
- Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 74-2426 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-2426. (a) Orders of the state board of tax appeals on any appeal, in any proceeding under the tax protest, tax grievance or tax exemption statutes or in any other original proceeding before the board shall be rendered and served in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of K.S.A. 77-526(g), and amendments thereto, a written

summary decision shall be rendered by the board and served within 14 days after the matter was fully submitted to the board unless this period is waived or extended with the written consent of all parties or for good cause shown. Any aggrieved party, within 14 days of receiving the board's decision, may request a full and complete opinion be issued by the board in which the board explains its decision. *Except as provided in subsection* (c)(4), this full and complete opinion shall be served by the board within 90 days of being requested. If the board has not rendered a summary decision or a full and complete opinion within the time periods described in this subsection, and such period has not been waived by the parties nor can the board show good cause for the delay, then the board shall refund any filing fees paid by the taxpayer.

- (b) Final orders of the board shall be subject to review pursuant to subsection (c) except that the aggrieved party may first file a petition for reconsideration of that order a full and complete opinion with the board in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 77-529, and amendments thereto
- (c) Any action of the board pursuant to this section is subject to review in accordance with the Kansas judicial review act, except that:
- (1) The parties to the action for judicial review shall be the same parties as appeared before the board in the administrative proceedings before the board. The board shall not be a party to any action for judicial review of an action of the board.
- (2) There is no right to review of any order issued by the board in a no-fund warrant proceeding pursuant to K.S.A. 12-110a, 12-1662 et seq., 19-2752a, 79-2938, 79-2939 and 79-2951, and amendments thereto, and statutes of a similar character.
- (3) In addition to the cost of the preparation of the transcript, the appellant shall pay to the state board of tax appeals the other costs of certifying the record to the reviewing court. Such payment shall be made prior to the transmission of the agency record to the reviewing court.
- (4) Appeal of an order of the board shall be to the court of appeals as provided in subsection (c)(4)(A), unless a taxpayer who is a party to the order requests review in district court pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(B).
- (A) Any aggrieved person has the right to appeal any final order of the board issued after June 30, 2014, by filing a petition with the court of appeals or the district court. Any appeal to the district court shall be a trial de novo Any aggrieved party may file a petition for review of the board's order in the court of appeals. For purposes of such an appeal, the board's order shall become final only after the issuance of a full and complete opinion pursuant to subsection (a).
- (B) Review of orders issued by the board of tax appeals relating to the valuation or assessment of property for ad valorem tax purposes or

 relating to the tax protest for which the appellant chooses to be reviewed in district court, shall be conducted by the district court of the county in which the property is located or, if located in more than one county, the district court of any county in which any portion of the property is located. It the election of a taxpayer, any summary decision or full and complete opinion of the board of tax appeals issued after June 30, 2014, may be appealed by filing a petition for review in the district court. Any appeal to the district court shall be a trial de novo. Notwithstanding K.S.A. 77-619, and amendments thereto, the trial de novo shall include an evidentiary hearing at which issues of law and fact shall be determined anew. District court review of orders issued by the board relating to the valuation of assessment of property for ad valorem tax purposes or relating to the tax protest shall be conducted by the court of the county in which the property is located, or, if located in more than one county, the court of any county in which any portion of the property is located.

- (C) If a taxpayer requests review of a summary decision or full and complete opinion in district court pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(B), the taxpayer shall provide notice to the board as well as the parties. Upon receipt of the notice, the board's jurisdiction shall terminate, notwithstanding any prior request for a full and complete opinion under subsection (a), and the board shall not issue such opinion.
- (d) If review of an order of the state board of tax appeals to the court of appeals relating to excise, income or estate taxes, is sought by a person other than the director of taxation, such person shall give bond for costs at the time the petition is filed. The bond shall be in the amount of 125% of the amount of taxes assessed or a lesser amount approved by the court of appeals and shall be conditioned on the petitioner's prosecution of the review without delay and payment of all costs assessed against the petitioner.
- Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 74-2433 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-2433. (a) There is hereby created a state board of tax appeals, referred to in this act as the board. The board shall be composed of three members who shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto. For members appointed after June 30, 2014, one of such members shall have been regularly admitted to practice law in the state of Kansas and for a period of at least five years, have engaged in the active practice of law as a lawyer, judge of a court of record or any other court in this state; one of such members shall have engaged in active practice as a certified public accountant for a period of at least five years and one such member shall be a licensed certified general real property appraiser. In addition, the governor shall also appoint a chief hearing officer, subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto,

