

WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
KEN HECHLER  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #2

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: State Tax Commission TITLE NUMBER: 110

RULE TYPE: Legislative; CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§ 11-10-5 & 11-1A-21(d)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES  NO  (Repeal & Replacement)

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 2

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Electronic Data Processing System Network for Property  
Tax Administration

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON July 27, 1998 AT 12:00 Noon. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Legal Division  
State Tax Commission  
P.O. Box 1005  
Charleston, WV 25324-1005

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.

  
Robin C. Capehart, Cabinet Secretary

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$3.80

**SUMMARY OF RULE**

110 C.S.R. 2

Electronic Data Processing System Network  
For Property Tax Administration

This rule governs the operation of the statewide electronic data processing system network utilized to facilitate ad valorem property tax administration in this State.

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## STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCE

110 C.S.R. 2

### Electronic Data Processing System Network For Property Tax Administration

The electronic data processing system network for ad valorem property tax administration is being up-graded for the first time since its inception in 1983. This rule explains how the costs and charges are to be distributed.

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APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title: Electronic Data Processing System Network For Property Tax Administration

Type of Rule:  Legislative  Interpretive  Procedural

Agency: State Tax Commission  
 Address: P.O. Box 1005  
Charleston, WV 25324-1005

1. Effect of Proposed Rule

	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR		
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
<u>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</u>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$38,000	0	0	\$14,000	\$38,000
REPAIRS & ALTERNATIONS	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0

2. Explanation of above estimates:

The estimate of \$38,000 is based upon Tax Commission costs for software licenses and support of PTD personnel of \$10,000 beginning FY 2000-2001 and cost for communication lines \$28,000 annually beginning FY 1999-2000. The \$14,000 in FY 1998-1999 is for 6 months of communication line costs.

3. Objectives of these rules:

This rule establishes the guidelines governing the operation and maintenance of the statewide electronic data processing system network for property tax administration.

Rule Title: Electronic Data Processing System Network For Property Tax Administration

4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government.

None

B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific groups of Citizens.


The costs to some county commissions for the statewide network may increase while for other county commissions the cost may decrease. The rule cost is neutral overall, but costs among county commissions will vary.

C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large.

None.

Date: 4-25-98

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Boyle, Jr.  
State Tax Commissioner

TITLE 110  
PROPOSED  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
STATE TAX COMMISSION

FILED

JUN 25 1 14 PM '98

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 2  
ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM NETWORK  
FOR PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION

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**§ 110-2-1. General.**

1.1 **Scope.** -- This rule relates to the electronic data processing system network developed and utilized in the administration of the ad valorem property tax imposed on real and personal property.

1.2 **Authority.** -- W. Va. Code §§ 11-1C-4 and 11-1A-21(d).

1.3 **Filing date.**

1.4 **Effective date.** -- This rule is effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999.

1.5 **Repeal of Former Rule.** -- This legislative rule repeals and replaces 110 C.S.R. 2, "Electronic Data Processing System Network For Property Tax Administration," filed May 1, 1989 and effective May 1, 1989.

**§ 110-2-2. Definitions.** -- As used in this rule, the following terms have the meanings ascribed herein.

2.1 **"Account"** means for each county one entry on the landbooks or one entry on the personal property books.

2.2 **"Assessment"** and **"assessed value"** means sixty percent (60%) of the value of the property as determined by law. See W. Va. Const. Art. X, § 1b and W. Va. Code § 11-1C-1.

2.3 **"Compatibility"** means the ability of computers to run the same computer program without appreciable alterations.

2.4 **"County Server"** means the server located within the assessor's office or county courthouse which provides services for computers and devices connected to the local area network and upon which applications of the assessment administration and valuation system reside.

2.5 **“Data base”** means a collection of information stored and organized in a precise manner so that the information can be used in the performance of various program instructions.

2.6 **“Disk storage”** means magnetic storage in which data are stored by magnetic recording on the flat surfaces of one or more disks.

