SENATE BILL No. 323

By Committee on Assessment and Taxation

3-24

AN ACT concerning county appraisers; providing for the election of county appraisers; amending K.S.A. 2-1915, 19-425, 19-433, 19-434, 19-435, 19-4110, 25-101, 25-213, 25-611, 74-2438, 75-5105a, 79-201g, 79-201s, 79-412, 79-5a04, 79-1404, 79-1404a, 79-1411b, 79-1412a, 79-1413a, 79-1420, 79-1455, 79-1460a, 79-1466, 79-1467, 79-1479, 79-1481 and 79-1606 and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 19-432, 74-2433f, 79-1448, 79-1460, 79-1476, 79-1609 and 79-2005 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 19-426, 19-428 and 79-1427c and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 19-430 and 19-431.

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

New Section 1. At the general election in 2024, and each fourth year thereafter, a county appraiser shall be elected in each county for a term of four years. Such county appraiser, before entering upon the duties of office, shall execute and file with the county treasurer a good and sufficient corporate surety bond, conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of office. Such bond shall be issued by a company authorized to do business in Kansas in an amount to be fixed by the board of county commissioners of not less than \$10,000. No person shall be eligible for the nomination or election to the office of county appraiser unless such person is a certified Kansas appraiser.

New Sec. 2. If a vacancy in the office of county appraiser occurs by death, resignation or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of a qualified elector of the county in the manner provided pursuant to this section. If the vacancy occurs on or after May 1 of the second year of the term, the person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is elected and qualified. If the vacancy occurs before May 1 of the second year of the term, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified at the next general election to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Nomination and election of such successor shall be in the same manner as the nomination and election of a county appraiser for a regular term. Appointments shall be made in the manner provided by law for filling vacancies in the office of a member of the house of representatives. The provisions of this section shall apply on and after January 1, 2025.

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 Sec. 3. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2-1915 is hereby amended to read as follows: 2-1915. (a) (1) Appropriations may be made for grants out of funds in the treasury of this state for:

- (A) Terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, dikes, ponds, ditches, critical area planting, grassed waterways, irrigation technology, precision land forming, range seeding, soil and grassland health, detention and grade stabilization structures and other enduring water conservation and water quality practices installed on public lands and on privately owned lands; and
- (B) the control of invasive species on public lands and on privately owned lands.
- (2) Except as provided by the multipurpose small lakes program act and other programs approved by the secretary, any such grant shall not exceed 80% of the total cost of any such practice.
- (b) A program for protection of riparian and wetland areas shall be developed by the division and implemented by the conservation districts. The conservation districts shall prepare district programs to address resource management concerns of water quality, erosion and sediment control and wildlife habitat as part of the conservation district long-range and annual work plans. Preparation and implementation of conservation district programs shall be accomplished with assistance from appropriate state and federal agencies involved in resource management.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 2-1919, and amendments thereto, any holder of a water right, as defined by K.S.A. 82a-701(g), and amendments thereto, who is willing to voluntarily return all or a part of the water right to the state shall be eligible for a grant not to exceed 80% of the total cost of the purchase price for such water right. The division shall administer this cost-share program with funds appropriated by the legislature for such purpose. The chief engineer shall certify to the division that any water right for which application for cost-share is received under this section is eligible in accordance with the criteria established in K.S.A. 2-1919, and amendments thereto.
- (d) (1) Subject to appropriation acts therefor, the division shall develop the Kansas water quality buffer initiative for the purpose of restoring riparian areas using best management practices. The director shall ensure that the initiative is complementary to the federal conservation reserve program and update any applicable standards from time to time as necessary for the continued success of the program.
- (2) There is hereby created in the state treasury the Kansas water quality buffer initiative fund. All expenditures from such 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 director or the director's designee. Moneys credited to the fund shall be

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used for the purpose of making grants to install water quality best management practices pursuant to the initiative.

- (3) The county-or district appraiser shall identify and map riparian buffers consisting of at least one contiguous acre per parcel of real property located in the appraiser's county. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, riparian buffers shall be valued by the county-or district appraiser as tame grass land, native grass land or waste land, as appropriate. As used in this paragraph, "riparian buffer" means an area of stream-side vegetation that: (A) Consists of tame or native grass and may include forbs and woody plants; (B) is located along a perennial or intermittent stream, including the stream bank and adjoining floodplain; and (C) is a minimum of 66 feet wide and a maximum of 180 feet wide.
- (e) The division, with the approval of the secretary, shall adopt rules and regulations to administer such grant and protection programs. Prior to submission of any proposed rules and regulations of the division to the director of the budget, the secretary of administration and the attorney general in accordance with the rules and regulations filing act, K.S.A. 77-415 et seq., and amendments thereto:
- (1) The director shall submit such proposed rules and regulations to the commission; and
- (2) the commission shall review and make recommendations to the director and the secretary regarding such proposed rules and regulations.
- (f) Any district is authorized to make use of any assistance whatsoever given by the United States, or any agency thereof, or derived from any other source, for the planning and installation of such practices. The division may enter into agreements with other state and federal agencies to implement the Kansas water quality buffer initiative.
- Sec. 4. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 19-425 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-425. The county-or-district appraiser appointed elected under the provisions of this act shall have all the powers and duties vested in and imposed upon county assessors by law except as otherwise provided herein. From and after the effective date of this act-Any reference in the Kansas Statutes Annotated—or, and amendments thereto, to the "assessor" or "county assessor" or words of similar import shall be construed as referring to the "county appraiser." or "districtappraiser." He The county appraiser shall appoint deputy appraisers and fix their salaries with the consent and approval of the board of county commissioners or district board. Each deputy appraiser, before entering upon the duties of-his office, shall take and subscribe to an oath in like manner as that provided for the county-or district appraiser. With the consent and approval of the board of county commissioners or district board, he, the county appraiser may appoint such specialized help as-he may-need be needed to properly assess specific properties and may pay

them such *specialized help* compensation as the board of county commissioners—or district board shall provide. The board of county commissioners—or district board shall furnish—him necessary office space and such clerical help as may be needed to carry out the duties of—his office

- Sec. 5. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 19-432 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-432. (a) The director of property valuation shall maintain a current list of persons eligible to be appointed to the office of appraiser qualified as certified Kansas appraisers. Periodic issuance of this list shall constitute the official list of eligible certified Kansas appraisers who are candidates for appointment. Inclusion on this list shall be made dependent upon successful completion of a written examination as adopted and administered by the director.
- (b) The director of property valuation shall be required to conduct training courses annually for the purpose of training appraisal candidates. These courses shall be designed to prepare students to successfully complete the written examinations required for eligible certified Kansas appraiser status.
- (c) Once certified, an eligible Kansas appraiser may retain that status only through successful completion of additional appraisal courses at intervals as determined by the director of property valuation. The director shall be required to conduct training courses annually for the purpose of providing the additional curriculum required for retention of Kansas appraiser status. The director may accept appraisal courses approved by the Kansas real estate appraisal board pursuant to K.S.A. 58-4105, and amendments thereto, as an alternative to courses conducted by the director's office to fulfill this requirement for the maintenance of eligible certified Kansas appraiser status.
- (1) After notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act, the director of property valuation may remove any person from the list of persons-eligible to be appointed to the office of qualified as a certified Kansas appraiser for any of the following acts or omissions:
- (A) Failing to meet the minimum qualifications established by this section;
- (B) a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, or conviction of: (i) Any crime involving moral turpitude; or (ii) any felony charge; or
- (C) entry of a final civil judgment against the person on grounds of fraud, misrepresentation or deceit in the making of any appraisal of real or personal property.
- (2) Any person removed from the list of persons eligible to be appointed to the office of county qualified as a certified Kansas appraiser under the provisions of this section shall immediately forfeit the office of

county-or district appraiser.

