

Rep. Lou Lang

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Filed: 1/9/2007

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LRB094 16495 BDD 61029 a

1	AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2300
2	AMENDMENT NO Amend Senate Bill 2300, AS AMENDED,
3	by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4	following:
5	"Section 5. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing
6	Sections 10-155, 12-55, 15-176, and 20-5 as follows:
7	(35 ILCS 200/10-155)
8	Sec. 10-155. Open space land; valuation. In all counties,
9	in addition to valuation as otherwise permitted by law, land
10	which is used for open space purposes and has been so used for
11	the 3 years immediately preceding the year in which the
12	assessment is made, upon application under Section 10-160,
13	shall be valued on the basis of its fair cash value, estimated
14	at the price it would bring at a fair, voluntary sale for use
15	by the buyer for open space purposes.
16	Land is considered used for open space purposes if it is
17	more than 10 acres in area and:
18	(a) is actually and exclusively used for maintaining or
19	enhancing natural or scenic resources,
20	(b) protects air or streams or water supplies,
21	(c) promotes conservation of soil, wetlands, beaches,
22	or marshes, including ground cover or planted perennial
23	grasses, trees and shrubs and other natural perennial

growth, and including any body of water, whether man-made

1 or natural,

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- 2 (d) conserves landscaped areas, such as public or 3 private golf courses,
 - (e) enhances the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, sanctuaries, or other open spaces, or
- 7 (f) preserves historic sites.
- Land is not considered used for open space purposes if it is used primarily for residential purposes.
- If the land is improved with a water-retention dam that is

 operated primarily for commercial purposes, the
- 12 <u>water-retention dam is not considered to be used for open space</u>
- purposes despite the fact that any resulting man-made lake may
- 14 <u>be considered to be used for open space purposes under this</u>
- 15 <u>Section.</u>
- 16 (Source: P.A. 88-455; 89-137, eff. 1-1-96.)
- 17 (35 ILCS 200/12-55)
- Sec. 12-55. Notice requirement if assessment is increased; counties of 3,000,000 or more.
- 20 (a) In counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, a revision by the county assessor, except where such revision is 21 made on complaint of the owner, shall not increase an 22 23 assessment without notice to the person to whom the most recent 24 tax bill was mailed and an opportunity to be heard before the 25 assessment is verified. When a notice is mailed by the county assessor to the address of a mortgagee, the mortgagee, within 726 27 business days after the mortgagee receives the notice, shall 28 forward a copy of the notice to each mortgagor of the property referred to in the notice at the last known address of each 29 30 mortgagor as shown on the records of the mortgagee. There shall 31 be no liability for the failure of the mortgagee to forward the 32 notice to each mortgagor. The assessor may provide for the 33 filing of complaints and make revisions at times other than

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those dates published under Section 14-35. When the county assessor has completed the revision and correction and entered the changes and revision in the assessment books, an affidavit shall be attached to the assessment books in the form required by law, signed by the county assessor.

- (b) In counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, for parcels, other than parcels in the class that includes the majority of the single-family residential parcels under a county ordinance adopted in accordance with Section 4 of Article IX of the Illinois Constitution, located in the assessment district for which the current assessment year is a general assessment year, within 30 days after sending the required notices under this Section, the county assessor shall file with the board of appeals (until the first Monday in December 1998, and the board of review beginning the first Monday in December 1998 and thereafter) a list of the parcels for which the notices under this Section were sent, showing the following information for each such parcel: the parcel index number, the township in which the parcel is located, the class for the current year, the previous year's final total assessed value, the total assessed value proposed by the county assessor, and the name of the person to whom the notice required under this Section was sent. The list shall be available for public inspection at the office of the board during the regular office hours of the board. The list shall be retained by the board for at least 10 years after the date it is initially filed by the county assessor.
- (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this Section shall be applicable beginning with the assessment for the 1997 tax year.
- (d) On and after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly and so long as any portion of the county is subject to the provisions of Section 15-176 instead of Section 15-175, any notice under this Section or otherwise

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Beginning in 2003, the Cook County Board imposed a 7% cap on annual increases in property tax assessments for certain owner-occupied residences. This assessment cap takes the form of an expanded homestead exemption. It is designed to reduce the burden of large property tax increases caused by rapid appreciation in home prices.

The assessment cap shifts the property tax burden. Some homeowners pay less, but all other taxpayers pay more. This is because a reduction in the assessed value of some properties causes the tax rate to increase for all properties in order for the taxing district to collect the same total amount in taxes.