1 who, in addition to other duties prescribed by this act, shall serve as a 2 member pro tempore of the board. No successor shall be appointed for any 3 judge of the court of tax appeals appointed before July 1, 2014. Such 4 persons shall continue to serve as members on the board of tax appeals 5 until their terms expire. Except as provided by K.S.A. 46-2601, and 6 amendments thereto, no person appointed to the board, including the chief 7 hearing officer, shall exercise any power, duty or function as a member of 8 the board until confirmed by the senate. Not more than two members of 9 the board shall be of the same political party. Members of the board, 10 including the chief hearing officer, shall be residents of the state. Subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4315c, and amendments thereto, no more 11 12 than one member shall be appointed from any one of the congressional 13 districts of Kansas unless, after having exercised due diligence, the governor is unable to find a qualified replacement within 90 days after any 14 vacancy on the board occurs. The members of the board, including the 15 16 chief hearing officer, shall be selected with special reference to training 17 and experience for duties imposed by this act and shall be individuals with 18 legal, tax, accounting or appraisal training and experience. State board of 19 tax appeals members shall be subject to the supreme court rules of judicial 20 conduct applicable to all judges of the district court. The board shall be 21 bound by the doctrine of stare decisis limited to published decisions of an 22 appellate court. Members of the board, including the chief hearing officer, 23 shall hold office for terms of four years. A member may continue to serve 24 for a period of 90 days after the expiration of the member's term, or until a 25 successor has been appointed and confirmed, whichever is shorter. Except as otherwise provided, such terms of office shall expire on January 15 of 26 27 the last year of such term. If a vacancy occurs on the board, or in the 28 position for chief hearing officer, the governor shall appoint a successor to 29 fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. Nothing in this section shall be 30 construed to prohibit the governor from reappointing any member of the 31 board, including the chief hearing officer, for additional four-year terms. 32 The governor shall select one of its members to serve as chairperson. The 33 votes of two members shall be required for any final order to be issued by 34 the board. Meetings may be called by the chairperson and shall be called on request of a majority of the members of the board and when otherwise 35 36 prescribed by statute. 37

(b) Any member appointed to the state board of tax appeals and the chief hearing officer may be removed by the governor for cause, after public hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act.

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(c) The state board of tax appeals shall appoint, subject to approval by the governor, an executive director of the board, to serve at the pleasure of the board. The executive director shall: (1) Be in the unclassified

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service under the Kansas civil service act; (2) devote full time to the executive director's assigned duties; (3) receive such compensation as determined by the board, subject to the limitations of appropriations thereof; and (4) have familiarity with the tax appeals process sufficient to fulfill the duties of the office of executive director. The executive director shall perform such other duties as directed by the board.

- (d) Appeals decided by the state board of tax appeals shall be made available to the public and shall be published by the board on the board's website within 30 days after the decision has been rendered. The board shall also publish a monthly report that includes all appeals decided that month as well as all appeals which have not yet been decided and are beyond the time limitations as set forth in K.S.A. 74-2426, and amendments thereto. Such report shall be made available to the public and transmitted by the board to the members of the Kansas legislature.
- (e) After appointment, members of the state board of tax appeals that are not otherwise a state certified general real property appraiser shall complete the following course requirements: (1) A tested appraisal course of not less than 30 clock hours of instruction consisting of the fundamentals of real property appraisal with an emphasis on the cost and sales approaches to value; (2) a tested appraisal course of not less than 30 clock hours of instruction consisting of the fundamentals of real property appraisal with an emphasis on the income approach to value; (3) a tested appraisal course of not less than 30 clock hours of instruction with an emphasis on mass appraisal; (4) an appraisal course with an emphasis on Kansas property tax laws: (5) an appraisal course on the techniques and procedures for the valuation of state assessed properties with an emphasis on unit valuation; and (6) a tested appraisal course on the techniques and procedures for the valuation of land devoted to agricultural use pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1476, and amendments thereto. Any member appointed to the board who is a certified real property appraiser shall only be required to take such educational courses as are required to maintain the appraisal license. The executive director shall adopt rules and regulations prescribing a timetable for the completion of the course requirements and prescribing continued education requirements for members of the board.
- (f) The state board of tax appeals shall have no capacity or power to sue or be sued.
- (g) It is the intent of the legislature that proceedings in front of the board of tax appeals be conducted in a fair and impartial manner and that all taxpayers are entitled to a neutral interpretation of the tax laws of the state of Kansas. The provisions of the tax laws of this state shall be applied impartially to both taxpayers and taxing districts in cases before the board. Valuation appeals before the board shall not be decided upon whether or not the mass appraisal of the property was done correctly, but upon a

determination of the fair market value of the fee simple of the property. Cases before the board shall not be decided upon arguments concerning the shifting of the tax burden or upon any revenue loss or gain which may be experienced by the taxing district.

- Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 74-2438 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-2438. (a) An appeal may be taken to the state board of tax appeals from any finding, ruling, order, decision, final determination or other final action, including action relating to abatement or reduction of penalty and interest, on any case of the secretary of revenue or the secretary's designee by any person aggrieved thereby. Notice of such appeal shall be filed with the secretary of the board within 30 days after such finding, ruling, order, decision, final determination or other action on a case, and a copy served upon the secretary of revenue or the secretary's designee. An appeal may also be taken to the state board of tax appeals at any time when no final determination has been made by the secretary of revenue or the secretary's designee after 270 days has passed since the date of the request for informal conference pursuant to K.S.A. 79-3226, and amendments thereto, and no written agreement by the parties to further extend the time for making such final determination is in effect.
- (b) Upon receipt of a timely appeal, the board shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. The hearing before the board shall be a de novo hearing unless the parties agree to submit the case on the record made before the secretary of revenue or the secretary's designee.
- (c) (1) With regard to any matter properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of valuation of residential property or real property used for commercial and industrial purposes for taxation purposes, it shall be the duty of the county or district appraiser to initiate the production of evidence to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, the validity and correctness of such determination, except that no such duty shall accrue with regard to leased commercial and industrial property unless the property owner has furnished to the county or district appraiser a complete income and expense statement for the property for the three years next preceding the year of appeal. Any appraisal made by the county or district appraiser must be released through the discovery process to the taxpayer, the taxpayer's attorney or the taxpayer's representative. No presumption shall exist in favor of the county or district appraiser with respect to the validity and correctness of such determination. If a taxpayer presents a single property appraisal with an effective date of January 1 of the year appealed which has been conducted by a certified general real property appraiser which determines the subject property's valuation to be less than that determined by a mass real estate appraisal conducted by the county or district appraiser, then the taxpayer's