- (3) An appeal may be taken to the state board of tax appeals from any final action of the director of property valuation under the provisions of this section pursuant to K.S.A. 74-2438, and amendments thereto.
- (4) The director of property valuation may relist a person as—aneligible county a certified Kansas appraiser upon a showing of mitigating circumstances, restitution or expungement.
- (d) The board of county commissioners or governing body of any unified government of each county shall immediately notify the director of property valuation when a person no longer holds the office of county appraiser for such county. The notification shall be made on a form provided by the director. If the person no longer holds the office of county appraiser before the expiration of a four-year term or the person does not complete a four-year term, then the notification shall include the reason therefor, unless otherwise precluded by law. The director shall make a notation on any eligibility list record of the person when the person no longer holds the office of county appraiser before the expiration of a four-year term or the person does not complete a four-year term.
- Sec. 6. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 19-433 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-433. The county—or district appraiser appointed under the provisions of this act shall take and subscribe to an oath as *a* county—officials official.
- Sec. 7. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 19-434 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-434. The appraiser of each county—ordistriet appointed under the provisions of this aet shall receive an annual salary in an amount—which that shall be fixed by resolution of the board of county commissioners of the county—or district board of the district.
- Sec. 8. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 19-435 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-435. The board of county commissioners or district board shall allow any appraiser, deputy, or employee-his actual and necessary travel and subsistence expense incurred in the performance of his such duties and shall allow mileage to any such officer, deputy, or employee at the rate prescribed by law for each mile actually and necessarily traveled in a privately owned vehicle in the performance of his such duties.
- Sec. 9. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 19-4110 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-4110. (a) The board of county commissioners of any two or more counties may enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement under K.S.A. 12-2901 et seq., and amendments thereto, to jointly promote economic development at any location or locations within the geographical boundaries of any one or more of such counties in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 19-4101 et seq., and amendments thereto.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any such interlocal cooperation agreement may:

- (1) Provide for the establishment of a strategic, multi-year economic development plan that identifies any capital improvement, infrastructure or other needs, or combination thereof, within the geographical boundaries of the counties which have entered into such agreement and addresses those needs, on a prioritized basis, to promote economic development activities by any public agency, private agency or combination of such agencies within the geographical boundaries of such counties;
- (2) provide for the creation of a separate legal entity that shall be authorized to exercise all powers conferred upon separate legal entities under the provisions of K.S.A. 12-2904a, and amendments thereto, and all powers conferred upon incorporated industrial districts under the provisions of K.S.A. 19-3808, and amendments thereto, within the geographical boundaries of the counties which have entered into such agreement in connection with the execution, implementation, management or conduct, or combination thereof, of the joint or cooperative economic development activities set forth in the agreement;
- (3) provide that the separate legal entity described in subsection (b) (2) shall use any dues, fees, assessments and other financial contributions from member public agencies; any receipts from any general tax levied on all tangible property within the geographical boundaries of all of the counties which have entered into such agreement to support economic development activities set forth in the agreement; any proceeds of bonds, notes, loans or other authorized forms of indebtedness; any grants, gifts or donations from public and private agencies; and any other authorized source of revenue to create an economic development fund to further the objects and purposes set forth in the agreement. Such agreement shall provide that such separate legal entity shall make such expenditures, transfers, including grants and loans and disbursements from the economic development fund deemed necessary or otherwise appropriate in connection with any established economic development project or activity at any location or locations within the geographical boundaries of any one or more of such counties; and
- (4) provide that consideration for participation in the agreement may include a system of revenue-sharing assessments or transfers among and between the counties which have entered into such agreement based on the growth in assessed valuation of the property subject to the interlocal cooperation agreement.
- (c) A copy of the interlocal cooperation agreement shall be filed with the county clerk and provided to the county—or district appraiser of each county—which that has entered into such agreement.
 - (d) The county-or-district appraiser of each county-which that has

entered into the interlocal cooperation agreement shall certify the amount of any increase in assessed valuation of the property subject to the interlocal cooperation agreement and shall furnish such information to the county clerk of each such county on or before June 15 of each year.

- Sec. 10. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 25-101 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-101. (a) On the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year, there shall be held a general election to elect officers as follows:
- (1) At each alternate election, prior to the year in which the term of office of the president and vice-president of the United States will expire, there shall be elected the electors of president and vice-president of the United States to which the state may be entitled at the time of such election:
- (2) at each such election, when the term of a United States senator for this state shall expire during the next year, there shall be elected a United States senator;
- (3) at each such election there shall be elected the representatives in congress to which the state may be entitled at the time of such election;
- (4) at each alternate election, prior to the year in which their regular terms of office will expire, there shall be elected a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer and state commissioner of insurance;
- (5) at each such election there shall be elected such members of the state board of education as provided by law;
- (6) at each such election, when, in a judicial district in which judges of the district court are elected, the term of any district judge expires during the next year, or a vacancy in a district judgeship has been filled by appointment more than 30 days prior to the election, there shall be elected a district judge of such judicial district;
- (7) at each such election, when, in a judicial district in which judges of the district court are elected, the term of any district magistrate judge expires during the next year, or a vacancy in a district magistrate judgeship has been filled by appointment more than 30 days prior to the election, there shall be elected a district magistrate judge of such judicial district;
- (8) at each alternate election, prior to the year in which the regular term of office of state senators shall expire, there shall be elected a state senator in each state senatorial district;
- (9) at each election there shall be elected a representative from each state representative district;
- (10) at each alternate election there shall be elected, in each county, a county clerk, county treasurer, register of deeds, *county appraiser*, county or district attorney, sheriff and such other officers as provided by law; and
 - (11) at each election, when the term of county commissioner in any

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district in any county shall expire during the next year, there shall be elected from such district a county commissioner.

- (b) This section shall apply to the filling of vacancies only so far as is consistent with the provisions of law relating thereto.
- Sec. 11. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 25-213 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-213. (a) At all national and state primary elections, the national and state offices as specified for each in this section shall be printed upon the official primary election ballot for national and state offices and the county and township offices as specified for each in this section shall be printed upon the official primary election ballot for county and township offices.
- (b) The official primary election ballots shall have the following heading:

OFFICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

15 Party
16 To vote for a person whose name is printed o

To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot make a cross or check mark in the square at the left of the person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space, if any is provided, and make a cross or check mark in the square to the left.

The words national and state or the words county and township shall appear on the line preceding the part of the form shown above.

The form shown shall be followed by the names of the persons for whom nomination petitions or declarations have been filed according to law for political parties having primary elections, and for the national and state offices in the following order: United States senator, United States representative from _____ district, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, commissioner of district, representative _____ district, district insurance, senator district, district magistrate judge ____ district, district attorney judicial district, and member state board of education district. For county and township offices the form shall be followed by the names of persons for whom nomination petitions or declarations have been filed according to law for political parties having primary elections in the following order: Commissioner ____ district, county clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, county appraiser, county attorney, sheriff, township trustee, township treasurer, township clerk. When any office is not to be elected, it shall be omitted from the ballot. Other offices to be elected but not listed, shall be inserted in the proper places. For each office there shall be a statement of the number to vote for.

To the left of each name there shall be printed a square. Official primary election ballots may be printed in one or more columns. The names certified by the secretary of state or county election officer shall be

printed on official primary election ballots and no others. In case there are no nomination petitions or declarations on file for any particular office, the title to the office shall be printed on the ballot followed by a blank line with a square, and such title, followed by a blank line, may be printed in the list of candidates published in the official paper. No blank line shall be printed following any office where there are nomination petitions or declarations on file for the office except following the offices of precinct committeeman and precinct committeewoman.

