

701—80.5 (427) Speculative shell buildings.

80.5(1) Authority of city council and board of supervisors. A city council or county board of supervisors may enact an ordinance granting property tax exemptions for value added as a result of new construction of speculative shell buildings or additions to existing buildings or structures, or may exempt the value of an existing building or structure being reconstructed or renovated and the value of the land on which the building or structure is located, if the reconstruction or renovation constitutes complete replacement or refitting of an existing building or structure owned by community development organizations, not-for-profit cooperative associations under Iowa Code chapter 499A, or for-profit entities. See Iowa Code Supplement section 427.1(27) as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2419, for definitions. The value added exemption for new construction includes reconstruction and renovation constituting complete replacement or refitting of existing buildings and structures if the reconstruction or renovation is required due to economic obsolescence, or to implement industry standards in order to competitively manufacture or process products, or to market a building or structure as a speculative shell building. The exemption for reconstruction or renovation not constituting new construction does not have to meet these requirements but has to meet only the requirements set forth in the definition of a speculative shell building. The council or board in the ordinance authorizing the exemption shall specify if the exemption will be allowed to community development organizations, not-for-profit cooperative associations under Iowa Code chapter 499B, or for-profit entities, and the length of time the exemption is to be allowed.

80.5(2) Eligibility for exemption. The value added by new construction, reconstruction, or renovation and first assessed prior to January 1 of the calendar year in which an ordinance authorizing a tax exemption becomes effective is not eligible for exemption. However, the value added as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the ordinance becomes effective is eligible for exemption if the ordinance is in effect on February 1 of that calendar year. This subrule does not apply to new construction projects having received prior approval. For reconstruction and renovation projects not constituting new construction, the ordinance authorizing the exemption must be in effect by February 1 of the year the project commences for the exemption to be allowable in the subsequent assessment year.

80.5(3) Application for exemption.

a. A community development organization, not-for-profit cooperative association, or for-profit entity must file an application for exemption with the assessor between January 1 and February 1, inclusive, of the year in which the value added for new construction is first assessed for the exemption to be allowable for that assessment year. For reconstruction and renovation projects not constituting new construction, an application for exemption must be filed by February 1 of the assessment year in which the project commences for the exemption to be allowable the following assessment year. If approved, no application for exemption is required to be filed in subsequent years for the value added exemption or the reconstruction or renovation exemption not constituting new construction. An application cannot be filed if a valid ordinance has not been enacted. If an application is not filed by February 1 of the year in which the value added for new construction is first assessed, the organization, association, or entity cannot receive, in subsequent years, the exemption for that value added. However, if the organization, association, or entity has received prior approval, the application must be filed by February 1 of the year in which the total value added for the new construction is first assessed.

b. If February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications for exemption may be filed the following Monday.

c. Applications submitted by mail must be accepted if postmarked on or before February 1 or, if February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, a postmark date of the following Monday is acceptable.

80.5(4) Prior approval. To obtain prior approval for a project, the proposal of the organization, association, or entity must be approved by a specific ordinance addressing the proposal and passed by the city council or board of supervisors. The original ordinance providing for the exemption does not constitute the granting of prior approval for a project. If an organization, association, or entity has obtained a prior approval ordinance from a city council or board of supervisors, the exemption for new construction cannot be obtained until the year in which all value added for the completed project is

first assessed. Reconstruction and renovation projects constituting new construction must receive prior approval to qualify for exemption. Reconstruction and renovation projects that do not constitute new construction need not receive prior approval.

80.5(5) Termination of exemption. The exemption continues until the property is leased or sold, the time period for the exemption specified in the ordinance elapses, or the exemption is terminated by ordinance of the city council or board of supervisors. If the ordinance authorizing the exemption is repealed, all existing exemptions continue until their expiration and any projects having received prior approval for exemption for new construction are to be granted an exemption upon completion of the project. If the shell building or any portion of the shell building is leased or sold, the exemption for new construction shall not be allowed on that portion of the shell building leased or sold in subsequent years. If the shell building or any portion of the shell building is leased or sold, the exemption for reconstruction or renovation not constituting new construction shall not be allowed on that portion of the shell building leased or sold and a proportionate share of the land on which the shell building is located in subsequent years.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code Supplement section 427.1(27) as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2419.