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 property-specific appraisal shall be accepted into evidence by the board. No interest shall accrue on the amount of the assessment of tax subject to any such appeal beyond 120 days after the date the matter was fully submitted, except that, if a final order is issued within such time period, interest shall continue to accrue until such time as the tax liability is fully satisfied, and if a final order is issued beyond such time period, interest shall recommence to accrue from the date of such order until such time as the tax liability is fully satisfied.

- (2) With regard to any matter properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of valuation of real property, if the director of property valuation has developed and adopted methodologies to value such type of property, then it shall be the duty of the county or district to demonstrate compliance with such methodologies. If the appraiser fails to demonstrate such compliance, then the board shall award judgment in the matter to the taxpayer.
- Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 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. For any property valuation appeal to the board in which a filing fee is charged to a taxpayer, a filing fee of an equal amount shall also be charged to the county where the subject property is located.
- (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.
- 39 (e) No filing fee of any kind shall be charged by the executive do 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;

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 (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. 6. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 77-618 is hereby amended to read as follows: 77-618. Judicial review of disputed issues of fact shall be confined to the agency record for judicial review as supplemented by additional evidence taken pursuant to this act, except that review of:
- (a) Orders of the director of workers' compensation under the workmen's compensation act shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 44-556, and amendments thereto;
- (b) orders of the Kansas human rights commission under the Kansas act against discrimination or the Kansas age discrimination in employment act shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 44-1011 and 44-1021, and amendments thereto;
- (c) orders of the division of vehicles, other than orders under K.S.A. 8-254, and amendments thereto, which deny, cancel, suspend or revoke a driver's license shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 8-259, and amendments thereto;
- (d) orders of the secretary of labor under K.S.A. 72-5413 through 72-5431, and amendments thereto, shall be in accordance with K.S.A. 72-5430a, and amendments thereto; and
- (e) orders of the state fire marshal under K.S.A. 31-144, and amendments thereto, shall be in accordance with that section; *and*
- (f) orders of the state board of tax appeals under K.S.A. 74-2426, and amendments thereto, shall be in accordance with that section.
- Sec. 7. K.S.A. 79-309 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-309. All property shall be listed and valued on the first day of January in the year in which the same is assessed, and the transfer and sale of any taxable personal property subsequently to the first day of January shall not authorize any person to omit the same from the list, although such list be not made until after the sale or transfer of such property; but all such property shall be listed for taxation in the same manner as if no sale or transfer thereof had been made. In case moneys or property shall come into the hands of any person, which he or she such person would be required to list for taxation, and which moneys or property was not taxed in this state for the year immediately preceding the first day of January in any year, and the said moneys or property shall have been prior to any such January first invested in tax-exempt bonds or securities, then any such moneys or property shall be listed for taxation on January first by

 dividing the value of any such moneys or property by three hundred sixty-five (365) 365, and multiplying the quotient by the number of days which any such taxable moneys or property remained in the hands of such a person prior to the time of its investment in any such tax-exempt bonds or securities. In no circumstance shall a change in the property occurring after the first day of January of any year be used to value the property as of the first day of January of such year.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 79-425a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-425a. (a) Whenever a tract of land which has been assessed shall thereafter be divided into tracts owned by different persons, any one or more of such persons, after giving 10 days' written notice to the other persons at their respective mailing addresses, may make application to the county appraiser for an apportionment of the assessed valuation of such tract among the several tracts, and the county appraiser is authorized to shall apportion such valuation among the owners of such tracts according to the value of their respective interests as shown by evidence available at a time designated by the county appraiser. Upon the apportionment of the assessed valuation among the several tracts and the levying of tax against each such tract, the county treasurer, upon payment of such tax on any such tract, shall issue a receipt therefor and, in any case where such tax is not paid on any of such tracts, it shall be sold for delinquent taxes in the same manner prescribed by law for sale of real estate for delinquent taxes. If taxes levied on a tract of land prior to its division are delinquent, the owner of any divided portion of such tract may have that portion released from the tax lien by paying to the county treasurer the share of the delinquent tax attributable to such divided portion as shown by the apportionment made of the whole tract's assessed valuation among the divided portions by the county appraiser.

