

# SENATE NO. 155



## **AN ACT** TO PROVIDE A TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 51 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following at the end thereof:

3           With respect to each parcel of real property classified as class three, commercial, or  
4 class four, industrial, in each city or town certified by the Commissioner to be assessing all  
5 property at its full and fair cash valuation, and at the option of the Board of Selectmen or  
6 Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, as the case may be, by vote of July first of each  
7 fiscal year, there shall be an exemption equal to not more than twenty percent of the value of  
8 each parcel; provided, however, only the assessed owner or the subsequent owner applies by  
9 August first following the acceptance by each city or town in each fiscal year, that such  
10 exemption shall apply to property that is occupied by business that, at that location and all other

11 combined, have an average annual employment of no more than ten people during the previous  
12 calendar year as certified by the Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Training  
13 and the assessed valuation of which is less than one million dollars. In properties where all  
14 businesses do not qualify, the exemption shall be prorated according to the percentage of square  
15 footage of the building that does qualify. The exemption granted under this provision shall be  
16 prorated with the owner of the real estate receiving fifty percent of the benefit and the remaining  
17 fifty percent being prorated to the owners of the business that qualify by the owners of the real  
18 estate unless lease agreements provide otherwise. This exemption shall be in addition to any  
19 exemption allowable under Section five. The value of exemptions granted under this Section  
20 shall be borne by the combined value of class three, commercial property and class four,  
21 industrial property.

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