

PART 18

UNIFORM TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

SECTION 1801. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY. Pursuant to Section 874(4)(a) of Title One of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law (the “Act”), City of Albany Industrial Development Agency is required to establish a uniform tax exemption policy applicable to the provision of any financial assistance of more than one hundred thousand dollars to any project.

SECTION 1802. DEFINITIONS. All words and terms used herein and defined in the Act shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act, unless otherwise defined herein or unless the context or use indicates another meaning or intent. The following words and terms used herein shall have the respective meanings set forth below, unless the context or use indicates another meaning or intent:

(A) “Administrative fee” shall mean a charge imposed by the Agency to an applicant or project occupant for the administration of project.

(B) “Agency fee” shall mean the normal charges imposed by the Agency on an applicant or a project occupant to compensate the Agency for the Agency’s participation in a project. The term “Agency Fee” shall include not only the Agency’s normal administrative fee, but also may include (1) reimbursement of the Agency’s expenses, (2) rent imposed by the Agency for use of the property of the Agency, and (3) other similar charges imposed by the Agency.

(C) “Applicant” shall mean an applicant for financial assistance.

(D) “City” shall mean the City of Albany.

(E) “County” shall mean the County of Albany.

(F) “PILOT” or “Payment in Lieu of Tax” shall mean any payment made to the Agency or an affected tax jurisdiction equal to all or a portion of the real property taxes or other taxes which would have been levied by or on behalf of an affected tax jurisdiction with respect to a project but for tax exemption obtained by reason of the involvement of the Agency in such project, but such term shall not include Agency fees.

(G) “School District” shall mean the school district of the City of Albany.

(H) “Tax Exemption” shall mean any financial assistance granted to a project which is based upon all or a portion of the taxes which would otherwise be levied and assessed against a project but for the involvement of the Agency.

SECTION 1803. GENERAL PROVISIONS. (A) General Policy. The general policy of the Agency is to grant tax exemption as hereinafter set forth to any project which has been or will

be financed by the issuance by the Agency of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness with respect thereto.

(B) Exceptions. The Agency intends to follow the general policy enunciated under subsection (A) of this Section absent special circumstances. The Agency reserves the right to deviate from such policy in special circumstances. In determining whether special circumstances exist to justify such a deviation, the Agency may consider factors which make the project unusual, which factors might include but not be limited to the following: (1) the magnitude and/or importance of any permanent private sector job creation and/or retention related to project; (2) whether the affected tax jurisdictions will be reimbursed by the project occupant if the project does not fulfill the purposes for which tax exemption was granted; (3) the impact of the project on existing and proposed businesses and/or economic development projects; (4) the amount of private sector investment generated or likely to be generated by the project; (5) demonstrated public support for the project; (6) the estimated value of the tax exemptions requested; and (7) the extent to which the proposed project will provide needed services and/or revenues to the affected tax jurisdictions. In addition, the Agency may consider the other factors outlined in Section 874(4)(a) of the Act.

(C) Application. No request for a tax exemption shall be considered by the Agency unless an application and environmental assessment form are filed with the Agency on the forms prescribed by the Agency pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Agency, including a description of the proposed project and of each tax exemption sought with respect to the project, the estimated value of each tax exemption sought with respect to the project, the proposed financial assistance being sought with respect to the project, the estimated date of completion of the project, an analysis of the costs and benefits of the project, and whether such financial assistance is consistent with this part.

SECTION 1804. SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION. (A) General. State law provides that purchases of tangible personal property by the Agency or by an agent of the Agency, and purchases of tangible personal property by a contractor for incorporation into or improving, maintaining, servicing or repairing real property of the Agency, are exempt from sales and use taxes imposed pursuant to Article 28 of the Tax Law. The Agency has a general policy of abating sales taxes applicable only to the initial acquisition, construction and/or equipping of each project with respect to which the Agency grants financial assistance. The Agency has no requirement for imposing a payment in lieu of tax arising from the exemption of a project from sales and/or use taxes applicable to the initial acquisition, construction and/or equipping of such project, except (1) as described in subsection (E) below or (2) in the circumstance where (a) a project is offered sales tax exemption on the condition that a certain event (such as the issuance of bonds by the Agency with respect to the project) occur by a certain date and (b) such event does not occur, in which case the Agency may require that the applicant make payments in lieu of sales tax to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

(B) Period of Exemption. Except as set forth in subsection (A) above, the period of time for which a sales tax exemption shall be effective (the "tax exemption period") shall be determined as follows:

(1) General. Unless otherwise determined by the Agency, the tax exemption for sales and use taxes shall be for the tax exemption period commencing with the issuance by the Agency of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness with respect to the project and ending on the date of completion of the project.

