



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5599**

LCO No. 2080

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Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:  
(ET)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAXATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANY PROPERTY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 12-80a of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (a) Any (1) taxpayer which, prior to January 1, 1990, was subject to  
5 tax under chapter 211 with respect to the rendering of  
6 telecommunications service and which, on or after January 1, 1990, is  
7 subject to tax under chapter 219 for rendering telecommunications  
8 service and (2) other taxpayer that is subject to tax under chapter 219  
9 for rendering telecommunications service and which has elected in the  
10 manner specified in this section to have personal property taxed as  
11 provided in this section, shall be required to submit to the  
12 Commissioner of Revenue Services and the Secretary of the Office of  
13 Policy and Management, not later than the thirtieth day of November  
14 of each year during which it is subject to tax under chapter 219, a list of  
15 all personal property on a town-by-town basis that is owned by such  
16 taxpayer in this state on the first day of October of such year and that

17 is used solely and exclusively for rendering telecommunications  
18 service, as defined in said chapter 219, including the location of each  
19 item of such property and the fair market value thereof, recognizing  
20 depreciation of such property to the maximum extent allowed for  
21 purposes of the corporation business tax in this state, as certified by  
22 the Commissioner of Revenue Services. Such taxpayers shall also  
23 submit said list to each municipality in which it owns property,  
24 provided the list submitted to a municipality shall contain only the  
25 personal property owned by such taxpayer that is located in, or  
26 allocated pursuant to this subsection to, said municipality. If the  
27 records of a taxpayer subject to the requirements of this subsection do  
28 not contain the data necessary to develop the list as required without  
29 undue cost, the taxpayer may, for purposes of requirements under this  
30 subsection, petition the Commissioner of Revenue Services for  
31 approval of an alternate method of determining the value of the plant  
32 used solely and exclusively to render telecommunications services, but  
33 not including central office or switching equipment of that taxpayer,  
34 located in each town in the state. If the commissioner finds that the  
35 alternative method proposed results in a reasonable approximation of  
36 the value of the property of the taxpayer located in each town and  
37 used solely and exclusively for rendering telecommunications service,  
38 the commissioner shall notify the taxpayer that the proposed alternate  
39 method is acceptable and the taxpayer shall be permitted to use the  
40 alternate method in developing the list required under this subsection.

41 (b) (1) Not later than the first day of February immediately  
42 following the end of such tax year, the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
43 and Management shall determine, with respect to such company, a  
44 value for personal property equivalent to seventy per cent of the value  
45 of personal property included in the list of such property prepared and  
46 certified in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. The amount  
47 of tax applicable with respect to such personal property of any  
48 taxpayer subject to the tax imposed under this section shall be  
49 determined by multiplying the value of personal property of such  
50 company, as determined under this subsection, by a mill rate of forty-

51 seven mills. Said secretary shall, not later than the first day of March  
52 immediately following the end of such tax year, submit a tax bill to  
53 each company stating the amount of tax payable to each town in  
54 relation to the personal property of such taxpayer located in such  
55 town. Such tax shall be due and payable to the town in which such  
56 personal property is located not later than the first day of April  
57 immediately following. Any city or borough not consolidated with the  
58 town in which it is located and any town containing such a city or  
59 borough shall receive a portion of the tax due and payable to such  
60 town on the basis of the following ratio: The total taxes levied in the  
61 previous fiscal year by such town, city or borough shall be the  
62 numerator of the fraction. The total taxes levied by the town and all  
63 cities or boroughs located within such town shall be added together,  
64 and the sum shall be the denominator of the fraction. Any such city or  
65 borough may, by vote of its legislative body, direct the Secretary of the  
66 Office of Policy and Management to reallocate all or a portion of the  
67 share of such city or borough to the town in which it is located.

68 (2) The person responsible for the collection of taxes for each town,  
69 city or borough owed taxes under this subsection may, at such time as  
70 such tax becomes delinquent as provided in sections 12-146 and 12-  
71 169, subject such tax to interest at the rate of one and one-half per cent  
72 of such tax for each month or fraction thereof which elapses from the  
73 time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid.

