

# SENATE BILL NO. 473

August 29, 2019, Introduced by Senator SCHMIDT and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1211 (MCL 380.1211), as amended by 2012 PA 285.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1211. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
2 and section 1211c, the board of a school district shall levy not  
3 more than 18 mills for school operating purposes or the number of  
4 mills levied in 1993 for school operating purposes, whichever is



1 less. A principal residence, qualified agricultural property,  
2 qualified forest property, supportive housing property, property  
3 occupied by a public school academy, and industrial personal  
4 property are exempt from the mills levied under this subsection  
5 except for the number of mills by which that exemption is reduced  
6 under this subsection. Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
7 (9), the board of a school district that had a foundation allowance  
8 for the 1994-95 state fiscal year greater than \$6,500.00 may reduce  
9 the number of mills from which a principal residence, qualified  
10 agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive  
11 housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, and  
12 industrial personal property are exempted under this subsection by  
13 up to the number of mills, as certified under section 1211a,  
14 required to be levied on a principal residence, qualified  
15 agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive  
16 housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, and  
17 industrial personal property for the school district's combined  
18 state and local revenue per membership pupil for the school fiscal  
19 year ending in 1995 to be equal to the school district's foundation  
20 allowance for the state fiscal year ending in 1995, and the board  
21 also may levy in 1994 or a succeeding year that number of mills for  
22 school operating purposes on a principal residence, qualified  
23 agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive  
24 housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, and  
25 industrial personal property.

26 (2) Subject to subsection (3), if the department of treasury  
27 determines that the maximum number of mills allowed to be levied  
28 under subsection (1) on all classes of property was not sufficient  
29 for a school district's combined state and local revenue per



1 membership pupil for the school fiscal year ending in 1995 to be  
 2 equal to the school district's foundation allowance for that school  
 3 fiscal year, the board of the school district may levy in 1994 or a  
 4 succeeding year additional mills uniformly on all property up to  
 5 the number of mills required for the school district's combined  
 6 state and local revenue per membership pupil for the school fiscal  
 7 year ending in 1995 to be equal to the school district's foundation  
 8 allowance for the state fiscal year ending in 1995. However, the  
 9 board of a school district described in this subsection, by board  
 10 resolution, may elect to exempt each principal residence and all  
 11 qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property,  
 12 supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school  
 13 academy, and industrial personal property located in the school  
 14 district from some or all of the mills that the board is authorized  
 15 to levy under this subsection.

16 (3) After 1994, the number of mills a school district may levy  
 17 under this section on any class of property ~~shall~~**must** not exceed  
 18 the lesser of the number of mills the school district was certified  
 19 by the department of treasury under section 1211a to levy on that  
 20 class of property under this section in 1994 or the number of mills  
 21 required to be levied on that class of property under this section  
 22 to ensure that the increase from the immediately preceding state  
 23 fiscal year in the school district's combined state and local  
 24 revenue per membership pupil, calculated as if the school district  
 25 had levied the maximum number of mills the school district was  
 26 allowed to levy under this section regardless of the number of  
 27 mills the school district actually levied, does not exceed the  
 28 lesser of the dollar amount of the increase in the ~~basic~~**target**  
 29 foundation allowance under section 20 of the state school aid act



1 of 1979, MCL 388.1620, from the immediately preceding state fiscal  
2 year or the percentage increase in the general price level in the  
3 immediately preceding calendar year. If the number of mills a  
4 school district is allowed to levy under this section in a year  
5 after 1994 is less than the number of mills the school district was  
6 allowed to levy under this section in the immediately preceding  
7 year, any reduction required by this subsection in the school  
8 district's millage rate ~~shall~~**must** be calculated by first reducing  
9 the number of mills the school district is allowed to levy under  
10 subsection (2) and then increasing the number of mills from which a  
11 principal residence, qualified agricultural property, qualified  
12 forest property, supportive housing property, property occupied by  
13 a public school academy, and industrial personal property are  
14 exempted under subsection (1). **For calculations under this**  
15 **subsection, the target foundation allowance under section 20 of the**  
16 **state school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1620, for the 2018-2019 state**  
17 **fiscal year is considered to be the basic foundation allowance**  
18 **under section 20 of the state school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1620,**  
19 **for the 2018-2019 state fiscal year.**

20 (4) Commercial personal property is exempt from 12 of the  
21 mills levied under this section. However, if the number of mills  
22 from which industrial personal property is exempted for a specific  
23 school district is reduced under this section, then the number of  
24 mills from which commercial personal property is exempted for that  
25 school district ~~shall~~**must** be reduced by that same number of mills.

26 (5) Except as otherwise provided under this subsection,  
27 millage levied under this section must be approved by the school  
28 electors. For the purposes of this section, millage approved by the  
29 school electors before January 1, 1994 for which the authorization



1 has not expired is considered to be approved by the school  
 2 electors. With the approval of the state treasurer, a school  
 3 district may pledge millage levied under this section for the  
 4 repayment of a loan under the emergency municipal loan act, 1980 PA  
 5 243, MCL 141.931 to 141.942, money borrowed by the school district  
 6 under section 1225, or the repayment of advances, overpayments, or  
 7 other obligations of the school district to this state under  
 8 section 15 of the state school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1615.