The taxpayers who pay more include owners of rental housing, commercial property, industrial property, and vacant <u>land</u>. The higher rate also causes some senior citizen homeowners to pay more because, though technically eligible for the 7% assessment cap, they already qualify for the more advantageous "senior freeze" on assessments. Similarly, homeowners whose property value appreciates less than 7% annually will also pay more in taxes than if the assessment cap were not in effect.

In general, the assessment cap shifts the tax burden from fast-growing to slow-growing residential areas and from homeowners to businesses. The magnitude of the shift will depend on how rapidly home prices appreciate over time.

Property tax bills for the second installment of taxes for homestead property will indicate whether the property taxes are more, less, or the same as a result of the county's election to implement an assessment cap.

No other information related to the operation of the

- 1 alternative general homestead exemption may be included with
- 2 <u>any notice under this subsection (d).</u>
- 3 (Source: P.A. 90-4, eff. 3-7-97; 91-751, eff. 6-2-00.)
- 4 (35 ILCS 200/15-176)
- 5 Sec. 15-176. Alternative general homestead exemption.
- (a) For the assessment years as determined under subsection (j), in any county that has elected, by an ordinance in accordance with subsection (k), to be subject to the provisions of this Section in lieu of the provisions of Section 15-175, homestead property is entitled to an annual homestead exemption
- 11 equal to a reduction in the property's equalized assessed value
- 12 calculated as provided in this Section.
- 13 (b) As used in this Section:

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- (1) "Assessor" means the supervisor of assessments or the chief county assessment officer of each county.
 - (2) "Adjusted homestead value" means the lesser of the following values:
 - (A) The property's base homestead value increased by 7% for each tax year after the base year through and including the current tax year, or, if the property is sold or ownership is otherwise transferred, the property's base homestead value increased by 7% for each tax year after the year of the sale or transfer through and including the current tax year. The increase by 7% each year is an increase by 7% over the prior year.
 - (B) The property's equalized assessed value for the current tax year minus (i) \$4,500 in Cook County or \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or (ii) \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter.
- (3) "Base homestead value".
 - (A) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3)(B), "base homestead value" means the equalized assessed

value of the property for the base year prior to exemptions, minus (i) \$4,500 in Cook County or \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or (ii) \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter, provided that it was assessed for that year as residential property qualified for any of the homestead exemptions under Sections 15-170 through 15-175 of this Code, then in force, and further provided that the property's assessment was not based on a reduced assessed value resulting from a temporary irregularity in the property for that year. Except as provided in subdivision (b)(3)(B), if the property did not have a residential equalized assessed value for the base year, then "base homestead value" means the base homestead value established by the assessor under subsection (c).

- (B) If the property is sold or ownership is otherwise transferred, other than sales or transfers between spouses or between a parent and a child, "base homestead value" means the equalized assessed value of the property at the time of the sale or transfer prior to exemptions, minus (i) \$4,500 in Cook County or \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or (ii) \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter, provided that it was assessed as residential property qualified for any of the homestead exemptions under Sections 15-170 through 15-175 of this Code, then in force, and further provided that the property's assessment was not based on a reduced assessed value resulting from a temporary irregularity in the property.
- (3.5) "Base year" means (i) tax year 2002 in Cook County or (ii) tax year $\underline{2005}$ or $\underline{2006}$ $\underline{2002}$ or $\underline{2003}$ in all other counties in accordance with the designation made by

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- the county as provided in subsection (k).
 - (4) "Current tax year" means the tax year for which the exemption under this Section is being applied.
 - (5) "Equalized assessed value" means the property's assessed value as equalized by the Department.
 - (6) "Homestead" or "homestead property" means:
 - (A) Residential property that as of January 1 of the tax year is occupied by its owner or owners as his, her, or their principal dwelling place, or that is a leasehold interest on which a single family residence is situated, that is occupied as a residence by a person who has a legal or equitable interest therein evidenced by a written instrument, as an owner or as a lessee, and on which the person is liable for the payment of property taxes. Residential units in an apartment building owned and operated cooperative, or as a life care facility, which are occupied by persons who hold a legal or equitable interest in the cooperative apartment building or life care facility as owners or lessees, and who are liable by contract for the payment of property taxes, shall be included within this definition of homestead property.
 - (B) A homestead includes the dwelling place, appurtenant structures, and so much of the surrounding land constituting the parcel on which the dwelling place is situated as is used for residential purposes. If the assessor has established a specific legal description for a portion of property constituting the homestead, then the homestead shall be limited to the property within that description.
 - (7) "Life care facility" means a facility as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities Act.
 - (c) If the property did not have a residential equalized assessed value for the base year as provided in subdivision

(b)(3)(A) of this Section, then the assessor shall first determine an initial value for the property by comparison with assessed values for the base year of other properties having physical and economic characteristics similar to those of the subject property, so that the initial value is uniform in relation to assessed values of those other properties for the base year. The product of the initial value multiplied by the equalized factor for the base year for homestead properties in that county, less (i) \$4,500 in Cook County or \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or (ii) \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter, is the base homestead value.