74 (c) With respect to tangible personal property included in the list of  
75 such property submitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
76 Management as provided in subsection (a) of this section, any taxpayer  
77 subject to the tax imposed under this section for any tax year shall not  
78 be subject to property tax in any town applicable to such personal  
79 property for the assessment year in such town commencing on the first  
80 day of October immediately preceding the date on which the tax  
81 determined with respect to such property in accordance with this  
82 section becomes due and payable.

83 (d) Any taxpayer that, on or after January 1, 1990, is subject to tax  
84 under chapter 219 for rendering telecommunications service but that,  
85 prior to January 1, 1990, was not subject to tax under chapter 211 for  
86 rendering telecommunications service may elect to have personal  
87 property taxed in the manner specified in this section. Such election  
88 shall be made in writing and filed with the Secretary of the Office of  
89 Policy and Management and a copy thereof shall be filed with the  
90 assessor of each town in which personal property affected by such  
91 election is located. Such election, once filed with the secretary, shall be  
92 irrevocable and shall, if filed on or before the date that is two months  
93 prior to the start of the assessment year, be effective for such  
94 assessment year and for all succeeding assessment years, otherwise to  
95 be effective for the next succeeding assessment year and all succeeding  
96 assessment years.

97 (e) For assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 1997,  
98 the provisions of this section, including informational reporting  
99 requirements imposed on owners, shall also apply, to the extent  
100 provided in section 12-80b of the 2008 supplement to the general  
101 statutes, to property that is used both to render telecommunications  
102 service subject to tax under chapter 219 and to render community  
103 antenna television service subject to tax under chapter 219 and that is  
104 required, under subsection (a) of section 12-80b of the 2008 supplement  
105 to the general statutes, to be taxed as provided in this section.

106 (f) Any municipality may examine the Office of Policy and  
107 Management's or the Department of Revenue Services' audit of a  
108 taxpayer's submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

109 Sec. 2. Section 12-41 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
110 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and*  
111 *applicable to annual declarations due on or after November 1, 2008*):

112 (a) "Municipality", whenever used in this section, includes each  
113 town, consolidated town and city, and consolidated town and  
114 borough.

115 (b) No person required by law to file an annual declaration of  
116 personal property shall include in such declaration motor vehicles  
117 which are registered in the office of the state Commissioner of Motor  
118 Vehicles. With respect to any vehicle subject to taxation in a town other  
119 than the town in which such vehicle is registered, pursuant to section  
120 12-71, information concerning such vehicle may be included in a  
121 declaration filed pursuant to this section or section 12-43, or on a  
122 report filed pursuant to section 12-57a.

123 (c) The annual declaration of the tangible personal property owned  
124 by such person on the assessment date, shall include, but is not limited  
125 to, the following property: Machinery used in mills and factories,  
126 cables, wires, poles, underground mains, conduits, pipes and other  
127 fixtures of water, gas, electric and heating companies, leasehold  
128 improvements classified as other than real property and furniture and  
129 fixtures of stores, offices, hotels, restaurants, taverns, halls, factories  
130 and manufacturers. Commercial or financial information in any  
131 declaration filed under this section shall not be open for public  
132 inspection.

133 (d) (1) Any person who fails to file a declaration of personal  
134 property on or before the first day of November, or on or before the  
135 extended filing date as granted by the assessor pursuant to section 12-  
136 42 shall be subject to a penalty equal to twenty-five per cent of the  
137 assessment of such property; (2) any person who files a declaration of  
138 personal property in a timely manner, but has omitted property, as  
139 defined in section 12-53, shall be subject to a penalty equal to twenty-  
140 five per cent of the assessment of such omitted property. The penalty  
141 shall be added to the grand list by the assessor of the town in which  
142 such property is taxable; and (3) any declaration received by the  
143 municipality to which it is due that is in an envelope bearing a  
144 postmark showing a date within the allowed filing period shall not be  
145 deemed to be delinquent.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	12-80a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage and applicable to annual declarations due on or after November 1, 2008</i>	12-41

**Statement of Purpose:**

To treat the personal property of telecommunications companies in the same manner as that of other businesses' personal property.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*