(2) Early Commencement. The tax exemption period may, at the discretion of the Agency, commence earlier than the date of issuance by the Agency of the Agency's debt relating to the project, provided that (a) the Agency has complied with the requirements of Section 859-a of the Act, (b) the Agency thereafter adopts a resolution determining to commence such period earlier, said resolution to be substantially in the form of Appendix 18A attached hereto, (c) the applicant agrees to the conditions of such resolution and supplies to the Agency the materials required to be supplied to the Agency thereunder, and (d) the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency acknowledges satisfaction of all conditions to the granting of such tax exemption set forth in such resolution.

(3) Normal Termination. The tax exemption period will normally end upon the completion of the project. On construction projects, the parties shall agree on the estimated date of completion of the project, and the tax exemption shall cease on the earlier of (a) the actual date of completion of the project or (b) the date which is six (6) months after the estimated date of such project. On non-construction project, the parties shall agree on the estimated date of completion of the project, and the tax exemption shall cease on the earlier of (a) the actual date of completion of the project or (b) the date which is three (3) months after the estimated date of completion of the project. If the Agency and the applicant shall fail to agree on a date for completion of the project, the Agency shall on notice to the applicant make the determination on the basis of available evidence.

(4) Later Termination. The Agency, for good cause shown, may adopt a resolution extending the period for completion of the project and/or extending the tax exemption period.

(C) Items Exempted. The sales and use tax exemption granted by the Agency shall normally extend only to the following items acquired during the tax exemption period described in subsection (B) above:

(1) Items incorporated into the real property;

(2) Tangible personal property, including furniture, furnishings and equipment used to initially equip the project or otherwise forming part of the project, if purchased as agent of the Agency;

(3) The rental of tools and other items necessary for the construction and/or equipping of the project, if rented as agent of the Agency; and

(4) Office supplies, fuel and similar items consumed in the process of acquiring, constructing and/or equipping the project, if purchased as agent of the Agency.

(D) Items Not Exempted. A sales and use tax exemption shall not be granted for the following:

(1) purchases occurring beyond the tax exemption period described in subsection (B) above;

(2) repairs, replacements or renovations of the project, unless such repairs, replacements or renovations constitute major capital-type expenses approved by the Agency as a separate project in the manner contemplated by the Act; or

(3) operating expenses, unless such operating expenses constitute major capital-type expenses approved by the Agency as a separate project in the manner contemplated by the Act.

(E) Percentage of Exemption. Unless otherwise determined by resolution of the Agency, the sales and use tax exemption shall be equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the sales and/or use taxes that would have been levied if the project were not exempt by reason of the Agency's involvement in the project. If an exemption of less than one hundred percent (100%) is determined by the Agency, then the applicant shall be required to pay a PILOT to the Agency equal to the applicable percentage of sales and/or use tax liability not being abated. The Agency shall remit such PILOT within thirty (30) days of receipt by the Agency to the affected tax jurisdictions in accordance with Section 874(3) of the Act.

(F) Confirmation Letter. The final act of granting a sales and/or use tax exemption by the Agency shall be confirmed by the execution by an authorized officer of the Agency of a confirmation letter by the Agency. Such confirmation letter shall be in the form of either Appendix 18B (where the exemption is permanent, because the Agency is satisfied that any conditions precedent to such tax exemption, such as the issuance of bonds by the Agency, have been satisfied) or Appendix 18C (where such exemption is tentative, because there remain conditions precedent to such tax exemption which have not been satisfied). Each such confirmation letter shall describe the scope and term of the sales and use tax exemption being granted.

(G) Required Filings. The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance requires that proper forms and supporting material be filed with a vendor to establish a purchaser's entitlement to a sales tax exemption. For example, TSB-M-87(7) outlines the material that must be filed to establish entitlement to sales tax exemption as "agent" of the Agency. It is the responsibility of the applicant and/or project occupant to ensure that the proper documentation is filed with each vendor to obtain any sales tax exemptions authorized by the Agency.

