

Act No. 347  
Public Acts of 2002  
Approved by the Governor  
May 23, 2002  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
May 23, 2002  
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 23, 2002

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
91ST LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

Introduced by Rep. Patterson

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5707**

AN ACT to amend 1899 PA 188, entitled "An act to provide for the taxation of estates and generation-skipping transfers of property; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain personal representatives and state departments; to provide for the assessment and collection of the tax; and to provide for the administration and enforcement of this act," by amending sections 1a, 6, 11, 14, and 17 (MCL 205.201a, 205.206, 205.211, 205.214, and 205.217), section 6 as amended by 1993 PA 54.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 1a. (1) The terms "death tax" and "death taxes", as used in the 5 following subsections, include inheritance, succession, transfer and estate taxes and any taxes levied against the estate of a decedent upon the occasion of his or her death.

(2) Before the expiration of 18 months after the qualification in any probate court in this state of any executor of the will or administrator of the estate of any non-resident decedent, the executor or administrator shall file with the court proof that all death taxes, together with interest or penalties on those taxes, which are due to the state of domicile of the decedent, or to any political subdivision, have been paid or secured, or that no taxes, interest, or penalties are due, as the case may be, unless it appears that letters testamentary or of administration have been issued on the estate of the decedent in the state of his or her domicile, in subsections (3), (4), (5), or (6), called the domiciliary state.

(3) The proof required by subsection (2) may be in the form of a certificate issued by the official or body charged with the administration of the death tax laws of the domiciliary state. If that proof has not been filed within the time limited in subsection (2), and if within that time it does not appear that letters testamentary or of administration have been issued in the domiciliary state, the register of probate shall immediately upon the expiration of the time notify by mail the official or body of the domiciliary state charged with the administration of the death tax laws with respect to that estate, and shall state in the notice so far as is known to him or her the name, date of death, and last domicile of the decedent, the name and address of each executor or administrator, a summary of the values of the real estate, tangible personalty, and intangible personalty, wherever situated, belonging to the decedent at the time of his or her death, and the fact that the executor or administrator has not filed the proof required in subsection (2). The register shall attach to the notice a plain copy of the will and codicils of the decedent, if he or she died testate, or, if he or she died intestate, a list of his or her heirs and next of kin, so far as is known to such register. Within 60 days after the mailing of the notice the official or body charged with the administration of the death tax laws of the domiciliary state may file with the probate court in this state a petition for an accounting in the estate, and the official or body of the domiciliary state shall, for the purposes of this section, be a party interested for the purpose of petitioning the probate court for the accounting. If the petition is filed within 60 days, the probate court shall order an accounting. When the accounting is filed and approved, the probate court shall decree either the payment of any tax found to be due to the domiciliary state or subdivision of that state or the remission to a fiduciary, appointed or to be appointed by the probate

court or other court charged with the administration of estates of decedents of the domiciliary state, of the balance of the intangible personalty after the payment of creditors and expenses of administration in this state.

(4) No final account of an executor or administrator of a non-resident decedent shall be allowed unless 1 of the following applies:

(a) Proof has been filed as required by subsection (2).

(b) Notice under subsection (3) has been given to the official or body charged with the administration of the death tax laws of the domiciliary state, and either of the following applies:

(i) That official or body has not petitioned for an accounting under subsection (3) within 60 days after the mailing of the notice.

(ii) An accounting has been had under subsection (3), a decree has been made upon the accounting, and it appears that the executor or administrator has paid the sums and remitted such securities, if any, as he was required to pay or remit by such decree.

(c) It appears that letters testamentary or of administration have been issued by the domiciliary state and that no notice has been given under subsection (3).

(5) Subsections (1) to (4), inclusive, shall apply to the estate of a non-resident decedent, only in case the laws of the domiciliary state contain a provision, of any nature or however expressed, whereby this state is given reasonable assurance, as finally determined by the state treasurer, of the collection of its death taxes, interest and penalties from the estates of decedents dying domiciled in this state, when the estates are administered in whole or in part by a probate court, or other court charged with the administration of estates of decedents, in such other state.

