By Senator Campbell

33-1497-02 See HB

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the annual intangible personal property tax; providing legislative intent; amending s. 199.185, F.S.; exempting certain natural persons from payment of the annual tax; providing for emergency rules of the Department of Revenue for certain purposes; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature that the annual intangible personal property tax be ultimately eliminated as a tax in this state. Through a series of amendments to chapter 199, Florida Statutes, the Legislature has consistently reduced the burden of the tax upon the citizens of this state. In order to effectuate the Legislature's intent to accomplish the goal over a period of time, but in the meantime to protect those elderly, disabled, and financially disadvantaged individuals in this state who cannot afford such a tax, the Legislature desires to provide for a method to exempt such individuals from the tax completely.

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Section 2. Effective upon this act becoming a law and operating retroactively to January 1, 2002, subsection (2) of section 199.185, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 2001-371, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

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199.185 Property exempted from annual and nonrecurring taxes.--

(2)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), every 30 31

natural person is entitled each year to an exemption of the

first \$20,000 of the value of property otherwise subject to the annual tax. A husband and wife filing jointly shall have an exemption of \$40,000 of the value of property otherwise subject to the annual tax.

(b) Every natural person whose annual household total gross income, as defined under the United States Internal Revenue Code, is less than \$14,500 in a tax year shall be exempt from payment of the annual tax that year. A husband and wife filing a joint return whose combined total gross income, as defined under the United States Internal Revenue Code, is less than \$29,000 in a tax year shall be exempt from payment of the annual tax that year.

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Agents and fiduciaries, other than quardians and custodians under a gifts-to-minors act, filing as such may not claim this exemption on behalf of their principals or beneficiaries; however, if the principal or beneficiary returns the property held by the agent or fiduciary and is a natural person, the principal or beneficiary may claim the exemption. No taxpayer shall be entitled to more than one exemption under this subsection. This exemption shall not apply to that intangible personal property described in s. 199.023(1)(d).

Section 3. Effective July 1, 2003, subsection (2) of section 199.185, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, is amended to read:

199.185 Property exempted from annual and nonrecurring taxes.--

(2)<del>(a)</del> Except as provided in paragraph (b), Every natural person is entitled each year to an exemption of the first\$250,000<del>\$20,000</del> of the value of property otherwise 31 subject to the annual tax. A husband and wife filing jointly shall have an exemption of \$500,000\$40,000 of the value of property otherwise subject to the annual tax. Every taxpayer that is not a natural person is entitled to an exemption of the first \$250,000 of the value of property otherwise subject to the annual tax.

(b) Every natural person whose annual household total gross income, as defined under the United States Internal Revenue Code, is less than \$14,500 in a tax year shall be exempt from payment of the annual tax that year. A husband and wife filing a joint return whose combined total gross income, as defined under the United States Internal Revenue Code, is less than \$18,000 for a tax year shall be exempt from payment of the annual tax that year.

Agents and fiduciaries, other than guardians and custodians under a gifts-to-minors act, filing as such may not claim this exemption on behalf of their principals or beneficiaries; however, if the principal or beneficiary returns the property held by the agent or fiduciary and is a natural person, the principal or beneficiary may claim the exemption. No taxpayer shall be entitled to more than one exemption under this subsection. This exemption shall not apply to that intangible personal property described in s. 199.023(1)(d).

Section 4. The executive director of the Department of Revenue is authorized, and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under sections 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, to implement chapter 199, Florida Statutes, as provided in section 199.202, Florida Statutes.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such emergency rules shall remain effective for 6 months after the date of

adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to adopt rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules. Section 5. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law. LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY Exempts natural persons whose household total gross income is less than \$14,500 or husbands and wives filing jointly whose household total gross income is less than \$29,000 from payment of the annual intangible personal property tax. Phases out such exemption July 1, 2003, concurrent with the scheduled increase in the exempt value of property subject to the tax. (See bill for details.)