(H) Required Reports and Records. Pursuant to Section 874(B), the applicant and/or project occupant is required to annually file with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance a statement of the value of all sales and use tax exemptions claimed under the Act by the applicant and/or the project occupant and/or all agents, subcontractors and consultants thereof. The project documents shall require that (1) a copy of such statement will also be filed with the Agency and (2) that the project occupant shall maintain, for a period ending seven (7) years after the last purchase made under the sales and use tax exemption, and make available to the Agency

at the request of the Agency, detailed records which shall show the method of calculating the sales and use tax exemption benefit granted by the Agency.

SECTION 1805. MORTGAGE RECORDING TAX EXEMPTION. (A) General. (1) State law provides that mortgages recorded by the Agency are exempt from mortgage recording taxes imposed pursuant to Article 11 of the Tax Law. The Agency has a general policy of abating mortgage recording taxes for the initial financing obtained from the Agency with respect to each project with respect to which the Agency issues debt which will be secured by a mortgage upon real property. In instances where the initial financing commitment provides for a construction financing of the Agency to be replaced by a permanent financing of the Agency immediately upon the completion of the project, the Agency's general policy is to abate the mortgage recording tax on both the construction financing and the permanent financing.

(2) Where the Agency has determined to approve a deviation in accordance with Section 1808 hereof with respect to the payment of real property taxes, the general policy of the Agency will be to require the applicant to pay the same mortgage recording taxes with respect to any mortgage as would have been payable had the Agency not been a party to said mortgage. Such mortgage recording taxes are payable to the County Clerk of the County, who shall in turn distribute same in accordance with law.

(B) Refinancing. In the event that the Agency retains title to a project, it is the general policy of the Agency to abate mortgage recording taxes on any debt issued by the Agency for the purpose of refinancing prior debt issued by the Agency, and on any modifications, extensions and renewals thereof, so long as the Agency fees relating to the same have been paid.

(C) Non-Agency Projects. In the event that the Agency does not hold title to a project, it is the policy of the Agency not to join in a mortgage relating to that project and not to abate any mortgage recording taxes relating to that project.

(D) Non-Agency Financings. Occasionally, a situation will arise where the Agency holds title to a project, the project occupant needs to borrow money for its own purposes (working capital, for example), and the lender will not make the loan to the project occupant without obtaining a fee mortgage or leasehold mortgage, if applicable, as security. In such instances, the policy of the Agency is to consent to the granting of such mortgage and to join in such mortgage, so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) the documents relating to such proposed mortgage make it clear that the Agency is not liable on the debt, and that any liability of the Agency on the mortgage is limited to the Agency's interest in the project;

(2) the granting of the mortgage is permitted under any existing documents relating to the project, and any necessary consents relating thereto have been obtained by the project occupant; and

(3) the payment of the Agency fee relating to the same.

(E) Exemption Affidavit. The act of granting mortgage recording tax exemption by the Agency is confirmed by the execution by an authorized officer of the Agency of an exemption affidavit relating thereto. A sample exemption affidavit is attached to Appendix 18D.

(F) PILOT Payments. If the Agency is a party to a mortgage that is not to be granted a mortgage recording tax exemption by the Agency (a “non-exempt mortgage”), then the applicant and/or project occupant or other person recording same shall pay the same mortgage recording taxes with respect to same as would have been payable had the Agency not been a party to said mortgage (the “normal mortgage tax”). Such mortgage recording taxes are payable to the County Clerk of the County, who shall in turn distribute same in accordance with law. If for any reason a non-exempt mortgage is to be recorded and the Agency is aware that such non-exempt mortgage may for any reason be recorded without the payment of the normal mortgage tax, then the Agency shall prior to executing such non-exempt mortgage collect a PILOT equal to the normal mortgage tax and remit same within thirty (30) days of receipt by the Agency to the affected tax jurisdiction in accordance with Section 874(3) of the Act.

SECTION 1806. REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAXES. (A) Real Estate Transfer Tax. Article 31 of the Tax Law provides for the imposition of a tax upon certain real estate transfers. Section 1405(b)(2) of the Tax Law provides that transfers into the Agency are exempt from such tax, and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has ruled that transfers of property by the Agency back to the same entity which transferred such property to the Agency are exempt from such tax. The general policy of the Agency is to impose no payment in lieu of tax upon any real estate transfers to or from the Agency.

(B) Required Filings. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant and/or project occupant to ensure that all documentation necessary relative to the real estate transfer tax are timely filed with the appropriate officials.