(6) Subsections (1) to (5) shall be liberally construed in order to ensure that the domiciliary state of any non-resident decedent whose estate is administered in this state shall receive any death taxes, together with interest and penalties thereon, due to it from the estate of the decedent.

Sec. 6. If any debt shall be allowed against the estate of a decedent after the payment of any legacy or distributive share from which any tax has been deducted or upon which it has been paid by the person entitled to the legacy or distributive share, and that person is required to refund the amount of the debts, an equitable proportion of the tax shall, upon the order of the court, be paid to him or her by the executor, administrator, trustee or other person, if the tax has not been paid to the state of Michigan. When any amount of said tax shall have been paid erroneously to the state of Michigan by reason of the allowance of debts or otherwise, it shall be lawful for the state treasurer, upon satisfactory proof by the order or certificate of the proper court of the allowance of the debts or of the reversal, correction or alteration, in accordance with law, of the order fixing the tax, to draw his or her warrant upon the state treasury for the erroneous payment, to be refunded to the executor, administrator, trustee, person or persons entitled to receive it, and charge the warrant to the fund which receives credit from the payment of taxes under the provisions of this act. However, applications for the refunding of erroneous tax shall be made within 6 months from the allowance of the debts or the reversal, correction or alteration of the order.

Sec. 11. The judge of probate, upon the application of any interested party, including the state treasurer and county treasurers, or upon his or her own motion, shall, as often as and whenever occasion may require, appoint a competent person as appraiser to fix the clear market value at the time of the transfer of property which shall be subject to the payment of any tax imposed by this act. A description of the property and the names and residences of the persons to whom it passes shall be given by the judge of probate to the appraiser. If the property, upon the transfer of which the tax is imposed, is an estate, income or interest for a term of years or for life, or determinable upon any future or contingent estate, or is a remainder or reversion or other expectancy, real or personal, the entire property or fund by which the estate, income or interest is supported, or of which it is a part, shall be appraised immediately after the transfer, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, at the clear market value as of that date. If the estate, income or interest is of such a nature that its clear market value cannot be ascertained at that time, it shall be appraised in like manner at the time when the value first became ascertainable. The value of every future or contingent or limited estate, income, interest or annuity, dependent upon any life or lives in being, shall be determined by the rule, method or standard of mortality and value employed by the commissioner of the office of insurance and financial services in ascertaining the value of policies of life insurance companies, except that the rate of interest for computing the present value of all future and contingent interests or estates shall be 5% per annum. The commissioner of the office of insurance and financial services shall, upon request of the state treasurer, prepare the tables of values, expectancies and other matters as may be necessary for use in computing, under the provisions of this act, the value of life estates, annuities, reversions and remainders, which shall be printed and furnished by the auditor general to the several judges of probate upon request. The clear market value of the transfer of a money legacy, presently taxable, shall for the purposes of this act be taken to be the face value of the money at the date of death of decedent.

Sec. 14. If the state treasurer or the treasurer of any county shall have reason to believe that any tax is due and unpaid under this act, after the refusal or neglect of the persons liable therefor to pay the same, he or she shall notify