For any tax year for which the assessor determines or adjusts an initial value and hence a base homestead value under this subsection (c), the initial value shall be subject to review by the same procedures applicable to assessed values established under this Code for that tax year.

- (d) The base homestead value shall remain constant, except that the assessor may revise it under the following circumstances:
 - (1) If the equalized assessed value of a homestead property for the current tax year is less than the previous base homestead value for that property, then the current equalized assessed value (provided it is not based on a reduced assessed value resulting from a temporary irregularity in the property) shall become the base homestead value in subsequent tax years.
 - (2) For any year in which new buildings, structures, or other improvements are constructed on the homestead property that would increase its assessed value, the assessor shall adjust the base homestead value as provided in subsection (c) of this Section with due regard to the value added by the new improvements.
 - (3) If the property is sold or ownership is otherwise transferred, the base homestead value of the property shall

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- 1 be adjusted as provided in subdivision (b) (3) (B). This item
- 2 (3) does not apply to sales or transfers between spouses or
- 3 between a parent and a child.
 - (e) The amount of the exemption under this Section is the equalized assessed value of the homestead property for the current tax year, minus the adjusted homestead value, with the following exceptions:
 - (1) The exemption under this Section shall not exceed \$20,000 for any taxable year.
 - (2) In the case of homestead property that also qualifies for the exemption under Section 15-172, the property is entitled to the exemption under this Section, limited to the amount of (i) \$4,500 in Cook County or \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or (ii) \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter.
 - (e-5) For each assessment year in which the alternative general homestead exemption under this Section applies to any portion of the county, the county clerk must determine whether the taxes for that year on each homestead property are more, less, or the same as a result of the county having elected to be subject to the provisions of this Section rather than the general homestead exemption under Section 15-175. The assessor must provide the county clerk with any assistance that the clerk requires. The determination of whether the taxes for that year are more, less, or the same must be made without regard to any other factor. In making the determination, the actual taxes on the property for that year shall be compared to what the taxes would have been for that year had the county not elected to be subject to the provisions of this Section. In calculating what the taxes would have been for that year had the county not elected to be subject to the provisions of this Section, the county clerk shall use the equalized assessed value of the property and the combined tax rate of all taxing districts, both computed based on the assumption that the general

homestead exemption under Section 15-175 was in effect 1

throughout the county when this Section applied to any portion

3 of the county.

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The county clerk's determination of whether the taxes for that year on each homestead property are more, less, or the same as a result of the county having elected to be subject to the provisions of this Section (rather than the general homestead exemption under Section 15-175) must be provided to the assessor and to the official in the county who is responsible for preparing and mailing the property tax bills so that the official and assessor can comply with subsections (b), (c), and (d) of Section 20-5.

For the purpose of this subsection (e-5), "homestead property" has the definition set forth under Section 15-175.

- (f) In the case of an apartment building owned and operated as a cooperative, or as a life care facility, that contains residential units that qualify as homestead property under this Section, the maximum cumulative exemption amount attributed to the entire building or facility shall not exceed the sum of the exemptions calculated for each qualified residential unit. The cooperative association, management firm, or other person or entity that manages or controls the cooperative apartment building or life care facility shall credit the exemption attributable to each residential unit only to the apportioned tax liability of the owner or other person responsible for payment of taxes as to that unit. Any person who willfully refuses to so credit the exemption is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.
- (g) When married persons maintain separate residences, the exemption provided under this Section shall be claimed by only one such person and for only one residence.
- (h) In the event of a sale or other transfer in ownership of the homestead property, the exemption under this Section shall remain in effect for the remainder of the tax year in