SECTION 1807. REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION. (A) General. Pursuant to Section 874 of the Act and Section 412-a of the Real Property Tax Law, property owned by or under the jurisdiction or supervision or control of the Agency is exempt from general real estate taxes but not exempt from special assessments and special ad valorem levies. However, it is the general policy of the Agency that, notwithstanding the foregoing, every non-governmental project will be required to enter into a payment in lieu of tax agreement (a “PILOT Agreement”), either separately or as part of the project documents. Such PILOT Agreement shall require payment of PILOT payments in accordance with the provisions set forth below.

(B) PILOT Requirements. (1) Unless the applicant and/or project occupant and the Agency shall have entered into a PILOT Agreement acceptable to the Agency, the project documents shall provide that the Agency will not file a New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Division of Equalization and Assessment Form EA-412-a (an “Exemption Form”) with respect to the project, and the project documents shall provide that the applicant and/or the project occupant shall be required to make PILOT payments in such amounts as would result from taxes being levied on the project by the taxing jurisdictions if the project were not owned by or under the jurisdiction or supervision or control of the Agency. The project documents shall provide that, if the Agency and the applicant and/or project occupant have entered into a PILOT

Agreement, the terms of the PILOT Agreement shall control the amount of PILOT payments until the expiration or sooner termination of such agreement.

(2)(a) The Agency has adopted an Urban Reinvestment Tax Incentive Program (the “Urban Incentive Program”). An applicant will be considered for participation in the Urban Incentive Program by the Agency upon satisfaction of the conditions described in Appendix E attached hereto. In order to be considered for the Urban Incentive Program, the applicant must complete the Agency’s Urban Incentive Program application.

(b) After completion of the Urban Incentive Program application, the applicant should submit the application to the Agency. The Agency shall make a determination based on the application whether the applicant is eligible for the Urban Incentive Program.

(C) Pilot Agreement. Unless otherwise determined by resolution of the Agency, all PILOT Agreements shall satisfy the following general conditions:

(1) Amount of Abatement: (a) The general policy of the Agency is to not provide the applicant and/or project occupant with any abatement other than abatements allowed under Section 485-b of the Real Property Tax Law and applicable ordinances and local laws of the City of Albany (currently known as the “Commercial and Industrial Incentive Board of the City of Albany”). Accordingly, the amount of any PILOT payment would equal the amount of taxes that would be levied on the project by the taxing jurisdictions if the project were not owned by or under the jurisdiction or supervision or control of the Agency.

(b)(i) In circumstances where the applicant has complied with the requirements contained in Section 1807(B)(2) hereof regarding the Urban Reinvestment Tax Incentive Program and the Agency has determined that the applicant is eligible for the Urban Reinvestment Incentive Program, the amount of abatement provided under the PILOT Agreement shall be described as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percentage Abatement</u>
1	100%
2	100%
3	100%
4	100%
5	100%
6	100%
7	100%

8	75%
9	50%
10	25%
11 and thereafter	0%

(ii) The abatement schedule described above will be applied against the increase in assessed value due to the project proposed by the applicant. There will be no diminution of existing real property taxes being paid prior to the undertaking of the proposed project.

(c) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if the project consists of an affordable housing project, the applicant shall make annual payments in lieu of property taxes pursuant to the PILOT Agreement with respect to the project as follows:

(i) An amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the shelter rents (rents, excluding the component thereof, if any, attributable to energy and utility costs paid by the applicant) payable by the tenants in connection with the housing project. Tenant paid rents generated by the housing project shall include rent supplements and subsidies received from the federal government, the State, or a municipality on behalf of such tenants.

(ii) The amounts payable under the PILOT Agreement with respect to the housing project shall be (x) payable at the times normal taxes are billed and collected, and (y) allocated among the affected tax jurisdictions in proportion to the tax rates of such affected tax jurisdictions in accordance with Section 858(15) of the Act.

(2) Special District Taxes. As indicated above, the Agency is not exempt from special assessments and special ad valorem levies, and accordingly these amounts are not subject to abatement by reason of ownership of the Project by the Agency. The PILOT Agreement shall make this clear and shall require that all such amounts be directly paid by the applicant and/or the project occupant.

(3) Payee. Unless otherwise determined by resolution of the Agency, all PILOT payments payable to an affected tax jurisdiction shall be assessed, billed and collected directly by the same officials which assess, bill and collect normal taxes levied by such affected tax jurisdiction. Pursuant to Section 874(3) of the Act, such PILOT payments shall be remitted to each affected tax jurisdiction within thirty (30) days of receipt.