the attorney general in writing of that failure or neglect, and the attorney general may apply, or cause the prosecuting attorney of the county to apply, in behalf of the state, to the probate court for an order requiring the persons liable to pay the tax to appear before the court on a day specified, not more than 3 months after the date of the order, and show cause why the tax should not be paid. The judge of probate upon such application, and whenever it shall appear to him or her that any such tax accruing under this act has not been paid as required by law, shall issue a citation, and the service of a citation, and the time, manner, and proof of the citation and the hearing and determination of the citation, and the enforcement of the determination or order made by the judge of probate shall conform to the practice of the probate court in like cases made and provided for the service of citations out of the probate court, and the hearing and determination thereon and its enforcement, so far as the same may be applicable. In all cases where an estate has been declared closed without fixing or payment of the tax upon the transfers therein, and the attorney general believes that the transfers are subject to a tax and the real estate in the estate is subject to a lien and anticipates the institution of proceedings for the fixing and enforcing, or the enforcing of the lien when it has been fixed, he or she may file with the register of deeds of the county a notice setting forth the fact together with a description of the real estate claimed to be subject to the lien which shall operate with the same force and effect as a *lis pendens* under existing statutes. However, the failure to file such notice shall not in any manner prejudice the rights of the state. The judge of probate or the probate clerk or register shall, upon the request of the attorney general, prosecuting attorney, or treasurer of the county, furnish 1 or more transcripts of such decree which shall be docketed and filed by the county clerk of any county of the state without fees, in the same manner and with the same effect as provided by law for filing and docketing transcripts, judgments, and decrees of circuit courts in this state. As a cumulative remedy for the collection of the tax, the state may proceed by an action of *assumpsit* in any court of competent jurisdiction. Whenever the probate judge issues a citation and undertakes the proceedings specified in this section, he or she shall certify that fact to the county treasurer, together with an itemized bill of all expenses incurred for the services of the citation, and other lawful disbursements not otherwise paid. Upon receipt of the bill, the county treasurer shall pay the bill from the general or contingent fund of the county. In all proceedings to which any county treasurer, or the state treasurer, is cited to appear under sections 11 and 12 of this act and all proceedings arising or instituted under this section, the attorney general shall represent the interests of the state, the compensation and expenses of necessary assistants and the expenses of the attorney general to be paid after approval by the attorney general on the warrant of the state treasurer out of the general fund in the state treasury.

Sec. 17. The state treasurer shall furnish to each judge of probate a book, which shall be a public record, in which the judge of probate shall enter a formal order containing the name of every decedent upon whose estate letters of administration or letters testamentary or ancillary letters have issued, the date of death, and place of residence at the time of death of the decedent, the names, places of residence and relationship to the decedent of his or her heirs at law, in case the decedent died intestate or left estate not disposed of by will; the names, places of residence, and relationship to the decedent of the legatees and devisees in the will of the decedent, in case the decedent died testate, the ages of all life tenants and beneficiaries under life estates, the clear market value of the decedent's real and personal property, the clear market value of the property, real and personal, passing to each heir, legatee and devisee, and the clear market value of annuities, life estates, terms of years, and other property of the decedent, or given by the decedent in his or her will and otherwise, as fixed and determined by the judge of probate, and the amount of tax assessed thereon, and the amount of tax assessed on the share of each heir, legatee and devisee, when from the records of the court or the testimony given there appears to be property in such estate liable to tax under this act. However, a description of real estate need not be given unless the real estate is taxable under this act, in which case a sufficiently definite description shall be given to fully identify the taxable real estate and the persons to whom the several parcels are devised. The judge of probate shall also enter in the book the name, date of death, and place of residence at time of death of every decedent, grantor, vendor or donor who has made a transfer of property in contemplation of death or intended to take effect in possession or enjoyment at or after his or her death, subject to tax under this act; the name and residence of the grantee, vendee or donee and his or her relationship to the grantor, vendor or donor, the clear market value as determined by the judge of probate of the property so transferred by him or her and the tax determined by the court payable thereon. These entries shall be made from data contained in the papers filed in the probate court and testimony taken in any proceedings relating to the estate of the decedent. The judge of probate shall also enter in the book the amount of the real and personal property of the decedent as shown by the inventory thereof when made and filed in his or her office. If the judge of probate determines the amount of tax to be paid upon any legacies or devises or upon the real estate of a decedent or upon the estate of the decedent as a whole before the final determination of the tax by him or her, only such entries need be made in the book in that particular case as refer to the partial determination, and it shall be distinctly stated in the book that it is but a partial determination by the judge of probate of the tax due from the estate. Whenever the determination of the tax in such estate by the judge of probate is general, partial or final, the deductions made by the judge of probate from the full value of the estate shall be particularly specified, so that the several reasons for the deductions made clearly appear upon the record. The record required to be furnished by the state treasurer shall be in the following form, and shall be of such size and so arranged as he or she determines will best meet the requirements of this act:

State of Michigan.