- (b) Any person aggrieved by the application of the provisions of subsection (a) may, within 10 days after the apportionment decision of the county appraiser, appeal to the state board of tax appeals, and the board shall have the power, upon a showing that such decision was erroneous, to substitute an apportionment of the assessed valuation of a tract of land for that of the county appraiser.
- Sec. 9. K.S.A. 79-501 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-501. (a) Each parcel of real property shall be *individually* appraised at its fair market value in money, the value thereof to be determined by the appraiser from actual view and inspection of the property. The price at which such real property would sell at forced sale may be taken as a criterion of such fair market value in money in the market place of such sale if the appraiser believes such price to be a reasonable factor in arriving at fair market value. The price at which real property would sell at auction may be taken as the criterion of fair market value in money if the appraiser determines

such sale to be an arms-length transaction between a willing buyer and seller. In addition, land devoted to agricultural use shall be valued as provided by K.S.A. 79-1476, and amendments thereto. Tangible personal property shall be appraised at its fair market value in money except as provided by K.S.A. 79-1439, and amendments thereto. All such real and tangible personal property shall be assessed at the rate prescribed by K.S.A. 79-1439, and amendments thereto.

(b) For the purposes of determining the value of an individual parcel of real property, the county appraiser shall not consider the parcel as an economic unit with any adjoining parcel.

Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 79-503a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-503a. "Fair market value" means the amount in terms of money that a well informed buyer is justified in paying and a well informed seller is justified in accepting for property in an open and competitive market, assuming that the parties are acting without undue compulsion. In the determination of fair market value of any real property which is subject to any special assessment, such value shall not be determined by adding the present value of the special assessment to the sales price. For the purposes of this definition it will be assumed that consummation of a sale occurs as of January 1.

Sales in and of themselves shall not be the sole criteria of fair market value but shall be used in connection with cost, income and other factors including but not by way of exclusion:

- (a) The proper classification of lands and improvements;
- (b) the size thereof;
  - (c) the effect of location on value:
- (d) depreciation, including physical deterioration or functional, economic or social obsolescence;
  - (e) cost of reproduction of improvements;
- (f) productivity taking into account all restrictions imposed by the state or federal government and local governing bodies, including, but not limited to, restrictions on property rented or leased to low income individuals and families as authorized by section 42 of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended;
- (g) earning capacity as indicated by lease price, by capitalization of net income or by absorption or sell-out period;
- (h) rental or reasonable rental values or rental values restricted by the state or federal government or local governing bodies, including, but not limited to, restrictions on property rented or leased to low income individuals and families, as authorized by section 42 of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended;
- 42 (i) sale value on open market with due allowance to abnormal inflationary factors influencing such values;

 (j) restrictions or requirements imposed upon the use of real estate by the state or federal government or local governing bodies, including zoning and planning boards or commissions, and including, but not limited to, restrictions or requirements imposed upon the use of real estate rented or leased to low income individuals and families, as authorized by section 42 of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended; and

(k) comparison with values of other property of known or recognized value. The assessment-sales ratio study shall not be used as an appraisal for appraisal purposes.

The appraisal process utilized in the valuation of all real and tangible personal property for ad valorem tax purposes shall conform to generally accepted appraisal procedures which are adaptable to mass appraisal and consistent with the definition of fair market value unless otherwise specified by law.

- Sec. 11. K.S.A. 79-504 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-504. For the purposes of this act:
- (a) "Appraisal foundation" and "foundation" mean the appraisal foundation established on November 30, 1987, as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of Illinois.
- (b) "Written appraisal" means a written statement used in connection with the activities of the division of property valuation or a county appraiser that is independently and impartially prepared by a county appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by presentation and analysis of relevant market information.—Appraisals produced by the computer assisted mass appraisal system prescribed or approved by the director of property valuation shall be deemed to be written appraisals for the purposes of this aet.
- Sec. 12. K.S.A. 79-1412a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1412a. (a) County appraisers and district appraisers shall perform the following duties:

*First.* Install and maintain such records and data relating to all property in the county, taxable and exempt, as may be required by the director of property valuation.

*Second.* Annually, as of January 1, supervise the listing and appraisal of all real estate and personal property in the county subject to taxation except state-appraised property.

*Third.* Attend meetings of the county board of equalization for the purpose of aiding such board in the proper discharge of its duties, making all records available to the county board of equalization.

Fourth. Prepare the appraisal roll and certify such rolls to the county clerk.

Fifth. Supervise the township trustees, assistants, appraisers and other

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 employees appointed by the appraiser in the performance of their duties.

*Sixth.* The county appraiser or district appraiser in setting values for various types of personal property, shall conform to the values for such property as shown in the personal property appraisal guides devised or prescribed by the director of property valuation.

*Seventh.* Carry on continuously throughout the year the process of appraising real property.

Eighth. If the county appraiser or district appraiser deems it advisable, such appraiser may appoint one or more advisory committees of not less than five persons representative of the various economic interests and geographic areas of the county to assist the appraiser in establishing unit land values, unit values for structures, productivity, classifications for agricultural lands, adjustments for location factors, and generally to advise on assessment procedures and methods.

Ninth. Perform such other duties as may be required by law.

