

**Sec. 16-445. Rental, leasing, and licensing for use of real property.**

(a) The tax rate shall be at an amount equal to one and eight-tenths percent (1.8%) of the gross income from the business activity upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of leasing, or renting real property located within the City for a consideration, to the tenant in actual possession, or the licensing for use of real property to the final licensee located within the City for a consideration, including any improvements, rights, or interest in such property; provided further that:

- (1) Payments made by the lessee to, or on behalf of, the lessor for property taxes, repairs, or improvements are considered to be part of the taxable gross income.
- (2) Charges for such items as telecommunications, utilities, pet fees, or maintenance are considered to be part of the taxable gross income.
- (3) However, if the lessor engages in telecommunication activity, as evidenced by installing individual metering equipment and by billing each tenant based upon actual usage, such activity is taxable under Section 16-470.

(b) If individual utility meters have been installed for each tenant and the lessor separately charges each single tenant for the exact billing from the utility company, such charges are exempt.

(c) Charges by a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization to patients of such facilities for use of rooms or other real property during the course of their treatment by such facilities are exempt.

(d) Charges for joint pole usage by a person engaged in the business of providing or furnishing utility or telecommunication services to another person engaged in the business of providing or furnishing utility or telecommunication services are exempt from the tax imposed by this Section.

(e) Exempt from the tax imposed by this Section is gross income derived from the rental, leasing, or licensing for use of real property to a qualifying hospital, qualifying community health center or a qualifying health care organization, except when the property so rented, leased, or licensed is for use in activities resulting in gross income from unrelated business income as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 512.

(f) Reserved.

(g) Reserved.

(h) Reserved.

(i) Reserved.

(j) Exempt from the tax imposed by this Section is gross income derived from the activities taxable under Section 16-444 of this code.

(k) Reserved.

(l) Reserved.

(m) Reserved.

(n) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 16-200(b), the fair market value of one (1) apartment, in an apartment complex provided rent free to an employee of the apartment complex is not subject to the tax imposed by this Section. For an apartment complex with more than fifty (50) units, an additional apartment provided rent free to an employee for every additional fifty (50) units is not subject to the tax imposed by this Section.

(o) Income derived from incarcerating or detaining prisoners who are under the jurisdiction of the United States, this State or any other state or a political subdivision of this State or of any other state in a privately operated prison, jail or detention facility is exempt from the tax imposed by this Section.

(p) Charges by any hospital, any licensed nursing care institution, or any kidney dialysis facility to patients of such facilities for the use of rooms or other real property during the course of their treatment by such facilities are exempt.

(q) Charges to patients receiving "personal care" or "directed care", by any licensed assisted living facility, licensed assisted living center or licensed assisted living home as defined and licensed pursuant to Chapter 4, Title 36, Arizona Revised Statutes and Title 9 of the Arizona Administrative Code are exempt.

(r) Income received from the rental of any "low-income unit" as established under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, including the low-income housing credit provided by IRC Section 42, to the extent that the collection of tax on rental income causes the "gross rent" defined by IRC Section 42 to exceed the income limitation for the low-income unit is exempt. This exemption also applies to income received from the rental of individual rental units subject to statutory or regulatory "low-income unit" rent restrictions similar to IRC Section 42 to the extent that the collection of tax from the tenant causes the rental receipts to exceed a rent restriction for the low-income unit. This subsection also applies to rent received by a person other than the owner or lessor of the low-income unit, including a broker. This subsection does not apply unless a taxpayer maintains the documentation to support the qualification of a unit as a low-income unit, the "gross rent" limitation for the unit and the rent received from that unit.

(s) The gross proceeds of a commercial lease of real property between affiliated companies, businesses, persons or reciprocal insurers are exempt. For purposes of this paragraph:

(1) "Affiliated companies, businesses, persons or reciprocal insurers" means the lessor holds a controlling interest in the lessee, the lessee holds a controlling interest in the lessor, an affiliated entity holds a controlling interest in both the lessor and the lessee or an unrelated person holds a controlling interest in both the lessor and lessee.

(2) "Controlling interest" means direct or indirect ownership of at least eighty percent (80%) of the voting shares of a corporation or of the interests in a company, business or person other than a corporation.

- (3) "Reciprocal insurer" has the same meaning as prescribed in A.R.S. Section 20-762.

**Reg. 16-445.3. Rental, leasing, and licensing of real property as lodging: room and board; furnished lodging.**

(a) Room and board.

(1) Rooming houses, lodges, or other establishments providing both lodging and meals, shall maintain a record of the separate charges made for the lodging and the meals.

(2) The charge for lodging shall be subject to the tax imposed by Section 16-444 or Section 16-445. The charge for meals is subject to the tax upon restaurants and bars prescribed by Section 16-455.

(b) Furnished lodging. A person who provides lodging with furnishings shall be deemed to be only in the business of rental, leasing, and licensing of lodging, and not in the business of rental, leasing, and licensing of such furnishings as tangible personal property, unless:

(1) Any tenant of any lodging space may choose to rent, lease, or license such lodging space either furnished or unfurnished; and

(2) The lessor separately charges tenants for lodging and for furnishings; and

(3) The lessor separately maintains his gross income from lodging and from furnishings separately in his accounting books and records.

If all of the above conditions are met, such person shall report both sources of income separately to the City.