



**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FOR
REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR COMMERCIAL,
BUSINESS OR INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY
(Real Property Tax Law, Section 485-b)**

1. Authorization for exemption

Section 485-b of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes a partial exemption from real property taxation for commercial, business or industrial property constructed, altered, installed or improved subsequent to July 1, 1976 or a later date as specified in a county's, city's, town's, or village's local law or in a school district's resolution. The cost of such construction, alteration, installation or improvement must exceed \$10,000 or a higher minimum, not to exceed \$50,000, as may be provided in such local law or resolution. Ordinary maintenance and repairs do not qualify for exemption. The property must not be receiving or have received any other exemption authorized by the Real Property Tax Law with respect to the same improvements, unless during the period of the prior exemption, payments in lieu of taxes were made in amounts that were at least equal to the taxes that would have been paid had the property been receiving the section 485-b exemption.

Municipalities may limit the exemption to specific geographic areas and to sectors and sub sectors of businesses as defined in the North American Industry Classification System. Where a county restricts the exemption pursuant to the recommendations of its local industrial and commercial incentive board, such restrictions also apply to cities, towns and villages, and school districts therein, unless those municipalities adopt local laws or (school districts) resolutions providing otherwise. Consult your assessor to ascertain what limits, if any, apply locally.

2. Duration and computation of exemption

Generally the amount of the exemption in the first year is 50% of the increase in the assessed value attributable to the improvement. The exemption amount then decreases by 5% in each of the next nine years. This declining percentage continues to be applied to the increase in assessed value determined in the first year of the exemption, unless there is a change in level of assessment for an assessment roll of 15% or more, as certified by the State Board of Real Property Services, in which case an adjustment is required. A municipality which restricts the exemption to specific types of property and geographic areas may establish a different exemption schedule (i.e., 50% for one, two and three; 40, 30, 20% in years four, five and six; 10% in years seven, eight and nine; and 5% in year ten). Consult your assessor to ascertain the specific schedule or schedules that apply.

3. Application for exemption

The exemption may apply to charges imposed upon real property by or on behalf of a county, city, town, village or school district for municipal or school district purposes and to special ad valorem levies except those levied for fire district, fire protection district or fire alarm district purposes. However, the statute authorizes any county, city, town, village or school district (except the city school district of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse or Yonkers) to act independently on its own behalf to reduce the per centum of exemption otherwise allowed pursuant to this section. The exemption does not apply to costs incurred for ordinary maintenance and repairs nor to property used primarily for residential purposes other than hotels or motels. The exemption does not apply to the City of New York.

4. Filing of exemption

Application for exemption from county, city, town and school district taxes must be filed with the city or town assessor, not the State Board of Real Property Services. Application for exemption from village taxes must be filed with the assessor who prepares the assessment roll used in levying village taxes. In Nassau County, applications for exemption from county, town or school district taxes must be filed with the Nassau County Board of Assessors. In Tompkins County, applications for exemption from county, city, town, village or school district taxes must be filed with the Tompkins County Division of Assessment.

5. Time of filing application

The application must be filed in the assessor's office on or before the appropriate taxable status date and within one year from the date of completion of the improvements. In towns preparing their assessment rolls in accordance with the schedule provided in the Real Property Tax Law, the taxable status date is March 1. In towns in Nassau County, the taxable status date is January 2. In towns in Erie County, the taxable status date is May 1. In towns in Westchester County, the taxable status date is June 1. In villages and cities, the taxable status dates vary, and the appropriate assessor should be consulted for the correct date.

Once the exemption has been granted, the exemption may continue for the authorized period provided that the eligibility requirements continue to be satisfied. It is not necessary to reapply for the exemption after the initial year in order for the exemption to continue.