- (b) The director of property valuation shall give notice to county and district appraisers and county boards of equalization of any proposed changes in the guides, schedules or methodology for use in valuing property prescribed to the county and district appraisers for use in setting values for property within the county or district. Such notice shall also be published in the Kansas register and shall provide that such changes are available for public inspection. Changes and modifications in guides, schedules or methodology for use in valuing property which are prescribed by the director of property valuation for use by county and district appraisers on or after July 1 in any year shall not be utilized in establishing the value, for the current tax year, of any property, the value of which has previously been established for such year.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the county appraiser or the county appraiser's designee shall not, at any time, request the following from a taxpayer:
- (1) Any appraisal of the property conducted for the purpose of obtaining mortgage financing;
- (2) any fee appraisal that was conducted more than 12 months from the date of the taxpayer's complaint or appeal;
  - (3) documents detailing individual lease agreement; or
  - (4) architectural drawings.

Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the county appraiser or the county appraiser's designee from requesting a certified rent roll from the taxpayer.

Sec. 13. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 79-1448 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1448. Any taxpayer may complain or appeal to the county appraiser from the classification or appraisal of the taxpayer's property by giving notice to the county appraiser within 30 days subsequent to the date

of mailing of the valuation notice required by K.S.A. 79-1460, and 1 2 amendments thereto, for real property, and on or before May 15 for 3 personal property. The county appraiser or the appraiser's designee shall 4 arrange to hold an informal meeting with the aggrieved taxpayer with reference to the property in question. Prior to the informal meeting, the 5 6 county appraiser shall prepare and deliver to the taxpayer a written 7 narrative and summary of the reasons that the valuaiton of the property 8 has been increased over the preceding year. Such summary shall include 9 any assumptions used by the county appraiser to determine the property's value. At such meeting it shall be the duty of the county appraiser or the 10 county appraiser's designee to initiate production of evidence to 11 12 substantiate the valuation of such property, including the affording to the 13 taxpayer of the opportunity to review the data sheet of comparable sales 14 utilized in the determination of such valuation. The county appraiser shall 15 take into account any evidence provided by the taxpayer which relates to 16 the amount of deferred maintenance, re-tenant reserves and tenant improvement depreciation for the property. In any appeal from the 17 18 appraisal of leased commercial and industrial property, the county or 19 district appraiser's appraised value shall be presumed to be valid and correct and may only be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence, 20 21 unless the property owner furnishes the county or district appraiser a 22 complete income and expense statement for the property for the three 23 years next preceding the year of appeal within 30 calendar days following 24 the informal meeting. In any appeal from the reclassification of property 25 that was originally classified as land devoted to agricultural use, the 26 taxpayer's classification of the property as land devoted to agricultural 27 use shall be presumed to be valid and correct if the taxpayer provides an 28 executed lease document demonstrating a commitment to use the property 29 for agricultural use. The county appraiser may extend the time in which the taxpayer may informally appeal from the classification or appraisal of 30 31 the taxpaver's property for just and adequate reasons. Except as provided 32 in K.S.A. 79-1404, and amendments thereto, no informal meeting 33 regarding real property shall be scheduled to take place after May 15, nor 34 shall a final determination be given by the appraiser after May 20. Any 35 final determination shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the 36 reasoning upon which such determination is based when such 37 determination is not in favor of the taxpayer. Any taxpayer who is 38 aggrieved by the final determination of the county appraiser may appeal to 39 the hearing officer or panel appointed pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1611, and 40 amendments thereto, and such hearing officer, or panel, for just cause 41 shown and recorded, is authorized to change the classification or valuation 42 of specific tracts or individual items of real or personal property in the 43 same manner provided for in K.S.A. 79-1606, and amendments thereto. In

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1 lieu of appealing to a hearing officer or panel appointed pursuant to K.S.A. 2 79-1611, and amendments thereto, any taxpayer aggrieved by the final 3 determination of the county appraiser, except with regard to land devoted 4 to agricultural use, wherein the value of the property, is less than 5 \$3,000,000, as reflected on the valuation notice, or the property constitutes 6 single family residential property, may appeal to the small claims and 7 expedited hearings division of the state board of tax appeals within the 8 time period prescribed by K.S.A. 79-1606, and amendments thereto. Any 9 taxpayer who is aggrieved by the final determination of a hearing officer 10 or panel may appeal to the state board of tax appeals as provided in K.S.A. 79-1609, and amendments thereto. An informal meeting with the county 11 12 appraiser or the appraiser's designee shall be a condition precedent to an 13 appeal to the county or district hearing panel.

- Sec. 14. K.S.A. 79-1456 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1456. (a) The county appraiser shall follow the policies, procedures and guidelines of the director of property valuation in the performance of the duties of the office of county appraiser. If the director has developed and adopted methodologies to value specific types of property, the county appraiser shall be required to follow such methodologies.
- (b) The county appraiser in establishing values for various types of personal property, shall conform to the values for such property as shown in the personal property appraisal guides prescribed or furnished by the director of property valuation. The county appraiser may deviate from the values shown in such guides on an individual piece of property for just cause shown and in a manner consistent with achieving fair market value.
- K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 79-1476 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1476. The director of property valuation is hereby directed and empowered to administer and supervise a statewide program of reappraisal of all real property located within the state. Except as otherwise authorized by K.S.A. 19-428, and amendments thereto, each county shall comprise a separate appraisal district under such program, and the county appraiser shall have the duty of reappraising all of the real property in the county pursuant to guidelines and timetables prescribed by the director of property valuation and of updating the same on an annual basis. In the case of multi-county appraisal districts, the district appraiser shall have the duty of reappraising all of the real property in each of the counties comprising the district pursuant to such guidelines and timetables and of updating the same on an annual basis. Commencing in 2000, every parcel of real property shall be actually viewed and inspected by the county or district appraiser once every six years. Any county or district appraiser shall be deemed to be in compliance with the foregoing requirement in any year if 17% or more of the parcels in such county or district are actually viewed and inspected.