9 (6) If a school district levies millage for school operating  
 10 purposes that is in excess of the limits of this section, the  
 11 amount of the resulting excess tax revenue ~~shall~~**must** be deducted  
 12 from the school district's next regular tax levy.

13 (7) If a school district levies millage for school operating  
 14 purposes that is less than the limits of this section, the board of  
 15 the school district may levy at the school district's next regular  
 16 tax levy an additional number of mills not to exceed the additional  
 17 millage needed to make up the shortfall.

18 (8) A school district shall not levy mills allocated under the  
 19 property tax limitation act, 1933 PA 62, MCL 211.201 to 211.217a,  
 20 other than mills allocated to ~~a school district of the first class~~  
 21 ~~or~~ a school district that was previously a school district of the  
 22 first class, for payment to a public library commission under  
 23 section 11(4) of the property tax limitation act, 1933 PA 62, MCL  
 24 211.211, after 1993.

25 (9) Beginning with taxes levied for 2011, if a school district  
 26 had a foundation allowance for the 1994-95 state fiscal year  
 27 greater than \$6,500.00 and if the school district's foundation  
 28 allowance for the 2009-2010 state fiscal year was less than the  
 29 basic foundation allowance prescribed for the 2009-2010 state



1 fiscal year under section 20 of the state school aid act of 1979,  
2 MCL 388.1620, the school district may not reduce the number of  
3 mills from which certain classes of property are exempted from the  
4 levy of millage under subsection (1) and may not levy that number  
5 of mills on those classes of property as would otherwise be allowed  
6 under subsection (1).

7 (10) As used in this section:

8 (a) "Combined state and local revenue per membership pupil"  
9 means that term as defined in section 20 of the state school aid  
10 act of 1979, MCL 388.1620.

11 (b) "Commercial personal property" means property classified  
12 as commercial personal property under section 34c of the general  
13 property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34c.

14 (c) "Foundation allowance" means a school district's  
15 foundation allowance as calculated under section 20 of the state  
16 school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1620.

17 (d) "General price level" means that term as defined in  
18 section 33 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963.

19 (e) "Industrial personal property" means the following:

20 (i) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (ii), property  
21 classified as industrial personal property under section 34c of the  
22 general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34c.

23 (ii) Beginning December 31, 2011, industrial personal property  
24 does not include a turbine powered by gas, steam, nuclear energy,  
25 coal, or oil the primary purpose of which is the generation of  
26 electricity for sale.

27 (f) "Membership" means that term as defined in section 6 of  
28 the state school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1606.

29 (g) "Owner", "person", "principal residence", and "qualified



1 agricultural property" mean those terms as defined in section 7dd  
2 of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.7dd.

3 (h) "Property occupied by a public school academy" means  
4 property occupied by a public school academy, urban high school  
5 academy, or school of excellence that is used exclusively for  
6 educational purposes.

7 (i) "Qualified forest property" means that term as defined in  
8 section 7jj of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL  
9 211.7jj[1].

10 (j) "School operating purposes" includes expenditures for  
11 furniture and equipment, for alterations necessary to maintain  
12 school facilities in a safe and sanitary condition, for funding the  
13 cost of energy conservation improvements in school facilities, for  
14 deficiencies in operating expenses for the preceding year or  
15 preceding years, including, but not limited to, repayment of an  
16 emergency loan under the emergency municipal loan act, 1980 PA 243,  
17 MCL 141.931 to 141.942, and for paying the operating allowance due  
18 from the school district to a joint high school district in which  
19 the school district is a participating school district under former  
20 part 3a. Taxes levied for school operating purposes do not include  
21 any of the following:

22 (i) Taxes levied by a school district for operating a community  
23 college under part 25.

24 (ii) Taxes levied under section 1212.

25 (iii) Taxes levied under section 1356 for eliminating an  
26 operating deficit.

27 (iv) Taxes levied for operation of a library under section 1451  
28 or for operation of a library established ~~pursuant to~~**under** 1913 PA  
29 261, MCL 397.261 to 397.262, that were not included in the



1 operating millage reported by the district to the department as of  
2 April 1, 1993. However, a district may report to the department not  
3 later than April 1, 1994 the number of mills it levied in 1993 for  
4 a purpose described in this subparagraph that the school district  
5 does not want considered as operating millage and then that number  
6 of mills is excluded under this section from taxes levied for  
7 school operating purposes.

8 (v) Taxes paid by ~~a school district of the first class or a~~  
9 school district that was previously a school district of the first  
10 class to a public library commission ~~pursuant to~~ **under** section  
11 11(4) of the property tax limitation act, 1933 PA 62, MCL 211.211.

12 (vi) Taxes levied under former section 1512 for operation of a  
13 community swimming pool. In addition, if a school district included  
14 the millage it levied in 1993 for operation of a community swimming  
15 pool as part of its operating millage reported to the department  
16 for 1993, the school district may report to the department not  
17 later than June 17, 1994 the number of mills it levied in 1993 for  
18 operation of a community swimming pool that the school district  
19 does not want considered as operating millage and then that number  
20 of mills is excluded under this section from taxes levied for  
21 school operating purposes.

22 (k) "Supportive housing property" means real property  
23 certified as supportive housing property under chapter 3B of the  
24 state housing development authority act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL  
25 125.1459 to 125.1459a.

26 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect October  
27 1, 2019.