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- which the sale or transfer occurs, but (other than for sales or 1 2 transfers between spouses or between a parent and a child) 3 shall be calculated using the new base homestead value as 4 provided in subdivision (b) (3) (B). The assessor may require the 5 new owner of the property to apply for the exemption in the 6 following year.
 - (i) The assessor may determine whether property qualifies as a homestead under this Section by application, visual inspection, questionnaire, or other reasonable methods. Each year, at the time the assessment books are certified to the county clerk by the board of review, the assessor shall furnish to the county clerk a list of the properties qualified for the homestead exemption under this Section. The list shall note the base homestead value of each property to be used in the calculation of the exemption for the current tax year.
 - (j) In counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, the provisions of this Section apply as follows:
 - (1) If the general assessment year for the property is 2003, this Section applies for assessment years 2003, 2004, and 2005. Thereafter, the provisions of Section 15-175 apply.
 - (2) If the general assessment year for the property is 2004, this Section applies for assessment years 2004, 2005, and 2006. Thereafter, the provisions of Section 15-175 apply.
 - (3) If the general assessment year for the property is 2005, this Section applies for assessment years 2005, 2006, and 2007. Thereafter, the provisions of Section 15-175 apply.
 - (4) If the general assessment year for the property is 2006 and only if the county elects, by ordinance, to extend the application of this Section under subsection (k-5), then this Section continues to apply for assessment years 2006, 2007, and 2008. Thereafter, the provisions of Section

1 $15-175 \text{ apply.}$

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- (5) If the general assessment year for the property is 2007 and only if the county elects, by ordinance, to extend the application of this Section under subsection (k-5), then this Section continues to apply for assessment years 2007, 2008, and 2009. Thereafter, the provisions of Section 15-175 apply.
- (6) If the general assessment year for the property is 2008 and only if the county elects, by ordinance, to extend the application of this Section under subsection (k-5), then this Section continues to apply for assessment years 2008, 2009, and 2010. Thereafter, the provisions of Section 15-175 apply.

In counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, this Section applies for assessment years (i) 2006, 2007, and 2008 $\underline{\text{if tax year 2005}}$ $\underline{\text{2003, 2004, and 2005 if 2002}}$ is the designated base year or (ii) 2007, 2008, and 2009 if tax year 2006 2004, 2005, and 2006 if 2003 is the designated base year. Thereafter, the provisions of Section 15-175 apply.

(k) To be subject to the provisions of this Section in lieu of Section 15-175, a county must adopt an ordinance to subject itself to the provisions of this Section within (i) 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly <u>for Cook County</u>, <u>except as provided in</u> subsection (k-5), or (ii) within 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly for all other counties. In a county other than Cook County, the ordinance must designate either tax year 2005 2002 or tax year 2006 $\frac{2003}{}$ as the base year.

(k-5) Cook County may elect, by ordinance, to extend the application of this Section for the assessment years set forth under items (4), (5), and (6) of subsection (j). The ordinance must be adopted within 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

- (1) Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of the State Mandates 1
- Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the 2
- 3 implementation of any mandate created by this Section.
- (Source: P.A. 93-715, eff. 7-12-04.) 4
- (35 ILCS 200/20-5) 5
- Sec. 20-5. Mailing tax bill to owner. 6
- 7 (a) Every township collector, and every county collector in
- cases where there is no township collector, upon receiving the 8
- 9 tax book or books, shall prepare tax bills showing each
- installment of property taxes assessed, which shall be filled 10
- out in accordance with Section 20-40. A copy of the bill shall 11
- 12 be mailed by the collector, at least 30 days prior to the date
- 13 upon which unpaid taxes become delinquent, to the owner of the
- 14 property taxed or to the person in whose name the property is
- 15 taxed.
- (b) In each county in which the county clerk is required to 16
- 17 make the determinations under subsection (e-5) of Section
- 15-176, the second installment property tax bill for each 18
- homestead property must include, on the bill, a notification to 19
- 20 the taxpayer as to whether the taxes on the property are more,
- 21 less, or the same, as determined by the county clerk, as a
- 22 result of the county's election to be subject to the
- 23 alternative general homestead exemption under Section 15-176
- 24 rather than the general homestead exemption under Section
- 15-175. The notification must be based solely on the 25
- determinations made by the county clerk under subsection (e-5) 26
- 27 of Section 15-176. If the tax bill is a 2-sided document, then
- 28 the notice must appear on the same side of the document that
- shows the amount of taxes to be paid. The notification must be 29
- 30 clearly visible, must be in at least 10-point type, and must be
- in the following form: 31
- "The taxes on this property are (more/less/the same) as 32
- a result of the county's election to be subject to the 33