- (c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person's name shall be printed more than once on either the official primary election ballot for national and state offices or the official primary election ballot for county and township offices. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot as a candidate of a political party shall be printed or written in as a candidate for any office on the official primary election ballot of any other political party. If a person is a candidate for the unexpired term for an office, the person's name may be printed on the same ballot as a candidate for the next regular term for such office. The name of any candidate on the ballot may be printed on the same ballot as such candidate and also as a candidate for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot for national and state offices shall be printed or written in elsewhere on the ballot or on the official primary election ballot for county and township offices except for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot for county and township offices shall be printed or written in on the official primary election ballot for national and state offices or elsewhere on the county and township ballot except for precinct committeeman or committeewoman.
- (d) No person shall be elected to the office of precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman where no nomination petitions or declarations have been filed, unless the person receives at least five write-in votes. As a result of a primary election, no person shall receive the nomination and no person's name shall be printed on the official general election ballot when no nomination petitions or declarations were filed, unless the person receives votes equal in number to not less than 5% of the total of the current voter registration designated in the state, county or district in which the office is sought, as compiled by the office of the secretary of state, except that a candidate for township office may receive the nomination and have such person's name printed on the ballot where no nomination petitions or declarations have been filed if such candidate receives three or more write-in votes. No such person shall be required to obtain more than 5,000 votes.
- (e) The secretary of state by rules and regulations shall develop the official ballot for municipal elections in odd-numbered year elections.

(f) A person who won the primary election as a result of the person's name being written in on the primary ballot shall have such person's name printed on the official general election ballot for national, state, county, township or municipal office, unless the person notifies, in writing, the secretary of state for national or state office or the county election office for all other offices within 10 days following the canvass of the primary election that the person does not want such person's name on the official general election ballot.

- (b) The arrangement of offices on the official general ballot for county township offices for those offices to be elected shall be in the following order: Names of candidates for county commissioner district, county clerk, county treasurer, register of deeds, *county appraiser*, county attorney, sheriff, township trustee, township treasurer and township clerk.
- (c) The secretary of state by rules and regulations adopted on or before July 1, 2016, shall develop the order of arrangement of municipal offices on the general election ballot in odd-numbered year elections.
- Sec. 13. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-2433f is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-2433f. (a) There shall be a division of the state board of tax appeals known as the small claims and expedited hearings division. Hearing officers appointed by the chief hearing officer shall have authority to hear and decide cases heard in the small claims and expedited hearings division.
- (b) The small claims and expedited hearings division shall have jurisdiction over hearing and deciding applications for the refund of protested taxes under the provisions of K.S.A. 79-2005, and amendments thereto, and hearing and deciding appeals from decisions rendered pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto, and of article 16 of chapter 79 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, with regard to single-family residential property. The filing of an appeal with the small claims and expedited hearings division shall be a prerequisite for filing an appeal with the state board of tax

appeals for appeals involving single-family residential property.

- (c) At the election of the taxpayer, the small claims and expedited hearings division shall have jurisdiction over: (1) Any appeal of a decision, finding, order or ruling of the director of taxation, except an appeal, finding, order or ruling relating to an assessment issued pursuant to K.S.A. 79-5201 et seq., and amendments thereto, in which the amount of tax in controversy does not exceed \$15,000; (2) hearing and deciding applications for the refund of protested taxes under the provisions of K.S.A. 79-2005, and amendments thereto, where the value of the property, other than property devoted to agricultural use, is less than \$3,000,000 as reflected on the valuation notice; and (3) hearing and deciding appeals from decisions rendered pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto, and of article 16 of chapter 79 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, other than those relating to land devoted to agricultural use, wherein the value of the property is less than \$3,000,000 as reflected on the valuation notice.
- (d) In accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 74-2438, and amendments thereto, any party may elect to appeal any application or decision referenced in subsection (b) to the state board of tax appeals. Except as provided in subsection (b) regarding single-family residential property, the filing of an appeal with the small claims and expedited hearings division shall not be a prerequisite for filing an appeal with the state board of tax appeals under this section. Final decisions of the small claims and expedited hearings division may be appealed to the state board of tax appeals. An appeal of a decision of the small claims and expedited hearings division to the state board of tax appeals shall be de novo. The county bears the burden of proof in any appeal filed by the county pursuant to this section. With regard to any matter properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of valuation of property for taxation purposes pursuant to this subsection, the board shall not increase the appraised valuation of the property to an amount greater than the final determination of appraised value by the county appraiser from which the taxpayer appealed to the small claims and expedited hearings division.
- (e) A taxpayer shall commence a proceeding in the small claims and expedited hearings division by filing a notice of appeal in the form prescribed by the rules of the state board of tax appeals which shall state the nature of the taxpayer's claim. The notice of appeal may be signed by the taxpayer, any person with an executed declaration of representative form from the property valuation division of the department of revenue or any person authorized to represent the taxpayer in subsection (f). Notice of appeal shall be provided to the appropriate unit of government named in the notice of appeal by the taxpayer. In any valuation appeal or tax protest commenced pursuant to articles 14 and 20 of chapter 79 of the Kansas

Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, the hearing shall be conducted in the county where the property is located or a county adjacent thereto. In any appeal from a final determination by the secretary of revenue, the hearing shall be conducted in the county in which the taxpayer resides or a county adjacent thereto.

- (f) The hearing in the small claims and expedited hearings division shall be informal. The hearing officer may hear any testimony and receive any evidence the hearing officer deems necessary or desirable for a just determination of the case. A hearing officer shall have the authority to administer oaths in all matters before the hearing officer. All testimony shall be given under oath. A party may appear personally or may be represented by an attorney, a certified public accountant, a certified general appraiser, a tax representative or agent, a member of the taxpayer's immediate family or an authorized employee of the taxpayer. A county or unified government may be represented by the county appraiser, designee of the county appraiser, county attorney or counselor or other representatives so designated. No transcript of the proceedings shall be kept.
- (g) The hearing in the small claims and expedited hearings division shall be conducted within 60 days after the appeal is filed in the small claims and expedited hearings division unless such time period is waived by the taxpayer. A decision shall be rendered by the hearing officer within 30 days after the hearing is concluded and, in cases arising from appeals described by subsections (b) and (c)(2) and (3), shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasoning upon which such decision is based. Documents provided by a taxpayer or county-or district appraiser shall be returned to the taxpayer or the county-or district appraiser by the hearing officer and shall not become a part of the board's permanent records. Documents provided to the hearing officer shall be confidential and may not be disclosed, except as otherwise specifically provided.
- (h) With regard to any matter properly submitted to the division relating to the determination of valuation of property 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. No presumption shall exist in favor of the county appraiser with respect to the validity and correctness of such determination. With regard to leased commercial and industrial property, the burden of proof shall be on the taxpayer unless the taxpayer has furnished the county—or district appraiser, within 30 calendar days following the informal meeting required by K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto, or within 30 calendar days following the informal meeting required by K.S.A. 79-2005, and amendments thereto, a complete income and expense statement for the property for the three years next

preceding the year of appeal. Such income and expense statement shall be in such format that is regularly maintained by the taxpayer in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's business. If the taxpayer submits a single property appraisal with an effective date of January 1 of the year appealed, the burden of proof shall return to the county appraiser. With regard to any matter properly submitted to the division relating to the determination of valuation of property for taxation purposes, the hearing officer shall not increase the appraised valuation of the property to an amount greater than the final determination of appraised value by the county appraiser from which the taxpayer appealed.

- Sec. 14. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 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 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 appraiser to demonstrate compliance with such methodologies.
- Sec. 15. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 75-5105a is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-5105a. The director of property valuation shall:
- (a) Devise and prescribe uniform assessment forms and records, property-identification maps, land-classification maps, land-value maps, permanent record cards, and other essential assessment tools, and to assist each county with the installation and maintenance of the same.
- (b) Devise or prescribe guides, or both, for the valuation of personal property. The director of property valuation may furnish to each county one copy of each guide so prescribed and a copy or copies of each guide so devised. In the preparation of such guides, the director of property valuation shall confer with representatives of the county appraisers—and—district appraisers, and shall seek counsel from official representatives of organized groups interested in and familiar with the value of classes of property with which they are concerned.
- (c) Render all assistance possible toward uniform assessments within the counties and throughout the state.
- (d) Assist county appraisers—and district appraisers to determine the fair market value in money of nonstate assessed properties, the valuation of which requires specialized technical knowledge.
- (e) Compile sales ratio data as provided by K.S.A. 79-1486 through 79-1493, and amendments thereto, and to analyze such assessment data.
 - (f) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.
 - Sec. 16. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-201q is hereby