2.7 **“File”** means a collection of data sets that are organized and stored, either on disk or tape as a unit, and are used to read and write information in an orderly fashion.

2.8 **“Hardware”** means the statewide server itself and peripheral equipment (computers, printers, data storage devices, telecommunications equipment, etc.).

2.9 **“Statewide server”** means the server that provides the primary services for devices connected to the statewide network and is located within the Tax Commission or a site designated by the Tax Commission.

2.10 **“Information Services and Communications Division”** or **“IS & C”** means the “Information Services and Communications Division” (IS & C), Department of Administration, which is an agency within the government of the State of West Virginia.

2.11 **“Network”**, **“electronic data processing system network”** or **“system”** means the statewide electronic data processing system network required by W. Va. Code § 11-1A-21.

2.12 **“Password”** means the unique identification word assigned to each user and which, when entered, shall allow the user to supply or retrieve information.

2.13 **“Printlines”** means the number of lines printed for each document requested by specific users.

2.14 **“Property books”** means the official land and personal property books maintained by the respective county assessors which contain the appropriate information for each account.

2.15 **“Periodic valuations”** means the annual periodic valuation of all property in this State required by W.Va. Constitution Art. X, § 1b and W. Va. Code § 11-1C-9.

2.16 **“Tape storage”** means the computer storage medium similar to magnetic tape used in an ordinary sound tape recorder and upon which are recorded portions of the data base.

2.17 **“Tax Commissioner”** or **“Commissioner”** means the Tax Commissioner of the State of West Virginia or his or her delegate. See W. Va. Code §§ 11-1-1 and 11-1A-3(d).

**§ 110-2-3. Network Development Responsibility.**

3.1 The Tax Commissioner shall devise and maintain an electronic data processing system network to facilitate the administration of the ad valorem property tax imposed on real and personal property. The information contained on the network shall be entered on the network by the respective county assessors and the assessors shall cause the information to be maintained in a current mode through the entry of additional information as changes in the data occurs.

3.2 In developing and maintaining the network, the Tax Commissioner shall assure that all operational activities are thoroughly and completely planned. This includes but is not limited to the following operational activities:

3.2.1 The Commissioner shall determine the most appropriate hardware and associated equipment to be utilized in the network, assuring such hardware and associated equipment is fully tested, functions properly and is compatible within the network.

3.2.2 The Commissioner shall assure that the computer software is properly designed to meet operational standards and that it is fully tested prior to acceptance and utilization.

3.2.3 The Commissioner shall assure the development of necessary and appropriate operational manuals, forms and training programs for state and county personnel.

3.2.4 The Commissioner shall coordinate activities and information with appropriate county officials to assure the availability of facilities suitable to accommodate network equipment.

3.2.5 The Commissioner shall assure that appropriate maintenance

agreements are entered into for continued network operations.

**§ 110-2-4. County Responsibility.**

4.1 **Equipment.** -- Each county shall acquire, at its expense, the data processing equipment which is required by the Commissioner and which is to be located in each county.

4.1.1 A county may acquire the required or recommended equipment on a lease or lease/purchase basis or it may purchase the required or recommended equipment.

4.1.2 If the county does not utilize the equipment recommended and required by the Commissioner, the county assessor shall demonstrate the complete compatibility of any other equipment he or she acquires in lieu of, or in addition to that which is recommended or required for use.

4.1.3 If a county assessor later chooses to utilize other compatible equipment, the county assessor shall first either locate a buyer for the equipment to be replaced, or agree to use the equipment for other purposes and continue to be liable for the monthly payments: **Provided**, That if a buyer for the equipment is located, such buyer shall become responsible for the payment of any outstanding obligation on the equipment being replaced.

4.2 **County personnel and other equipment.** -- Each county shall provide, at its expense, the necessary staffing and operating personnel and all other communication equipment, to allow interaction with the statewide server, computer, or other device as the Tax Commissioner may designate.

4.3 **County network charges.** -- Each county shall be charged by the Tax Commissioner for its proportionate share of the cost for use of the network, statewide server and other related services.

