

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:19 AM
To: MACO
Subject: URGENT INFORMATION REQUEST

Importance: High

Commissioners and Clerks,

URGENT INFORMATION REQUEST - NEED TODAY

House Bill 471 (Cook) would change the allowance for growth in mills levies for inflation from the current on-half of the previous three-year average to the full three-year average by amending 15-10-420 as follows:

"15-10-420. Procedure for calculating levy. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, a governmental entity that is authorized to impose mills may impose a mill levy sufficient to generate the amount of property taxes actually assessed in the prior year plus ~~one-half~~ of the average rate of inflation for the prior 3 years. The maximum number of mills that a governmental entity may impose is established by calculating the number of mills required to generate the amount of property tax actually assessed in the governmental unit in the prior year based on the current year taxable value, less the current year's value of newly taxable property, plus ~~one-half~~ of the average rate of inflation for the prior 3 years.

We anticipate Executive Action will be taken tomorrow, however with a different wrinkle. An amendment is being considered that would allow all jurisdictions to levy the current one-half but then only allow the "second" one-half or a portion thereof to be levied to the extend that dollar amount is not filled through "growth". At this point it is a concept so no language is available.

For example, if a jurisdiction was allowed to levy an additional \$50,000 for the one-half rate of inflation and the full inflation amount was \$100,000. That jurisdiction could levy \$50,000 and growth generated an additional \$20,000 then the jurisdiction would be allowed to levy a total inflation amount of \$80,000, that would fill the full increase of \$100,000.

If the growth amount was more than the one-half rate then that jurisdiction would not be able to levy above that amount because growth would have filled in to a higher total dollar amount of greater than the example \$100,000.

If a jurisdiction had no growth then it could levy the full \$100,000.

The problem is how to define growth!

I need examples of counties FY-15 aggregate or general fund mill levy calculation spreadsheet in order to assess how this change would work in reality so am requesting as many of you that can to

please send me your current year Floating Mill Calculation spreadsheet in Excel format.

Please send it directly to me at hblattie@mtcounties.org

I need it today to be able to do my analysis tonight so I can discuss with the House Taxation Committee when they meet Tuesday.

Thank you,

Harold

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