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amended to read as follows: 79-201q. The following described property, to the extent herein specified, shall be and is hereby exempt from all property or ad valorem taxes levied under the laws of the state of Kansas:

- (a) (1) All property owned and primarily operated as an airport by a political subdivision, including property leased by the political subdivision for purposes not essential to the operation of an airport, for all taxable years commencing before January 1, 1993.
- (2) For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1992, all property owned and primarily operated as an airport by a political subdivision, including property leased by the political subdivision for purposes essential to the operation of an airport. Payments in lieu of property taxes may be required for any or all of such years for such leased property, and such payments shall be apportioned and distributed in the same manner as general property taxes.
- (b) If the term of any lease existing on April 15, 1991, of any such property for purposes not essential to the operation of an airport extends beyond tax year 1992, the expiration date of the exemption provided by subsection (a) shall be the tax year next following the tax year during which such lease expires. Payments in lieu of taxes may be required for taxable years commencing after December 31, 1992, for any such property for the duration of any such lease, and all such payments shall be apportioned and distributed in the same manner as general property taxes.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to apply to or limit the operation of K.S.A. 27-319, 27-330 or 79-201a *Second*, and amendments thereto.
- (d) All property taxes, including any penalties and interest accrued thereon, imposed upon any property described in subsection (a) and (b) for all taxable years to which such subsections apply are hereby declared to be canceled but any such amounts paid in any such year shall not be refunded except that with respect to Liberal municipal airport such amounts shall be refunded.
- (e) The county—or district appraiser shall value the land and improvements, and the value of the land and improvements may be entered on the assessment rolls in separate entries and descriptions. The provisions of this subsection shall be applicable to all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1992.
- Sec. 17. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-201s is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-201s. (a) For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1991, all property owned and primarily operated as an airport by an airport authority established under K.S.A. 3-162 et seq., and amendments thereto, including property leased by the airport authority for aviation related purposes, shall be exempt from all property or ad valorem taxes levied under the laws of this state. If the term

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of any lease existing on April 15, 1991, of any property for purposes not aviation related extends beyond tax year 1991, such property shall be exempt from all property or ad valorem taxes levied under the laws of this state until the tax year next following the tax year during which such lease expires.

- (b) All property or ad valorem taxes, including any penalties and interest accrued thereon, imposed upon any property described by subsection (a) for all taxable years commencing prior to January 1, 1992, are hereby declared to be canceled.
- (c) The county—or district appraiser shall value the land and improvements, and the value of the land and improvements may be entered on the assessment rolls in separate entries and descriptions. The provisions of this subsection shall be applicable to all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1991.
- Sec. 18. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-412 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-412. It shall be the duty of the county-or district appraiser to value the land and improvements. The value of the land and improvements shall be entered on the assessment roll in a single aggregate, except as hereinafter provided. Improvements owned by entities other than the owner of the land shall be assessed to the owners of such improvements, if the lease agreement has been recorded or filed in the office of the register of deeds. The words "building on leased ground" shall appear on the first page of the lease agreement. It shall be the responsibility of the person recording or filing the lease agreement to include such words as provided in this section. Failure to include such words as provided in this section may result in such improvements being assessed to the owner of the land. As used in this section, the term "person" means any individual, business, domestic or foreign corporation, partnership or association. Delinquent taxes imposed on such improvements may be collected by levy and sale of the interests of such owners the same as in cases of the collection of taxes on personal property.
- Sec. 19. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-5a04 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-5a04. The director of property valuation shall annually determine the fair market value of public utility property, both real and personal, tangible and intangible, of every public utility as defined in-subsection (a) of K.S.A. 79-5a01(a), and amendments thereto.

As used in this section, "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. For the purposes of this definition, it shall be assumed that consummation of a sale occurs as of January 1.

The division of property valuation in determining the fair market value

of public utility property shall, where practicable, determine the unit valuation, allocated to Kansas, and in doing so shall use generally accepted appraisal procedures developed through the appraisal process and may consider, including but not by way of exclusion, the following factors:

(a) Original cost.

- (b) Original cost less depreciation or reproduction cost less depreciation, or both, or replacement cost new less depreciation, except that where either method is used proper allowance and deduction shall be made for functional or economic obsolescence and for operation of nonprofitable facilities which necessitate regulatory body approval to eliminate.
- (c) The market or actual value of all outstanding capital stock and debt.
- (d) The utility operating income, capitalized in the manner and at such rate or rates as shall be just and reasonable.
- (e) Such other information or evidence as to value as may be obtained that will enable the property valuation department to determine the fair market value of the property of such public utility.

The fair market value of affiliated properties separately assessed, or the nonoperating properties of such companies, or both, shall be ascertained and determined as nearly as possible and deducted from the total unit value of the properties of such companies if such properties are included in the unit value. Except for the property of any entity enumerated in subsection (b) of K.S.A. 79-5a01(b), and amendments thereto, and insofar as it is practicable to do so, the same method of evaluating the properties of the companies separately assessed or nonoperating properties, or both, shall be used as was used in determining the unit value of such companies. All property of any entity enumerated in subsection (b) of K.S.A. 79-5a01(b), and amendments thereto, shall be valued by the county-or district appraiser in the same manner as provided by law for the valuation of the same type or class of property in the county.

Sec. 20. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1404 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1404. It shall be the duty of the director of property valuation, and the director shall have the power and authority:

First.—(a) To have and exercise general supervision over the administration of the assessment and tax laws of the state, over the county and district appraisers, boards of county commissioners, county boards of equalization, and all other boards of levy and assessment, to the end that all—assessments valuations of property, real, personal, and mixed, be made relatively just and uniform and at its true and full eash fair market value unless otherwise specified by law; to require all county—and district—appraisers, and county commissioners—and county boards of equalization, under penalty of forfeiture and removal from office as such appraisers or

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boards, to assess all property of every kind and character at its-actual and full eash fair market value unless otherwise specified by law.

Second. (b) To confer with, advise and direct county—and district appraisers, boards of commissioners, boards of equalization and others obligated under the law to make levies and assessments, as to their duties under the statutes of the state.

Third.—(c) To direct proceedings, actions and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce the laws relating to the penalties, liabilities and punishment of public officers, persons and officers or agents of corporations for failure or neglect to comply with orders of the director of property valuation, or with the provisions of the statutes governing the return, assessment and taxation of property; and to cause complaints to be made against county-and district appraisers, county commissioners, county boards of equalization, or other assessing or taxing officers, in the courts of proper jurisdiction, for their removal from office for official misconduct or neglect of duty.

Fourth.—(d) To require the attorney general, or county attorneys in their respective counties, to assist in the commencement and prosecution of actions and proceedings for penalties, forfeitures, removals and punishments for violations of the laws of the state in respect to the assessment and taxation of property; or to represent the director of property valuation in any litigation in which the director may become involved in the discharge of the director's duties.

Fifth.—(e) To require township, city, county, state or other public officers to report information as to the assessment of property, collection of taxes, receipts from licenses and other sources, the expenditure of public funds for all purposes; and such other information as may be needful needed or desirable in the work of the director of property valuation, in such form and upon such blanks as the director of property valuation may prescribe. Also, to make and prosecute such research and investigation as to the detailed properties of corporations, the business, income, reasonable expenditures and—true values of the franchise and properties of all public service corporations doing business in this state, as will enable the director of property valuation to ascertain a fair and equitable basis of assessing the same and of making and recommending proper legislation to the legislature, from time to time, and to direct the local assessing and taxing officers in making such assessments.

Sixth:(f) To require individuals, partnerships, companies, associations, joint-stock companies and corporations to furnish information concerning their capital, funded or other debts, current assets and liabilities, value of property, earnings, operating and other expenses, taxes and other charges, and all other facts which may be needful needed or desirable to enable the director of property valuation to ascertain the value and relative burdens

borne by all kinds of property in the state.

Seventh. (g) To summon witnesses from any part of the state to appear and give testimony, and to compel said witnesses to produce records, books, papers and documents relating to any subject or matter which the director of property valuation shall have authority to investigate or determine, subject to the restrictions of K.S.A. 79-1424, and amendments thereto.