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42 43 Compilation of data for the initial preparation or updating of inventories for each parcel of real property and entry thereof into the state computer system as provided for in K.S.A. 79-1477, and amendments thereto, shall be completed not later than January 1, 1989. Whenever the director determines that reappraisal of all real property within a county is complete, notification thereof shall be given to the governor and to the state board of tax appeals.

Valuations shall be established for each parcel of real property at its fair market value in money in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 79-503a, and amendments thereto.

In addition thereto valuations shall be established for each parcel of land devoted to agricultural use upon the basis of the agricultural income or productivity attributable to the inherent capabilities of such land in its current usage under a degree of management reflecting median production levels in the manner hereinafter provided. A classification system for all land devoted to agricultural use shall be adopted by the director of property valuation using criteria established by the United States department of agriculture soil conservation service. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1989, all land devoted to agricultural use which is subject to the federal conservation reserve program shall be classified as cultivated dry land for the purpose of valuation for property tax purposes pursuant to this section. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1999, all land devoted to agricultural use which is subject to the federal wetlands reserve program shall be classified as native grassland for the purpose of valuation for property tax purposes pursuant to this section. Productivity of land devoted to agricultural use shall be determined for all land classes within each county or homogeneous region based on an average of the eight calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year which immediately precedes the year of valuation, at a degree of management reflecting median production levels. The director of property valuation shall determine median production levels based on information available from state and federal crop and livestock reporting services, the soil conservation service, and any other sources of data that the director considers appropriate.

The share of net income from land in the various land classes within each county or homogeneous region which is normally received by the landlord shall be used as the basis for determining agricultural income for all land devoted to agricultural use except pasture or rangeland. The net income normally received by the landlord from such land shall be determined by deducting expenses normally incurred by the landlord from the share of the gross income normally received by the landlord. The net rental income normally received by the landlord from pasture or rangeland within each county or homogeneous region shall be used as the basis for

determining agricultural income from such land. The net rental income from pasture and rangeland which is normally received by the landlord shall be determined by deducting expenses normally incurred from the gross income normally received by the landlord. Commodity prices, crop yields and pasture and rangeland rental rates and expenses shall be based on an average of the eight calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year which immediately precedes the year of valuation. Net income for every land class within each county or homogeneous region shall be capitalized at a rate determined to be the sum of the contract rate of interest on new federal land bank loans in Kansas on July 1 of each year averaged over a five-year period which includes the five years immediately preceding the calendar year which immediately precedes the year of valuation, plus a percentage not less than 0.75% nor more than 2.75%, as determined by the director of property valuation, except that the capitalization rate calculated for property tax year 2003, and all such years thereafter, shall not be less than 11% nor more than 12%.

Based on the foregoing procedures the director of property valuation shall make an annual determination of the value of land within each of the various classes of land devoted to agricultural use within each county or homogeneous region and furnish the same to the several county appraisers who shall classify such land according to its current usage and apply the value applicable to such class of land according to the valuation schedules prepared and adopted by the director of property valuation under the provisions of this section.

It is the intent of the legislature that appraisal judgment and appraisal standards be followed and incorporated throughout the process of data collection and analysis and establishment of values pursuant to this section.

For the purpose of the foregoing provisions of this section the phrase "land devoted to agricultural use" shall mean and include land, regardless of whether it is located in the unincorporated area of the county or within the corporate limits of a city, which is devoted to the production of plants, animals or horticultural products, including, but not limited to: Forages; grains and feed crops; dairy animals and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; beef cattle, sheep, swine and horses; bees and apiary products; trees and forest products; fruits, nuts and berries; vegetables; nursery, floral, ornamental and greenhouse products. Land devoted to agricultural use shall—not include—those lands which are used for recreational purposes, other than that land established as a controlled shooting area pursuant to K.S.A. 32-943, and amendments thereto, which shall be deemed to be land devoted to agricultural use, suburban-residential acreages, rural home sites or farm home sites and yard plots—whose primary function is for residential or recreational purposes even

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42 43 though such properties may produce or maintain some of those plants or animals listed in the foregoing definition. If a parcel has land devoted to agricultural purposes and land used for suburban recreational acreages, rural home sites or farm home sites, the county appraiser shall determine the amount of the parcel used for agricultural purposes and value it and assess it accordingly as land devoted to agricultural purposes. The county appraiser shall then determine the amount of the remaining land used for such other purposes and value that land and assess it according to its use.

The term "expenses" shall mean those expenses typically incurred in producing the plants, animals and horticultural products described above including management fees, production costs, maintenance and depreciation of fences, irrigation wells, irrigation laterals and real estate taxes, but the term shall not include those expenses incurred in providing temporary or permanent buildings used in the production of such plants, animals and horticultural products.

The provisions of this act shall not be construed to conflict with any other provisions of law relating to the appraisal of tangible property for taxation purposes including the equalization processes of the county and state board of tax appeals.

