HB 695 2023

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to determinations for tax exemptions;

under which certain aircraft operations are deemed to

serve a governmental, municipal, or public purpose or

function; amending s. 196.199, F.S.; providing that

certain leasehold interests in governmental property

remain so for the duration of the lease; providing an

determined to be exempt from ad valorem taxation

amending s. 196.012, F.S.; revising circumstances

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effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 196.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.012 Definitions.-For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Governmental, municipal, or public purpose or function is shall be deemed to be served or performed when the lessee under any leasehold interest created in property of the United States, the state or any of its political subdivisions, or any municipality, agency, special district, authority, or other public body corporate of the state is demonstrated to perform a function or serve a governmental purpose which could properly be

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performed or served by an appropriate governmental unit or which is demonstrated to perform a function or serve a purpose which would otherwise be a valid subject for the allocation of public funds. For purposes of the preceding sentence, an activity undertaken by a lessee which is permitted under the terms of its lease of real property designated as an aviation area on an airport layout plan which has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration and which real property is used for the administration, operation, business offices and activities related specifically thereto in connection with the conduct of an aircraft full service fixed base operation which provides goods and services to the general aviation public in the promotion of air commerce is shall be deemed an activity that is part of the administration of the airport and which serves an essential a governmental, municipal, or public purpose or function which would otherwise be a valid subject for the allocation of public funds. Any activity undertaken by a lessee which is permitted under the terms of its lease of real property designated as a public airport as defined in s. 332.004(14) by municipalities, agencies, special districts, authorities, or other public bodies corporate and public bodies politic of the state, a spaceport as defined in s. 331.303, or which is located in a deepwater port identified in s. 403.021(9)(b) and owned by one of the foregoing governmental units, subject to a leasehold or other possessory interest of a nongovernmental lessee that is

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deemed to perform an aviation, airport, aerospace, maritime, or port purpose or operation required for the operation of such facility is shall be deemed an activity that is part of the administration of the airport, spaceport, or deepwater port and serves an essential a governmental, municipal, or public purpose which would otherwise be a valid subject for the allocation of public funds. The use by a lessee, licensee, or management company of real property or a portion thereof as a convention center, visitor center, sports facility with permanent seating, concert hall, arena, stadium, park, or beach is deemed a use that serves a governmental, municipal, or public purpose or function when access to the property is open to the general public with or without a charge for admission. If property deeded to a municipality by the United States is subject to a requirement that the Federal Government, through a schedule established by the Secretary of the Interior, determine that the property is being maintained for public historic preservation, park, or recreational purposes and if those conditions are not met the property will revert back to the Federal Government, then such property shall be deemed to serve a municipal or public purpose. The term "governmental purpose" also includes a direct use of property on federal lands in connection with the Federal Government's Space Exploration Program or spaceport activities as defined in s. 212.02(22). Real property and tangible personal property owned by the Federal Government or

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Space Florida and used for defense and space exploration purposes or which is put to a use in support thereof shall be deemed to perform an essential national governmental purpose and shall be exempt. "Owned by the lessee" as used in this chapter does not include personal property, buildings, or other real property improvements used for the administration, operation, business offices and activities related specifically thereto in connection with the conduct of an aircraft full service fixed based operation which provides goods and services to the general aviation public in the promotion of air commerce provided that the real property is designated as an aviation area on an airport layout plan approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. For purposes of determination of "ownership," buildings and other real property improvements which will revert to the airport authority or other governmental unit upon expiration of the term of the lease shall be deemed "owned" by the governmental unit and not the lessee. Providing two-way telecommunications services to the public for hire by the use of a telecommunications facility, as defined in s. 364.02(14), and for which a certificate is required under chapter 364 does not constitute an exempt use for purposes of s. 196.199, unless the telecommunications services are provided by the operator of a public-use airport, as defined in s. 332.004, for the operator's provision of telecommunications services for the airport or its tenants, concessionaires, or licensees, or unless the

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telecommunications services are provided by a public hospital.

Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 196.199, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

196.199 Government property exemption.-

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Leasehold interests in governmental property are shall not be exempt pursuant to this subsection unless an application for exemption has been filed on or before March 1 with the property appraiser. The property appraiser shall review the application and make findings of fact which shall be presented to the value adjustment board at its convening, whereupon the board shall take appropriate action regarding the application. If the property appraiser or the value adjustment board grants the exemption in whole or in part is granted, or the exemption is established by judicial proceeding, it shall remain valid for the duration of the lease, including extensions of the lease which were contemplated in the original lease, unless the lessee changes its use, in which case the lessee shall again submit an application for exemption. If the operations of the lessee do not change after the exemption is granted, the lessee shall not be required to submit any further applications for exemption for the duration of the lease, including extensions thereof which were contemplated in the original lease. The requirements set forth in s. 196.194 shall apply to all applications made under this subsection.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.