

Senate Bill No. 550

(By Senators Cole, Fitzsimmons, D. Hall, Kirkendoll, Miller,
Nohe, Walters, Kessler (Mr. President) and Unger)

[Introduced March 15, 2013; referred to the Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on
Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §11-1C-5 of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a
new section, designated §11-1C-5c, all relating to the
valuation of motor vehicles for purposes of ad valorem
property taxes; requiring antique motor vehicles not used for
general transportation to be assigned an appraised value of
\$5,000; and requiring the assessed value for all motor
vehicles to be at least \$420.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §11-1C-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
be amended and reenacted; and that said code be amended by adding
thereto a new section, designated §11-1C-5c, all to read as
follows:

ARTICLE 1C. FAIR AND EQUITABLE PROPERTY VALUATION.

1 **§11-1C-5. Tax Commissioner powers and duties.**

2 (a) In addition to the powers and duties of the Tax
3 Commissioner in other provisions of this article and this code, the
4 Tax Commissioner shall: ~~have the power and duty to~~

5 (1) Perform ~~such~~ duties and exercise ~~such~~ powers as may be
6 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this article;

7 (2) Determine the methods of valuation for both real and
8 personal property in accordance with the following:

9 (A) As to personal property, the Tax Commissioner shall
10 provide a method to appraise each major specie of personal property
11 in the state so that all such items of personal property are valued
12 in the same manner no matter where situated in the state, shall
13 transmit these methods to each county assessor who shall use these
14 methods to value the various species of personal property. The Tax
15 Commissioner shall periodically conduct ~~such~~ studies ~~as are~~
16 necessary to determine that ~~such~~ those methods are being followed.
17 ~~Such~~ The method shall be in accordance with the provisions of
18 article five of this chapter: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any
19 other provision of this code to the contrary, ~~the several~~ all
20 county assessors shall appraise motor vehicles as follows: The
21 State Tax Commissioner shall annually compile a schedule of
22 automobile values based upon the lowest values shown in a
23 nationally accepted used car guide, which ~~said~~ schedule shall be
24 furnished to each assessor and shall be used by ~~the several~~ all

1 county assessors to determine the assessed value for all motor
2 vehicles in an amount equal to sixty percent of ~~said~~ the lowest
3 values or sixty percent of \$700, whichever is higher.

4 (B) As to managed timberland as defined in section two of this
5 article, the Tax Commissioner shall provide a method to appraise
6 ~~such that~~ property in the state so that ~~all such property~~ it is
7 valued in the same manner no matter where it is situated in the
8 state, which shall be a valuation based on its use and productive
9 potential as managed timberland, which may be accorded special
10 valuation as forestlands as authorized by section fifty-three,
11 article six of the Constitution of West Virginia: *Provided, That*
12 timberland that does not qualify for identification as managed
13 timberland shall be valued at market value: *Provided, however,*
14 That the Tax Commissioner may not implement any rules ~~or~~
15 ~~regulations~~ in title one hundred ten, which relate to valuation or
16 classification of timberland: *Provided further, That* on or before
17 October 1, 1990, the Tax Commissioner shall, in accordance with
18 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, promulgate new rules relating
19 to the valuation and classification of timberland.

20 (C) As to farmland used, occupied and cultivated by an owner
21 or bona fide tenant, the Tax Commissioner shall provide a method to
22 appraise ~~such that~~ property in the state so that ~~all such property~~
23 it is valued in the same manner no matter where it is situated in
24 the state, which valuation shall be arrived at according to the

1 fair and reasonable value of the property for the purpose for which
2 it is actually used regardless of what the value of the property
3 would be if used for some other purpose, in accordance with section
4 one, article three of this chapter and as authorized by subsection
5 B, section one-b, article X of the Constitution of West Virginia.

6 (D) As to public utility property, the Tax Commissioner shall
7 prescribe appropriate methods for the appraisal of the various
8 types of property subject to taxation as public utilities and the
9 types of property which are to be included in the operating
10 property of a public utility and thereby not subject to taxation by
11 the county assessor. Only parcels or other property, or portions
12 thereof, which are an integral part of the public utility's
13 function as a utility ~~shall~~ may be included as operating property
14 and assessed by the board of public works under provisions of
15 article six of this chapter;

16 (3) Evaluate the performance of each assessor based upon the
17 criteria established by the commission and each county's approved
18 plan and take appropriate measures to require any assessor who does
19 not meet these criteria or adequately carry out the provisions of
20 the plan to correct any deficiencies. ~~Such~~ The evaluation shall
21 include the periodic review of the progress of each assessor in
22 conducting the appraisals required in sections seven and nine of
23 this article and in following the approved valuation plan. If the
24 Tax Commissioner determines that an assessor has substantially

1 failed to perform the duties required by ~~said~~ those sections, the
2 Tax Commissioner shall take all necessary steps, including the
3 appointment of one or more special assessors in accordance with the
4 provisions of section one, article three of this chapter, or
5 ~~utilize such~~ use other authority ~~as~~ the commissioner has over
6 county assessors pursuant to other provisions of this code as ~~may~~
7 ~~be~~ necessary to complete the tasks and duties imposed by this
8 article: *Provided*, That a writ of mandamus ~~shall be~~ is the
9 appropriate remedy if the Tax Commissioner fails to perform his or
10 her statutory duty provided ~~for~~ in section five, article one of
11 this chapter;

12 (4) Submit to the Legislature, on or before February 15, of
13 each year, a preliminary statewide aggregate tax revenue projection
14 and other information ~~which shall~~ to assist the Legislature in its
15 deliberations regarding county board of education levy rates
16 pursuant to section six-f, article eight of this chapter, which
17 information shall include any amount of reduction required by ~~said~~
18 section six-f;

19 (5) Maintain the valuations each year by making or causing to
20 be made ~~such~~ surveys, examinations, audits and investigations of
21 the value of the several classes of property in each county which
22 should be listed and taxed under the several classifications; and

23 (6) Establish by uniform rules a procedure for the sale of
24 computer generated material and appraisal manuals. Any funds

1 received as a result of the sale of such reproductions shall be
2 deposited to the appropriate account from which the payment for
3 reproduction is made.

4 (b) The Tax Commissioner may adopt any ~~regulation~~ rule adopted
5 prior to January 1, 1990, pursuant to article one-a of this
6 chapter, which adoption ~~shall not constitute~~ is not an
7 implementation of the statewide mass reappraisal of property. ~~Such~~
8 The adoption, including context modifications made necessary by the
9 enactment of this article, shall occur on or before July 1, 1991,
10 through inclusion in the plan required by section ten of this
11 article or inclusion in the minute record of the valuation
12 commission. Upon the adoption of any such ~~regulations~~ rule, any
13 modification or repeal of ~~such regulation~~ the rule shall be in
14 accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-
15 nine-a of this code.

16 **§11-1C-5c. Antique motor vehicle valuation for personal property**
17 **tax purposes.**

18 Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the
19 contrary, any vehicle that is registered as an antique motor
20 vehicle as defined in section three-a, article ten, chapter
21 seventeen-a of this code and that is not used for general
22 transportation shall be assigned an appraised value of \$5,000 for
23 purposes of ad valorem property taxes.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require antique motor vehicles to be assigned an appraised value of \$5,000 for purposes of ad valorem property taxes. The bill also requires the assessed value for all motor vehicles to be at least \$420.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

§11-1C-5c is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.