Eighth.—(h) To cause the deposition of witnesses residing within or without the state, or absent therefrom, to be taken, upon notice to the interested parties, if any, in like manner that depositions of witnesses are taken in civil actions pending in the district court, in any matter—which that the director of property valuation shall have authority to investigate and determine.

Ninth. (i) To investigate the work and methods of county-and district appraisers; and boards of county commissions—and county boards of equalization in the assessment, equalization and taxation of all kinds of property, by visiting the counties of the state.

Tenth.—(j) To carefully examine into all cases where evasion or violation of the laws for assessment and taxation of property is alleged, complained of, or discovered, and to ascertain wherein existing laws are defective, or are improperly or negligently administered, and to prepare and recommend measures best calculated to remedy the defects discovered.

Eleventh.—(k) To investigate the tax systems of other states and countries,—and to formulate and recommend such legislation as may be deemed expedient to prevent evasion of assessment and tax laws; and to secure just and equal taxation and improvement in the system of taxation in the state.

Twelfth.—(1) To inquire into the system of accounting and auditing public funds in use in townships, cities, counties and state; and to devise and prescribe a uniform system of auditing and accounting of the receipts and disbursements of public funds in the municipalities of the state.

Thirteenth.—(m) To consult and confer with the governor and attorney general of the state upon the subject of taxation, the administration of the laws in relation thereto, and the progress of the work of the director of property valuation, and to furnish the governor, from time to time, such assistance and information as the director may require.

Fourteenth.—(n) To transmit to the governor and to each member of the legislature, 30 days before the meeting of the legislature, the report of the director of property valuation, covering the subject of assessment and taxation, the results of the investigations of the director of property valuation, and the director's recommendations for improvement in the system of taxation in the state, together with such measures as may be

formulated for the consideration of the legislature.

Fifteenth.—(o) To make appraisement and assessment of all railroads and the property of railroad corporations, excepting such real estate as is not used in the daily operation of its railroad, of all telegraph lines and property, of all telephone lines and property, the property of all express companies, sleeping car companies, and private car lines, doing business within the state of Kansas, of gas pipe lines and property, of all oil pipe lines and property, of all street railroads, electric lines and property; and all express company property, within and without corporate limits of cities, doing business in the state.

To require any county board of equalization, at any Sixteenth.—(p) time after its adjournment, to reconvene and to make such orders as the director of property valuation shall determine are just and necessary, and to direct and order such county boards of equalization to raise or lower the valuation of the property, real or personal, in any township or city, and to raise or lower the valuation of the property of any person, company, or corporation; and to order and direct any county board of equalization to raise or lower the valuation of any class or classes of property; and generally-to do and perform any act or to make any order or direction to any county board of equalization or any county or district appraiser as to the valuation of any property or any class of property in any township, city or county—which that, in the judgment of said the director of property valuation, may seem just and necessary, to the end that all property shall be valued and assessed in the same manner and to the same extent as any and all other property, real or personal, required to be listed for taxation.

Seventeenth. (q) To extend all statutory deadlines prescribed for the mailing of valuation notices, certification of appraisal rolls and the completion of valuation and classification hearings which, in the judgment of the director of property valuation, may seem just and necessary to secure the orderly operation of the system of property taxation within the state, except that the director shall not have the authority to extend the deadlines prescribed by K.S.A. 79-2005, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 21. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1404a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1404a. The director of property valuation shall have authority to review any valuation change made by a county—or district appraiser pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1448 and 79-2005, and amendments thereto, or a hearing officer or panel pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1606, and amendments thereto, and may rescind such change upon written findings that such change has caused property not to be valued according to law, provided however, no valuation change shall be rescinded more than 60 days after the date of such change. Any party aggrieved by an order of the director of property valuation rescinding a valuation change may appeal such order to the state board of tax appeals as provided in

K.S.A. 74-2438, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 22. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1411b is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1411b. Each county shall comprise a separate assessment district, and the county-or district appraiser shall have the duty of appraising all tangible property in this county.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this act which require persons, associations, companies or corporations to list tangible personal property for assessment, the county-or district appraiser also shall have the duty of listing and appraising all taxable tangible personal property in his or her county used in, owned by, held, or in possession of a business. The board of county commissioners of each county, after consultation with the county or district appraiser, shall determine the most practical method of providing for the listing and appraising of all tangible property as provided herein in this section.

The county-or district appraiser shall with the consent of the board of county commissioners appoint such township trustees, assistants, appraisers, and other employees as are required to carry out the provisions of this act and to give such assistance to taxpayers as is necessary.

The county commissioners shall require every employee performing appraisal analysis functions to attend appraisal schools conducted or approved by the director of property valuation or to establish to the satisfaction of the director of property valuation that such employee has received the necessary training to perform such functions.

- Sec. 23. On and after January 1, 2025, 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.*—(1) 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. (2) 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. (3) Prepare the appraisal roll and certify such rolls to the county clerk.
- *Fifth.* (4) Supervise the township trustees, assistants, appraisers and other employees appointed by the appraiser in the performance of their duties.
- Sixth. (5) 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. (6) Carry on continuously throughout the year the process of appraising real property.

Eighth. (7) 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. (8) 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 that was conducted for the purpose of obtaining mortgage financing;
- (2) any fee appraisal with an effective date more than 12 months prior to January 1 of the valuation year under appeal; or
 - (3) documents detailing individual lease agreements.

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. 24. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1413a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1413a. Whenever upon complaint made to the state board of tax appeals by the county—or district appraiser, the director of property valuation, the board of county commissioners, any property taxpayer or any aggrieved party, and a summary proceeding in that behalf had, it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the board that the appraisal of real property or tangible personal property in any county is not in substantial compliance with law and the guidelines and timetables prescribed by the director of property valuation, and that the

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interest of the public will be promoted by a reappraisal of such property. the state board of tax appeals shall order a reappraisal of all or any part of the property in such county to be made by one or more persons, to be appointed by the state board of tax appeals for that purpose, the expense of any such reappraisal to be borne by the county in which is situated the property to be reappraised. The state board of tax appeals shall, upon its own motion, after a hearing, order any such reappraisal if it shall clearly appear that the public would be benefited thereby. Due notice of the time and place fixed for such summary proceeding or hearing shall be mailed to the county clerk and the county appraiser of the county involved, the director of property valuation, who shall be made a party to the proceeding, and to the party filing any such complaint. Upon ordering such a reappraisal the state board of tax appeals may order all or any part of the taxable real property and tangible personal property in such county to be reappraised, and shall either designate the person or persons to make such reappraisal or permit the board of county commissioners to designate such persons with the approval of the state board of tax appeals. The cost of such reappraisal shall be paid from the county general fund, the special countywide reappraisal fund established by K.S.A. 79-1482, and amendments thereto, the issuance of no-fund warrants, or from a special assessment equalization fund in the same manner as provided in K.S.A. 79-1607 and 79-1608, and amendments thereto, for the payment of the cost of appraisals.

The persons designated shall have access to all official records in the office of the county clerk, county treasurer, county-or district appraiser and register of deeds pertaining to listing, assessment, and records of the ownership of real property and tangible personal property in such county and all powers of the assessing officials in the county pertaining to discovery of taxable property in the county. They shall reappraise all such taxable real property and tangible personal property in the county as shall be ordered by the state board of tax appeals, except that which is state assessed. They shall make such reappraisals on forms approved by the state director of property valuation, and shall deliver the same upon completion to the county-or district appraiser who shall retain the same for use of the county-or district appraisers, the county-board of equalization and the state board of tax appeals.