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1	alternative general homestead exemption under Section
2	15-176 of the Property Tax Code, sometimes known as the "7%
3	solution" or "assessment cap"."
4	In the notice, the term "(more/less/the same)" must be replaced
5	with one, and only one, of the following: "more"; "less"; or
6	"the same", which must be printed in bold-face type and
7	underscored.
8	(c) On and after the effective date of this amendatory Act
9	of the 94th General Assembly and so long as any portion of the
10	county is subject to the provisions of Section 15-176 instead
11	of Section 15-175, the following statement, in at least
12	12-point type, must be included with each second installment
13	<pre>property tax bill in Cook County:</pre>
14	Beginning in 2003, the Cook County Board imposed a 7%
15	cap on annual increases in property tax assessments for
16	certain owner-occupied residences. This assessment cap
17	takes the form of an expanded homestead exemption. It is
18	designed to reduce the burden of large property tax
19	increases caused by rapid appreciation in home prices.
20	The assessment cap shifts the property tax burden. Some
21	homeowners pay less, but all other taxpayers pay more. This
22	is because a reduction in the assessed value of some
23	properties causes the tax rate to increase for all
24	properties in order for the taxing district to collect the
25	<pre>same total amount in taxes.</pre>
26	The taxpayers who pay more include owners of rental

The taxpayers who pay more include owners of rental housing, commercial property, industrial property, and vacant land. The higher rate also causes some senior citizen homeowners to pay more because, though technically eligible for the 7% assessment cap, they already qualify for the more advantageous "senior freeze" on assessments. Similarly, homeowners whose property value appreciates less than 7% annually will also pay more in taxes than if the assessment cap were not in effect.

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In general, the assessment cap shifts the tax burden from fast-growing to slow-growing residential areas and from homeowners to businesses. The magnitude of the shift will depend on how rapidly home prices appreciate over time.

Property tax bills for the second installment of taxes for homestead property will indicate whether the property taxes are more, less, or the same as a result of the county's election to implement an assessment cap.

(d) In each county in which the county clerk is required to make the determinations under subsection (e-5) of Section 15-176, as soon as practical after the second installment property tax bills are mailed, but no more than 30 days, the assessor must mail a copy of the following notification, in at least 12-point type, to the "owner-occupant" at the physical address of each homestead property in the county, together with sufficient information to identify the property in question:

Beginning in 2003, the Cook County Board imposed a 7% cap on annual <u>increases</u> in property tax assessments for certain owner-occupied residences. This assessment cap takes the form of an expanded homestead exemption. It is designed to reduce the burden of large property tax increases caused by rapid appreciation in home prices.

The assessment cap shifts the property tax burden. Some homeowners pay less, but all other taxpayers pay more. This is because a reduction in the assessed value of some properties causes the tax rate to increase for all properties in order for the taxing district to collect the same total amount in taxes.

The taxpayers who pay more include owners of rental housing, commercial property, industrial property, and vacant land. The higher rate also causes some senior citizen homeowners to pay more because, though technically eligible for the 7% assessment cap, they already qualify

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for the more advantageous "senior freeze" on assessments. 1 2 Similarly, homeowners whose property value appreciates less than 7% annually will also pay more in taxes than if 3 4 the assessment cap were not in effect.

> In general, the assessment cap shifts the tax burden from fast-growing to slow-growing residential areas and from homeowners to businesses. The magnitude of the shift will depend on how rapidly home prices appreciate over time.

> The taxes on this property are (more/less/the same) as a result of the county's election to be subject to the alternative general homestead exemption under Section 15-176 of the Property Tax Code, sometimes known as the "7% solution" or "assessment cap".

The last paragraph of the notice required under this subsection (d) must be printed in bold-face type.

In the last paragraph of the notice, the term "(more/less/the same)" must be replaced with one, and only one, of the following: "more"; "less"; or "the same", which must be printed in bold-face type and underscored. The notification as to whether the taxes on the property are more, less, or the same, as determined by the county clerk, as a result of the county's election to be subject to the alternative general homestead exemption under Section 15-176 rather than the general homestead exemption under Section 15-175 must be based solely on the determinations made by the county clerk under subsection (e-5) of Section 15-176.

The mailing may not include any information concerning the alternative general homestead exemption other than the information that is required under this subsection (d).

(e) No tax bill may contain or include any information concerning the alternative general homestead exemption other than the information that is required under subsections (b) and (c) of this Section.

- 1 For the purpose of this Section, "homestead property" has
- 2 the definition set forth under Section 15-175.
- (Source: P.A. 86-957; 87-818; 88-455.) 3
- 4 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
- 5 Section 8.30 as follows:
- (30 ILCS 805/8.30 new) 6
- 7 Sec. 8.30. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
- of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the 8
- implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of 9
- the 94th General Assembly. 10
- Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon 11
- 12 becoming law.".