Sec. 16. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 79-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-2005. (a) Any taxpayer, before protesting the payment of such taxpayer's taxes, shall be required, either at the time of paying such taxes, or, if the whole or part of the taxes are paid prior to December 20, no later than December 20, or, with respect to taxes paid in whole or in part in an amount equal to at least <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of such taxes on or before December 20 by an escrow or tax service agent, no later than January 31 of the next year, to file a written statement with the county treasurer, on forms approved by the state board of tax appeals and provided by the county treasurer, clearly stating the grounds on which the whole or any part of such taxes are protested and citing any law, statute or facts on which such taxpayer relies in protesting the whole or any part of such taxes. When the grounds of such protest is an assessment of taxes made pursuant to K.S.A. 79-332a and 79-1427a, and amendments thereto a protest of an assessment of taxes is made, the county treasurer may not distribute the taxes paid under protest until such time as the appeal is final. When the grounds of such protest is that the valuation or assessment of the property upon which the taxes are levied is illegal or void, the county treasurer shall forward a copy of the written statement of protest to the county appraiser who shall within 15 days of the receipt thereof, schedule an informal meeting with the taxpayer or such taxpayer's agent or attorney with reference to the property in question. Prior to the informal meeting, the county appraiser shall prepare and deliver to the taxpayer a written narrative and summary of the reasons that the valuation of the property has been increased over the

preceding year. Such summary shall include any assumptions used by the county appraiser to determine the property's value. At the informal meeting the county appraiser shall review the appraisal of the taxpayer's property with the taxpayer or such taxpayer's agent or attorney and may change the valuation of the taxpayer's property, if in the county appraiser's opinion a change in the valuation of the taxpayer's property is required to assure that the taxpayer's property is valued according to law, and shall, within 15 business days thereof, notify the taxpayer in the event the valuation of the taxpayer's property is changed, in writing of the results of the meeting. In the event the valuation of the taxpayer's property is changed and such change requires a refund of taxes and interest thereon, the county treasurer shall process the refund in the manner provided by subsection (1).

- (b) No protest appealing the valuation or assessment of property shall be filed pertaining to any year's valuation or assessment when an appeal of such valuation or assessment was commenced pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto, nor shall the second half payment of taxes be protested when the first half payment of taxes has been protested. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this provision shall not prevent any subsequent owner from protesting taxes levied for the year in which such property was acquired, nor shall it prevent any taxpayer from protesting taxes when the valuation or assessment of such taxpayer's property has been changed pursuant to an order of the director of property valuation.
- (c) A protest shall not be necessary to protect the right to a refund of taxes in the event a refund is required because the final resolution of an appeal commenced pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto, occurs after the final date prescribed for the protest of taxes.
- (d) If the grounds of such protest shall be that the valuation or assessment of the property upon which the taxes so protested are levied is illegal or void, such statement shall further state the exact amount of valuation or assessment which the taxpayer admits to be valid and the exact portion of such taxes which is being protested.
- (e) If the grounds of such protest shall be that any tax levy, or any part thereof, is illegal, such statement shall further state the exact portion of such tax which is being protested.
- (f) Upon the filing of a written statement of protest, the grounds of which shall be that any tax levied, or any part thereof, is illegal, the county treasurer shall mail a copy of such written statement of protest to the state board of tax appeals and the governing body of the taxing district making the levy being protested.
- (g) Within 30 days after notification of the results of the informal meeting with the county appraiser pursuant to subsection (a), the protesting taxpayer may, if aggrieved by the results of the informal

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42 43 meeting with the county appraiser, appeal such results to the state board of tax appeals.

- (h) After examination of the copy of the written statement of protest and a copy of the written notification of the results of the informal meeting with the county appraiser in cases where the grounds of such protest is that the valuation or assessment of the property upon which the taxes are levied is illegal or void, the board shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act, unless waived by the interested parties in writing. If the grounds of such protest is that the valuation or assessment of the property is illegal or void the board shall notify the county appraiser thereof.
- (i) In the event of a hearing, the same shall be originally set not later than 90 days after the filing of the copy of the written statement of protest and a copy, when applicable, of the written notification of the results of the informal meeting with the county appraiser with the board. With regard to any matter properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of valuation of residential property or real property used for commercial and industrial purposes for taxation purposes, it shall be the duty of the county appraiser to initiate the production of evidence to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, the validity and correctness of such determination except that no such duty shall accrue to the county or district appraiser with regard to leased commercial and industrial property unless the property owner has furnished to the county or district appraiser a complete income and expense statement for the property for the three years next preceding the year of appeal. No presumption shall exist in favor of the county appraiser with respect to the validity and correctness of such determination. In all instances where the board sets a request for hearing and requires the representation of the county by its attorney or counselor at such hearing, the county shall be represented by its county attorney or counselor. The board shall take into account any evidence provided by the taxpayer which relates to the amount of deferred maintenance, re-tenant reserves and tenant improvement depreciation for the property. In any appeal from the reclassification of property that was originally classified as land devoted to agricultural use, the taxpayer's classification of the property as land devoted to agricultural use shall be presumed to be valid and correct if the taxpayer provides an executed lease document demonstrating a commitment to use the property for agricultural use.
- (j) When a determination is made as to the merits of the tax protest, the board shall render and serve its order thereon. The county treasurer shall notify all affected taxing districts of the amount by which tax revenues will be reduced as a result of a refund.
  - (k) If a protesting taxpayer fails to file a copy of the written statement

of protest and a copy, when applicable, of the written notification of the results of the informal meeting with the county appraiser with the board within the time limit prescribed, such protest shall become null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