No person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association, other than the county-or district appraiser, shall commence any contracted reappraisal in any county until a written agreement has been entered into between the board of county commissioners and such contractors. Such agreement shall specifically set out the duties of the reappraisers, and shall contain a stipulation that upon completion of the reappraisal and before final payment to the reappraisers under the agreement, the reappraisers will

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notify each taxpayer of its recommendations as to the valuation of such taxpayer's property, by mailing such information to the taxpayer's last known address. Pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1460, and amendments thereto, the county or district appraiser shall not be authorized to use the valuations submitted by the reappraisers in the year the reappraisal was completed unless the reappraisal was completed and delivered to such appraiser on or before March 1 of the year in which the valuations established are used as a basis for the levy of taxes. Before entering into any contracts with the county commissioners for reappraisals of property, every reappraiser shall give and file with the board of county commissioners a good and sufficient surety bond by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, approved by the county attorney, in such sum as the county commissioners shall fix, but not less than the amount to be received by the reappraisers under the terms of the contract and conditioned for the faithful performance of all duties required of such reappraisers under the terms of the contract entered into, and the execution and filing of such a bond shall be a condition precedent to entering into such an agreement and to commencing work on the contract of reappraisal. Such bond shall be further conditioned to remain in full force and effect for one year subsequent to the date of the printing of the change of value notices for the reappraisal and the delivery thereof to the county or district appraiser.

Sec. 25. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1420 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1420. If any person, association, company, corporation or personal property tax rendition form preparer shall knowingly give a false or fraudulent list, schedule or statement, or shall willfully fail to disclose any personal property taxable under the laws of this state, or shall understate the value of any property taxable under the laws of this state, or shall fail or refuse to deliver to the county-or district appraiser, when called upon to do so by a certified letter from such appraiser, a list of the taxable property which under the laws of this state is required to be listed, or shall temporarily convert any part of such property into property not taxable or shall remove such property from the county or state for the fraudulent purpose of preventing such property from being listed, or of evading the payment of taxes thereon, or shall transfer or transmit any property to any person with such intent, he or she or it shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000. Prosecutions under this act shall be brought by the county or district attorney in the district court of the proper county, upon the verified complaint of the director of property valuation or the county-or district appraiser.

Sec. 26. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 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

SB 323 25

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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 amendments thereto, for real property, and on or before May 15 for personal property. The county appraiser or the appraiser's designee shall arrange to hold an informal meeting with the aggrieved taxpayer with reference to the property in question. At such meeting it shall be the duty of the county appraiser or the county appraiser's designee to initiate production of evidence to substantiate the valuation of such property, including, a summary of the reasons that the 10 valuation of the property has been increased over the previous year, any assumptions used by the county appraiser to determine the value of the property and a description of the individual property characteristics, property specific valuation records and conclusions. The taxpayer shall be provided with the opportunity to review the data sheets applicable to the valuation approach utilized for the subject property. The county appraiser shall take into account any evidence provided by the taxpaver which relates to the amount of deferred maintenance and depreciation for the property. In any appeal from the appraisal of leased commercial and industrial property, the county-or district appraiser's appraised value shall be presumed to be valid and correct and may only be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence, unless the property owner furnishes the county-or district appraiser a complete income and expense statement for the property for the three years next preceding the year of appeal within 30 calendar days following the informal meeting. In any appeal from the reclassification of property that was classified as land devoted to agricultural use for the preceding year, the taxpayer's classification of the property as land devoted to agricultural use shall be presumed to be valid and correct if the taxpaver provides an executed lease agreement or other documentation demonstrating a commitment to use the property for agricultural use, if no other actual use is evident. The county appraiser may extend the time in which the taxpaver may informally appeal from the classification or appraisal of the taxpayer's property for just and adequate reasons. Except as provided in K.S.A. 79-1404, and amendments thereto, no informal meeting regarding real property shall be scheduled to take place after May 15, nor shall a final determination be given by the appraiser after May 20. Any final determination shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasoning upon which such determination is based when such determination is not in favor of the taxpayer. The county appraiser shall not increase the appraised valuation of the property as a result of the informal meeting. Any taxpayer who is aggrieved by the final determination of the county appraiser may appeal to the hearing officer or panel appointed pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1611, and amendments thereto, and such hearing officer, or panel, for just cause shown and recorded, is

authorized to change the classification or valuation of specific tracts or individual items of real or personal property in the same manner provided for in K.S.A. 79-1606, and amendments thereto. In lieu of appealing to a hearing officer or panel appointed pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1611, and amendments thereto, any taxpayer aggrieved by the final determination of the county appraiser, except with regard to land devoted to agricultural use, wherein the value of the property, is less than \$3,000,000, as reflected on the valuation notice, or the property constitutes single family residential property, may appeal to the small claims and expedited hearings division of the state board of tax appeals within the time period prescribed by K.S.A. 79-1606, and amendments thereto. Any taxpayer who is aggrieved by the final determination of a hearing officer 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 appraiser or the appraiser's designee shall be a condition precedent to an appeal to the county-or district hearing panel.

Sec. 27. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1455 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1455. Except for counties which have formed appraisal districts pursuant to K.S.A. 19-425 et seq., Each county shall comprise a separate appraisal unit, and the county appraiser shall have the duty of appraising all real and tangible personal property in the county.

District appraisers shall have the powers and duties vested in and imposed upon county appraisers. The term "county appraiser" shall be construed to include "district appraiser."

Each year all taxable and exempt real and tangible personal property shall be appraised by the county appraiser at its fair market value as of January 1 in accordance with K.S.A. 79-503a, and amendments thereto, unless otherwise specified by law.

Sec. 28. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 79-1460 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1460. (a) The county appraiser shall notify each taxpayer in the county annually on or before March 1 for real property and May 1 for personal property, by mail directed to the taxpayer's last known address, of the classification and appraised valuation of the taxpayer's property, except that, the valuation for all real property shall not be increased unless the record of the latest physical inspection was reviewed by the county-or district appraiser, and documentation exists to support such increase in valuation in compliance with the directives and specifications of the director of property valuation, and such record and documentation is available to the affected taxpayer. The valuation for all real property also shall not be increased solely as the result of normal repair, replacement or maintenance of existing structures, equipment or improvements on the property. For purposes of this section, "normal

1 repair, replacement or maintenance" does not include new construction as 2 defined in this section. For the next two taxable years following the 3 taxable year that the valuation for commercial real property has been 4 reduced due to a final determination made pursuant to the valuation 5 appeals process, the county appraiser shall review the computer-assisted 6 mass-appraisal of the property and if the valuation in either of those two 7 years exceeds the value of the previous year by more than 5%, excluding 8 new construction, change in use or change in classification, the county 9 appraiser shall either: (1) Adjust the valuation of the property based on the 10 information provided in the previous appeal; or (2) order an independent fee simple appraisal of the property to be performed by a Kansas certified 11 12 real property appraiser. As used in this section, "new construction" means 13 the construction of any new structure or improvements or the remodeling 14 or renovation of any existing structures or improvements on real property. 15 When the valuation for real property has been reduced due to a final 16 determination made pursuant to the valuation appeals process for the prior 17 year, and the county appraiser has already certified the appraisal rolls for 18 the current year to the county clerk pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1466, and 19 amendments thereto, the county appraiser may amend the appraisal rolls 20 and certify the changes to the county clerk to implement the provisions of 21 this subsection and reduce the valuation of the real property to the prior 22 year's final determination, except that such changes shall not be made after 23 October 31 of the current year. For the purposes of this section and in the 24 case of real property, the term "taxpayer" shall be deemed to be the person 25 in ownership of the property as indicated on the records of the office of 26 register of deeds or county clerk and, in the case where the real property or 27 improvement thereon is the subject of a lease agreement, such term shall 28 also be deemed to include the lessee of such property if the lease 29 agreement has been recorded or filed in the office of the register of deeds. 30 Such notice shall specify separately both the previous and current 31 appraised and assessed values for each property class identified on the 32 parcel. Such notice shall also contain the uniform parcel identification 33 number prescribed by the director of property valuation. Such notice shall 34 also contain a statement of the taxpayer's right to appeal, the procedure to 35 be followed in making such appeal and the availability without charge of 36 the guide devised pursuant to subsection (b). Such notice may, and if the 37 board of county commissioners so require, shall provide the parcel 38 identification number, address and the sale date and amount of any or all 39 sales utilized in the determination of appraised value of residential real 40 property. In any year in which no change in appraised valuation of any real 41 property from its appraised valuation in the next preceding year is 42 determined, an alternative form of notification which has been approved 43 by the director of property valuation may be utilized by a county. Failure

 to timely mail or receive such notice shall in no way invalidate the classification or appraised valuation as changed. The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