(4) Enforcement. (a) An affected tax jurisdiction which has not received a PILOT payment due to it under a PILOT Agreement may exercise its remedies under Section 874(6) of the Act. In addition, such affected tax jurisdiction may petition the

Agency to exercise whatever remedies that the Agency may have under the project documents to enforce payment and, if such affected tax jurisdiction indemnifies the Agency and agrees to pay the Agency's costs incurred in connection therewith, the Agency may take action to enforce the PILOT Agreement.

(b) In addition, where the Agency has entered into a PILOT Agreement granting an applicant a real property tax abatement under the Urban Reinvestment Incentive Program, failure by the applicant to comply with the terms of the Urban Reinvestment Tax Incentive Program, including, but not limited to, the filing of the annual affidavits described in the Urban Reinvestment Incentive Program Application or the creation or retention of the jobs described in the Application, may result, in the discretion of the Agency, in the termination of the real property tax abatement provided under the Program and the conveyance of the project from the Agency to the Company. Upon such conveyance, the Company will then be responsible for the payment of normal real property taxes with respect to the project.

(D) Required Filings. As indicated in subsection (B) above, pursuant to Section 874 of the Act and Section 412-a of the Real Property Tax Law, no real estate tax exemption with respect to a particular project shall be effective until an exemption form is filed with the assessor of each county, city, town, village and school district in which such project is located (each, a "Taxing Jurisdiction"). Once an exemption form with respect to a particular project is filed with a particular Taxing Jurisdiction, the real property tax exemption for such project does not take effect until (1) a tax status date for such Taxing Jurisdiction occurs subsequent to such filing, (2) an assessment roll for such Taxing Jurisdiction is finalized subsequent to such tax status date, (3) such assessment roll becomes the basis for the preparation of a tax roll for such Taxing Jurisdiction, and (4) the tax year to which such tax roll relates commences.

(E) Real Property Appraisals. Since the policy of the Agency stated in subsection (C)(1) is to base the value of a project for payment in lieu of tax purposes on a valuation of such project performed by the Assessor of the City, normally a separate real property appraisal is not required. However, the Agency may require the submission of a real property appraisal if (1) the assessor of any particular Taxing Jurisdiction requires one or (2) if the valuation of the project for payment in lieu of tax purposes is based on a value determined by the applicant or by someone acting on behalf of the applicant, rather than by an assessor for a Taxing Jurisdiction or by the Agency. If the Agency requires the submission of a real property appraisal, such appraisal shall be prepared by an independent MAI certified appraiser acceptable to the Agency.

SECTION 1808. PROCEDURES FOR DEVIATION. (A) General. In the case where the Agency shall determine that any policy of the Agency as herein established is inappropriate or unfair, the Agency may determine:

(1) the amount of the tax exemption, the amount and nature of the PILOT, the duration of the exemption and of the PILOT and whether or not an exemption of any kind shall be granted and shall impose such terms and conditions as shall be just and proper; and

(2) the Agency shall give written notice of the proposed deviation from the policy set forth herein to each affected taxing jurisdiction setting forth the terms and conditions of the deviation and the reasons therefor.

(B) Troubled Projects. Where a project is owned and operated by the Agency or has been acquired by the Agency for its own account after a failure of a project occupant, the project shall at the option of the Agency be exempt from all taxes in accordance with law.

(C) Unusual Projects. Where a project is unusual in nature and requires special considerations related to its successful operations as demonstrated by appropriate evidence presented to the Agency, the Agency shall consider the granting of a deviation from the established exemption policy in accordance with the procedures provided in the title. The Agency may authorize a minimum payment in lieu of tax or such other arrangement as may be appropriate.

SECTION 1809. ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES. (A) General. At least annually, the Agency shall review its tax exemption policies to determine relevance, compliance with law, effectiveness, and shall adopt any modifications or changes that it shall deem appropriate. Unless otherwise provided by resolution, such annual review shall take place at the regular June meeting of the Agency, notice for comments on such policies shall be circulated as provided by law for input from the City of Albany and affected tax jurisdictions, and adoption of any changes shall take not less than 10 days thereafter. The Chief Executive Officer shall be responsible for conducting an annual review of the tax exemption policy and for an evaluation of the internal control structure established to ensure compliance with the tax exemption policy which shall be submitted to the Agency for approval. The thirty day comment period shall not apply to the adoption of the original policies of the Agency which said policies shall become effective as herein provided.