- (1) (1) In the event the board orders that a refund be made pursuant to this section or the provisions of K.S.A. 79-1609, and amendments thereto, or a court of competent jurisdiction orders that a refund be made, and no appeal is taken from such order, or in the event a change in valuation which results in a refund pursuant to subsection (a), the county treasurer shall, as soon thereafter as reasonably practicable, refund to the taxpayer such protested taxes and, with respect to protests or appeals commenced after the effective date of this act, interest computed at the rate prescribed by K.S.A. 79-2968, and amendments thereto, minus two percentage points, per annum from the date of payment of such taxes from tax moneys collected but not distributed. Upon making such refund, the county treasurer shall charge the fund or funds having received such protested taxes, except that, with respect to that portion of any such refund attributable to interest the county treasurer shall charge the county general fund. In the event that the state board of tax appeals or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any time delay in making its decision is unreasonable and is attributable to the taxpayer, it may order that no interest or only a portion thereof be added to such refund of taxes.
- (2) No interest shall be allowed pursuant to paragraph (1) in any case where the tax paid under protest was inclusive of delinquent taxes.
- (m) Whenever, by reason of the refund of taxes previously received or the reduction of taxes levied but not received as a result of decreases in assessed valuation, it will be impossible to pay for imperative functions for the current budget year, the governing body of the taxing district affected may issue no-fund warrants in the amount necessary. Such warrants shall conform to the requirements prescribed by K.S.A. 79-2940, and amendments thereto, except they shall not bear the notation required by such section and may be issued without the approval of the state board of tax appeals. The governing body of such taxing district shall make a tax levy at the time fixed for the certification of tax levies to the county clerk next following the issuance of such warrants sufficient to pay such warrants and the interest thereon. All such tax levies shall be in addition to all other levies authorized by law.
- (n) Whenever a taxpayer appeals to the board of tax appeals pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 79-1609, and amendments thereto, or pays taxes under protest related to one property whereby the assessed valuation of such property exceeds 5% of the total county assessed valuation of all property located within such county and the taxpayer receives a refund of such taxes paid under protest or a refund made pursuant to the provisions

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1 of K.S.A. 79-1609, and amendments thereto, the county treasurer or the 2 governing body of any taxing subdivision within a county may request the 3 pooled money investment board to make a loan to such county or taxing 4 subdivision as provided in this section. The pooled money investment 5 board is authorized and directed to loan to such county or taxing 6 subdivision sufficient funds to enable the county or taxing subdivision to 7 refund such taxes to the taxpayer. The pooled money investment board is 8 authorized and directed to use any moneys in the operating accounts, 9 investment accounts or other investments of the state of Kansas to provide 10 the funds for such loan. Each loan shall bear interest at a rate equal to the net earnings rate of the pooled money investment portfolio at the time of 11 12 the making of such loan. The total aggregate amount of loans under this 13 program shall not exceed \$50,000,000 of unencumbered funds pursuant to 14 article 42 of chapter 75 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments 15 thereto. Such loan shall not be deemed to be an indebtedness or debt of the 16 state of Kansas within the meaning of section 6 of article 11 of the 17 constitution of the state of Kansas. Upon certification to the pooled money 18 investment board by the county treasurer or governing body of the amount 19 of each loan authorized pursuant to this subsection, the pooled money 20 investment board shall transfer each such amount certified by the county 21 treasurer or governing body from the state bank account or accounts 22 prescribed in this subsection to the county treasurer who shall deposit such 23 amount in the county treasury. Any such loan authorized pursuant to this 24 subsection shall be repaid within four years. The county or taxing 25 subdivision shall make not more than four equal annual tax levies at the 26 time fixed for the certification of tax levies to the county clerk following 27 the making of such loan sufficient to pay such loan within the time period 28 required under such loan. All such tax levies shall be in addition to all 29 other levies authorized by law. 30

- (o) The county treasurer shall disburse to the proper funds all portions of taxes paid under protest and shall maintain a record of all portions of such taxes which are so protested and shall notify the governing body of the taxing district levying such taxes thereof and the director of accounts and reports if any tax protested was levied by the state.
- (p) This statute shall not apply to the valuation and assessment of property assessed by the director of property valuation and it shall not be necessary for any owner of state assessed property, who has an appeal pending before the state board of tax appeals, to protest the payment of taxes under this statute solely for the purpose of protecting the right to a refund of taxes paid under protest should that owner be successful in that appeal.

42 Sec. 17. K.S.A. 79-309, 79-501, 79-504, 79-1412a and 79-1456 and 43 K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 74-2426, 74-2433, 74-2438, 74-2438a, 77-618, 79HB 2714 22

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- 425a, 79-503a, 79-1448, 79-1476 and 79-2005 are hereby repealed. Sec. 18. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its 2
- 3 publication in the statute book.