- (b) For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1999, there shall be provided to each taxpayer, upon request, a guide to the property tax appeals process. The director of the division of property valuation shall devise and publish such guide, and shall provide sufficient copies thereof to all county appraisers. Such guide shall include but not be limited to: (1) A restatement of the law which pertains to the process and practice of property appraisal methodology, including the contents of K.S.A. 79-503a and 79-1460, and amendments thereto; (2) the procedures of the appeals process, including the order and burden of proof of each party and time frames required by law; and (3) such other information deemed necessary to educate and enable a taxpayer to properly and competently pursue an appraisal appeal.
- Sec. 29. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1460a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1460a. Annually, at least 10 business days prior to the mailing of change of valuation notices pursuant to K.S.A. 79-1460, and amendments thereto, the county-or district appraiser shall cause to be published in the official county newspaper and on the official county website, if the county maintains a county website, the results of the market study analysis as prescribed by the director of the division of property valuation of the department of revenue.
- Sec. 30. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1466 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1466. Commencing on January 1 of each year, the county-or district appraiser shall transmit the taxable real property appraisals and the exempt real property appraisals to the county clerk continually upon the completion thereof.

Upon completion of transmission of such appraisals to the county clerk, on or before June 1 of each year, the county—or district appraiser shall deliver a document certifying that such appraisals constitute the complete appraisal rolls for real property.

The taxable real property appraisal roll shall consist of all real property appraisals which in aggregate list all taxable land and improvements located within the county.

The exempt real property appraisal roll shall consist of all real property appraisals which in aggregate list all exempt land and improvements located within the county.

All transmissions required by this section may be made electronically.

Sec. 31. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1467 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1467. Commencing on January 1 of each year, the county-or district appraiser shall transmit the taxable personal

property appraisals to the county clerk continually upon the completion thereof. Upon completion of transmission of such appraisals to the county clerk, on or before June 1 each year, the county-or district appraiser shall deliver a document certifying that such appraisals constitute the complete appraisal rolls for personal property except for personal property which may be subject to investigation and valuation pursuant to law or personal property which may have escaped appraisal in any year, in which cases the appraiser shall transmit to the clerk, upon completion, the appraisals of such property and the clerk shall add the same to the taxable personal property roll at such time.

The taxable personal property roll shall consist of all personal property appraisals completed by the county-or district appraiser.

The exempt personal property roll shall include all personal property appraisals completed by the county—or district appraiser on personal property that is exempt from ad valorem taxation and is required to be listed with the county—or district appraiser.

All transmissions required by this section may be made electronically.

Sec. 32. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 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.

Compilation of data for the initial preparation or updating of inventories for each parcel of real property and entry thereof into the state eomputer 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 eomplete, 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

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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 natural resources conservation service. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1989, all land devoted to agricultural use that 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, except that for all taxable years commencing after December 31, 2022, all land devoted to agricultural use that is subject to the federal grassland conservation reserve program (CRP grasslands) shall be classified as grassland 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 that 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 that 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 natural resources 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 that 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 that 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 that 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 that 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 means and includes land, regardless of whether it is located in the unincorporated area of the county or within the corporate limits of a city, that 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; and nursery, floral, ornamental and greenhouse products. "Land devoted to agricultural use"-shall-include includes 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. "Land devoted to agricultural use"-shall-includes land that is utilized by zoos that hold a valid class C exhibitor license issued by the United States department of agriculture. "Land devoted to agricultural use"-shall include includes land otherwise devoted to the production of plants, animals or horticultural products that is incidentally used for agritourism activity. For purposes of this section, "agritourism activity" means any activity that allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment or educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including, but not limited to, farming activities, ranching

activities or historic, cultural or natural attractions. An activity may be an "agritourism activity" whether or not the participant pays to participate in the activity. An activity is not an "agritourism activity" if the participant is paid to participate in the activity. If a parcel has land devoted to agricultural purposes and land used for suburban residential acreages, rural home sites or farm home sites, the county appraiser shall determine the amount of the parcel used for agricultural purposes and value 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 and assess that land according to its use.

The term "expenses"—shall mean means 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 does 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. 33. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1479 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1479. (a) On or before January 15, 1992, and quarterly thereafter, the county-or district appraiser shall submit to the director of property valuation a progress report indicating actions taken during the preceding quarter calendar year to implement the appraisal of property in the county-or district. Whenever the director of property valuation shall determine that any county has failed, neglected or refused to properly provide for the appraisal of property or the updating of the appraisals on an annual basis in substantial compliance with the provisions of law and the guidelines and timetables prescribed by the director, the director shall file with the state board of tax appeals a complaint stating the facts upon which the director has made the determination of noncompliance as provided by K.S.A. 79-1413a, and amendments thereto. If, as a result of such proceeding, the state board of tax appeals finds that the county is not in substantial compliance with the provisions of law and the guidelines and timetables of the director of property valuation providing for the appraisal of all property in the county or the updating of the appraisals on an annual basis, it shall order the immediate assumption of the duties of the office of county appraiser by the director of the division of property valuation until such time as the director of property valuation determines that the county is in substantial compliance with the provisions of law. In addition, the board shall order the state treasurer to

 withhold all or a portion of the county's entitlement to moneys from either or both of the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and the city and county revenue sharing fund for the year following the year in which the order is issued. Upon service of any such order on the board of county commissioners, the appraiser shall immediately deliver to the director of property valuation, or the director's designee, all books, records and papers pertaining to the appraiser's office.

Any county for which the director of the division of property valuation is ordered by the state board of tax appeals to assume the responsibility and duties of the office of county appraiser shall reimburse the state for the actual costs incurred by the director of the division of property valuation in the assumption and carrying out of such responsibility and duties, including any contracting costs in the event it is necessary for the director of property valuation to contract with private appraisal firms to carry out such responsibilities and duties.

(b) On or before June 1 of each year, the director of property valuation shall review the appraisal of property in each county-or district to determine if property within the county-or district is being appraised or valued in accordance with the requirements of law. If the director determines the property in any county-or district is not being appraised in accordance with the requirements of law, the director of property valuation shall notify the county-or district appraiser and the board of county commissioners of any county-or counties affected that the county has 30 days within which to submit to the director a plan for bringing the appraisal of property within the county into compliance.

If a plan is submitted and approved by the director the county-or district shall proceed to implement the plan as submitted. The director shall continue to monitor the program to insure that the plan is implemented as submitted. If no plan is submitted or if the director does not approve the plan, the director shall petition the state board of tax appeals for a review of the plan or, if no plan is submitted, for authority for the division of property valuation to assume control of the appraisal program of the county and to proceed to bring the same into compliance with the requirements of law.

If the state board of tax appeals approves the plan, the county-or district appraiser shall proceed to implement the plan as submitted. If no plan has been submitted or the plan submitted is not approved, the board shall fix a time within which the county may submit a plan or an amended plan for approval. If no plan is submitted and approved within the time prescribed by the board, the board shall order the division of property valuation to assume control of the appraisal program of the county and shall certify its order to the state treasurer who shall withhold distributions of the county's share of moneys from the county and city revenue sharing fund and the

 local ad valorem tax reduction fund and credit the same to the general fund of the state for the year following the year in which the board's order is made. The director of property valuation shall certify the amount of the cost incurred by the division in bringing the program in compliance to the state board of tax appeals. The board shall order the county commissioners to reimburse the state for such costs.