4.3.1 The Tax Commissioner shall provide an estimate of fiscal year network charges by March 15 preceding the start of each fiscal year, for county budgetary purposes.

4.3.2 The Tax Commissioner shall bill each county based on the formulas in this rule: **Provided**, That no county's bill may exceed the Tax commissioner's budget

estimate by more than ten percent (10%) unless the county's usage is more than twelve percent (12%) above the previous fiscal year level and/or unless the county acquires and uses additional computers and/or printer devices after the estimate has been made.

4.3.3 The Tax Commissioner shall cause a statement to be rendered to the respective county commissions. The total amount of such statement shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner within thirty days (30) after the statement is rendered. The statement shall be composed of the following cost attributable to each county for the period specified on the statement.

4.3.3.a **Communication charges.** -- Communication charges are the charges attributable to each county for the communication line connection between the county and the statewide server. The charge shall be based on the actual cost of the communication link for that county as billed to IS & C or the Tax Commissioner by the communication contractor (i.e., Bell Atlantic, AT&T, etc.)

4.3.3.b **Storage charges.** -- Storage charges are charges for the amount of space utilized for both disk and tape storage. In effect, the counties rent disk or tape storage space for the respective number of accounts. It is an actual physical measurement. The formula for computing the storage charges for each county shall be composed of four elements and functions as follows:

TSC = Total Storage Cost  
TPA = Total Property Tax Accounts, All Counties  
CPA = County Property Tax Accounts  
CSC = County Storage Cost  
 $(CPA \div TPA) \times TSC = CSC$

4.3.3.c **Network charges.** -- Network charges include the actual monthly network cost incurred by the Tax Commission to manage and operate the statewide routed network, the statewide server hardware, and the statewide server operating system. The charge to each county shall be based on the number of accounts in each county. An account is one entry on the land books or one entry on the personal property books. The number of accounts used for the billing shall be the number of accounts within each county at the time the estimate was made for the annual fiscal year network charges. The formula for computing the network charges for each county shall be composed of four (4) elements and function as follows:

TNC = Total Network Charges

TPA = Total Property Tax Accounts, All Counties  
CPA = County Property Tax Accounts  
CNC = County Network Share Charge  
 $(CPA \div TPA) \times TNC = CNC$

4.3.3.d **System support charges.** The system support charges are composed of the following:

4.3.3.d.1 **Licensing and technical support charges.** The charge for licensing and technical support is the amount invoiced to and paid by the Tax Commissioner for licensing and technical support. The charge is based on the number of devices in the county utilizing the statewide network. The charge to each county is the actual cost and is determined by multiplying the per device charge by the number of devices that use the network in that county. The Tax Commission pays licensing and support charges for those devices used by the Tax Commissioner.

4.3.3.d.2 **Reports, training, system testing and valuation guides.** -- These costs are for processing reports required of the Tax Commissioner by statute for the determination of market conditions in each county, for system testing, for the training of county personnel, for the cost of acquiring guides for valuation purposes for property such as vehicles, boats, manufactured housing, etc. The formula for computing this charge shall function as follows:

TRTTVC = Total Reports, Training, Testing and Valuation Charges  
TPA = Total Property Tax Accounts  
CPA = County Property Tax Accounts  
CRTTVC = County Reports, Training, Testing and Valuation Share Charge  
 $(CPA \div TPA) \times TRTTVC = CRTTVC$

4.3.3.d.3 **Dedicated personnel.** -- Each county shall pay a Base Personnel Charge of 10% of the actual total cost of the dedicated State Tax Commission personnel necessary to keep the system operational, with the Base Personnel Charge being equal to each county's proportionate share of the accounts on the network. In addition to the base charge, each county that chooses to use the statewide server as its primary server and on which its county data and system applications reside and are updated on-line shall be assessed a surcharge above the base charge for additional dedicated personnel costs associated with programming, daily system maintenance and

operation. The surcharge for each county shall be calculated as follows:

TPC = Total State Tax Commission Personnel Charges  
BPC = Base State Tax Commission Personnel Charges  
TPA = Total Property Tax Accounts, Counties w/o server  
CPA = County w/o server Individual Property Tax Accounts  
SPC = Surcharge Personnel Charges, Counties w/o server  
CPC = County Personnel Share Surcharge  
TPC x 10% = BPC  
TPC - BPC = SPC  
(CPA ÷ TPA) x SPC = CPC

Programming changes resulting from changes in the law shall be provided to those counties whose data and applications reside on their county server. However, each county shall be responsible for further modification and installation and shall be billed for proportionate share costs of dedicated personnel costs to develop the programming changes. The proportionate share costs shall be used to reimburse the County Tax Fund.

4.3.3.e **Printing charges.** -- The printing charge is the cost of the printing for each county by IS & C. The actual cost, as determined by IS & C, is passed to each county.

4.3.3.f **Miscellaneous charges.** -- The miscellaneous charges are the cost for communication change requests, data processing supplies such as the cost for computer paper used in county assessor's printers, land book and personal property book sheets, cable and installation, training, shipping charges, etc. The miscellaneous charge is the amount invoiced to and paid by the Tax Commissioner.

4.3.4 The payments referred to in the immediately preceding paragraph shall, upon receipt by the State, be deposited in the State Treasury into a revolving fund known as the "County Tax Fund."

#### **§ 110-2-5. Network Operations.**

5.1 **State responsibility.** -- Responsibilities of the Tax Commissioner in development and operation of the network shall include:

5.1.1 The Tax Commissioner shall assure that the data accumulated as a result of the periodic evaluations is entered into the system and maintained in a current

mode.

5.1.2 The Tax Commissioner shall assure that all appropriate assessment rules, tables, cost lists, modifiers, etc. are entered into the system by the respective county assessors annually.

5.1.3 The State Tax Commission shall not have the authority to change certain county data such as prior assessed values. Data errors detected by the State Tax Commission through edits shall be forwarded to the respective county assessor who in turn shall correct the erroneous information.

**5.2 County responsibility.** -- Responsibilities of each county in the development and operation of the network shall include:

5.2.1 Each assessor shall enter all changes in the description, status, classification and value of real property and personal property situated in his or her county. All changes shall be entered no later than the calendar month following the month during which the changes occurred. All changes when entered are to be communicated to the statewide server via the statewide network to the Tax Commissioner on a daily basis. If a county assessor chooses to install a server in his or her respective county, upon which the real property and personal property appraisal and assessment data resides, all changes entered shall be communicated to the statewide server via the statewide network on no less than a weekly basis on a day and time designated by the Tax Commissioner.

5.2.1.a Only county assessors have authority to change information relating to property and accounts in their respective county.

5.2.1.b No county possesses authority to change any information deemed by the Tax Commissioner to be the domain or property of the State.

5.2.2 Each county shall utilize the procedures and methodologies established by the Property Valuation Training and Procedures Commission. Additionally, each county shall utilize the system for the purpose of valuing all real and personal property in their respective county.

5.2.3 All land books and personal property books shall be produced through the network described in this rule.

**§ 110-2-6. Network Security and Safeguards.**

6.1 **General.** -- The Tax Commissioner shall assure that the network and the data base are at all times safe and secure, and that safeguards are adequate to prevent unauthorized access.

6.1.1 **Password.** -- A password shall be required for all users of the network. Each password for each user shall be unique. The password shall be utilized to control the usage of network functions and to assist in the monitoring of each user's activity in the network.

6.1.2 **User name.** -- The user name is the name of the individual associated with the password. Each assessment record updated by a user shall also cause an audit record to be written which includes the user name. The user name shall appear on audit reports to indicate the data changed by that user.

6.1.3 **Assessors.** -- Assessors in one county shall not be able to access information on properties located in another county without the written permission from the assessor of the county in which the property is located. In no event may assessors in one county change information on properties located in another county.