The Probate Court for the County of .....

At a session of said court held at ....., in said county the ..... day of ....., A.D. ....

Present, The Honorable ....., Probate Judge.

In the matter of the inheritance tax upon transfers in the estate of ....., deceased.

In this matter it being represented to me and appearing that the said deceased was, at the time of his or her death on the ..... day of ....., a resident of ..... and possessed property the transfer of which or some interest or estate therein is taxable under the Michigan estate tax act, 1899 PA 188, MCL 205.201 to 205.256; that ..... of ..... was duly and regularly appointed ..... of the said estate and ....., and that as appears from the inventory on file in this court, the amount of property belonging to said estate is stated to be as follows:

Personal property, \$.....; real property, \$.....

It further appears and I hereby find that the debts of said deceased owing at the time of his or her death (exclusive of interest accruing thereafter) amount to \$.....; that the funeral expenses of said deceased amount to \$.....; and that the expenses of administration of the estate of said decedent (exclusive of all items of disbursement for repairs to buildings or other property belonging to, or taxes accruing after death, upon the estate of said deceased, all allowances for the support of widow and children of said deceased, expenses incurred in contesting the will of said deceased, and other items of disbursement for the benefit of the beneficiaries of said estate, not strictly expenses of administration) amount to the sum of \$.....; the total debts and expenses of administration being \$.....

After due and careful investigation, examination and consideration, I find and determine that the clear market value of all of said decedent's personal property and real estate, at the date of his or her death, was as follows: Personal property, \$.....; real property, \$....., and that after deduction therefrom of the total debts and expenses of administration (debts secured upon realty being deducted from the value of the real estate, and debts unsecured and secured on personalty being deducted from the value of the personalty), there remains subject to taxation under the provisions of said act before deducting statutory exemptions, transfers of personal property to the amount of \$.....; and transfers of real property to the amount of \$.....; and that of said transfers certain interests hereinafter set forth in detail in the schedule hereto are not presently taxable by reason of the following contingency, rendering it impossible to determine presently the value of the interests passing and the amount of the tax thereon, namely .....

And I hereby find and determine that the tax upon the presently taxable transfers in said estate amounts to the sum of \$..... and find that the several names, residences, relationships and ages, where interest consists of life estates or annuities, of the several beneficiaries, together with the character and amount of the several interests or estates passing thereto, the rate of tax to which each is subject, and the portion of the tax fixed upon, apportioned to, and required to be borne by each of the several taxable transfers, is as set forth in detail in the following schedule:

(The schedule shall contain the following headings for the several columns and space for sufficient entries, remarks, etc.)

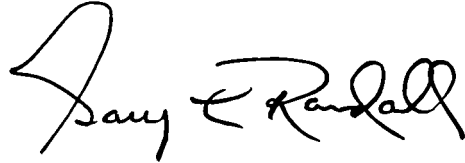
A Name of Heir at Law, Legatee or Devisee to whom estate passes	B Residence	C Relationship	D Age of Life Tenant or Annuitant	E Rate of Tax ..... %
F Value of Legacy or Personal Estate Passing	G Value of Personal Estate Exempt	H Value of Legacy or Personal Estate Taxable	I Amount of Tax on Personal Estate	J Value of Real Estate Passing
K Value of Real Estate Exempt	L Value of Real Estate Taxable	M Amount of Tax on Real Estate	N Value of Annuities, Life Estates, etc. Passing	O Value of Annuities Life Estates, etc. Exempt
P Value of Annuities Life Estates, etc., Taxable	Q Amount of Tax on Annuities, Life Estates, etc.	R Total Amount of Tax		

Remarks: Including descriptions of real estate taxed and any explanations necessary to a complete understanding of the foregoing entries.


.....  
Judge of Probate.

The department of treasury may prescribe and furnish to the judge of probate, in lieu of the book and the form prescribed in this section, a form or forms containing such data as is required for proper determination of the tax.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



.....  
Clerk of the House of Representatives.



.....  
Secretary of the Senate.

Approved .....

.....  
Governor.