- (c) The state board of tax appeals shall within 60 days after the publication of the Kansas assessment/sales ratio study review such publication to determine county compliance with K.S.A. 79-1439, and amendments thereto. If in the determination of the board one or more counties are not in substantial compliance and the director of property valuation has not acted under subsection (b), the board shall order the director of property valuation to take such corrective action as is necessary or to show cause for noncompliance.
- Sec. 34. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1481 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1481. No hearing officer or panel shall issue an order applicable uniformly to all property in any class in any area or areas of the county, which order changes the assessment of such class of property in such area or areas, without the approval of the state board of tax appeals. Whenever any hearing officer or panel proposes to issue any such order, it shall make written application to the state board of tax appeals for a hearing on such matter if such change constitutes the final decision of the county. The state board of tax appeals shall set a time and place for a hearing thereon within five days of receipt of such application. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. The time set for hearing such matter shall in no event be more than 30 days following the date of receipt of such application. The state board of tax appeals shall notify the hearing officer or panel, the county-or district appraiser and the director of property valuation, of the time and place set for hearing. The director of property valuation shall be made a party to such hearing.
- Sec. 35. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 79-1606 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1606. (a) The county-or district appraiser, hearing officer or panel and arbitrator shall adopt, use and maintain the following records, the form and method of use of which shall be prescribed by the director of property valuation: (1) Appeal form₅; (2) hearing docket₅; and (3) record of cases, including the disposition thereof.
- (b) The county clerk shall furnish appeal forms to any taxpayer who desires to appeal the final determination of the county or district appraiser as provided in K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto. Any such appeal shall be in writing and filed with the county clerk within 18 days of the date that the final determination of the appraiser was mailed to the taxpayer.

 (c) The hearing officer or panel shall hear and determine any appeal made by any taxpayer or such taxpayer's agent or attorney. All such hearings shall be held in a suitable place in the county—or district. Sufficient evening and Saturday hearings shall be provided as shall be necessary to hear all parties making requests for hearings at such times.

(d) Every appeal so filed shall be set for hearing by the hearing officer or panel, which hearing shall be held on or before July 1, and the hearing officer or panel shall have no authority to be in session thereafter, except as provided in K.S.A. 79-1404, and amendments thereto. The county clerk shall notify each appellant and the county-or district appraiser of the date for hearing of the taxpayer's appeal at least 10 days in advance of such hearing. 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 the classification or appraisal of residential property or real property used for commercial and industrial purposes, 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-proceeding preceding the year of appeal. No presumption shall exist in favor of the county-or district appraiser with respect to the validity or correctness of any such classification or valuation. Every such appeal shall be determined by order of the hearing officer or panel which shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasoning upon which such order is based. Such order shall be recorded in the minutes of such hearing officer or panel on or before July 5. Such recorded orders and minutes shall be open to public inspection. Notice as to disposition of the appeal shall be mailed by the county clerk to the taxpayer and the county-or district appraiser within five days after the determination.

Sec. 36. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 79-1609 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1609. Any person aggrieved by any order of the hearing officer or panel, or by the classification and appraisal of an independent appraiser, as provided in K.S.A. 79-5b03, and amendments thereto, may appeal to the state board of tax appeals by filing a written notice of appeal, on forms approved by the state board of tax appeals and provided by the county clerk for such purpose, stating the grounds thereof and a description of any comparable property or properties and the appraisal thereof upon which they rely as evidence of inequality of the appraisal of their property, if that be a ground of the appeal, with the state board of tax appeals and by filing a copy thereof with the county clerk within 30 days after the date of the order from which the appeal is taken. The notice of appeal may be signed by the taxpayer, any person with an executed declaration of representative form from the property

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valuation division of the department of revenue or any person authorized 1 2 to represent the taxpayer in K.S.A. 74-2433f(f), and amendments thereto. 3 A county-or district appraiser may appeal to the state board of tax appeals 4 from any order of the hearing officer or panel. With regard to any matter 5 properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of valuation 6 of residential property or real property used for commercial and industrial 7 purposes for taxation purposes, it shall be the duty of the county appraiser 8 to initiate the production of evidence to demonstrate, by a preponderance 9 of the evidence, the validity and correctness of such determination. With 10 regard to leased commercial and industrial property, the burden of proof shall be on the taxpayer unless, within 30 calendar days following the 11 12 informal meeting required by K.S.A. 79-1448, and amendments thereto, 13 the taxpayer furnished to the county-or district appraiser a complete 14 income and expense statement for the property for the three years next 15 preceding the year of appeal. Such income and expense statement shall be 16 in such format that is regularly maintained by the taxpayer in the ordinary 17 course of the taxpayer's business. If the taxpayer submits a single property appraisal with an effective date of January 1 of the year appealed, the 18 19 burden of proof shall return to the county appraiser. With regard to any 20 matter properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of 21 valuation of property for taxation purposes, the board shall not increase the 22 appraised valuation of the property to an amount greater than the final 23 determination of appraised value by the county appraiser from which the 24 taxpayer appealed. 25

Sec. 37. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2022 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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, 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

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receipt thereof, schedule an informal meeting with the taxpayer or such taxpayer's agent or attorney with reference to the property in question. At the informal meeting, it shall be the duty of the county appraiser or the county appraiser's designee to initiate production of evidence to substantiate the valuation of such property, including a summary of the reasons that the valuation of the property has been increased over the preceding year, any assumptions used by the county appraiser to determine the value of the property and a description of the individual property characteristics, property specific valuation records and conclusions. The taxpayer shall be provided with the opportunity to review the data sheets applicable to the valuation approach utilized for the subject property. The county appraiser shall take into account any evidence provided by the taxpayer which relates to the amount of deferred maintenance and depreciation of the property. 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. The county appraiser shall not increase the appraised valuation of the property as a result of the informal 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 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.
- 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-ordistrict 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

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provided by the taxpayer which relates to the amount of deferred maintenance and depreciation for the property. In any appeal from the reclassification of property that was classified as land devoted to agricultural use for the preceding year, 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 agreement or other documentation demonstrating a commitment to use the property for agricultural use, if no other actual use is evident. With regard to any matter properly submitted to the board relating to the determination of valuation of property for taxation purposes, the board shall not increase the appraised valuation of the property to an amount greater than the appraised value reflected in the notification of the results of the informal meeting with the county appraiser from which the taxpayer appealed.

- (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 taxpaver 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

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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 of K.S.A. 79-1609, and amendments thereto, the county treasurer or the governing body of any taxing subdivision within a county may request the pooled money investment board to make a loan to such county or taxing subdivision as provided in this section. The pooled money investment board is authorized and directed to loan to such county or taxing subdivision sufficient funds to enable the county or taxing subdivision to refund such taxes to the taxpayer. The pooled money investment board is authorized and directed to use any moneys in the operating accounts, investment accounts or other investments of the state of Kansas to provide 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 the making of such loan. The total aggregate amount of loans under this program shall not exceed \$50,000,000 of unencumbered funds pursuant to article 42 of chapter 75 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto. Such loan shall not be deemed to be an indebtedness or debt of the state of Kansas within the meaning of section 6 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas. Upon certification to the pooled money investment board by the county treasurer or governing body of the amount of each loan authorized pursuant to this subsection, the pooled money investment board shall transfer each such amount certified by the county treasurer or governing body from the state bank account or accounts prescribed in this subsection to the county treasurer who shall deposit such amount in the county treasury. Any such loan authorized pursuant to this subsection shall be repaid within four years. The county or taxing subdivision shall make not more than four equal annual tax levies at the

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time fixed for the certification of tax levies to the county clerk following the making of such loan sufficient to pay such loan within the time period required under such loan. All such tax levies shall be in addition to all other levies authorized by law.

- (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.
- Sec. 38. On and after January 1, 2025, K.S.A. 2-1915, 19-425, 19-426, 19-428, 19-433, 19-434, 19-435, 19-4110, 25-101, 25-213, 25-611, 74-2438, 75-5105a, 79-201q, 79-201s, 79-412, 79-5a04, 79-1404, 79-1404a, 79-1411b, 79-1412a, 79-1413a, 79-1420, 79-1427c, 79-1455, 79-1460a, 79-1466, 79-1467, 79-1479, 79-1481 and 79-1606 and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 19-430, 19-431, 19-432, 74-2433f, 79-1448, 79-1460, 79-1476, 79-1609 and 79-2005 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 39. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.