

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1069
(Legislative Council)
(Taxation Committee)
(Representatives Belter, Keiser, Timm)
(Senators Kringstad, Krauter, Kinnoin)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 57-02-27.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to use of annual gross returns to determine agricultural property assessments; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 57-02-27.2 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-02-27.2. (Effective for first three taxable years year beginning after December 31, 1994 1996) Valuation and assessment of agricultural lands. "True and full value" of agricultural lands must be their agricultural value for the purposes of sections 57-02-27, 57-02-27.1, 57-02-27.2, and 57-55-04. Agricultural value is defined as the "capitalized average annual gross return". The "annual gross return" must be determined from crop share rent, cash rent, or a combination thereof reduced by estimated property taxes and crop marketing expenses incurred by farmland owners renting their lands on a cash or crop share basis. For purposes of this section, "annual gross return" for cropland used for growing crops other than sugar beets and potatoes means thirty percent of annual gross income produced, "annual gross return" for cropland used for growing sugar beets and potatoes means twenty percent of annual gross income produced, and "annual gross return" for land used for grazing farm animals means twenty-five percent of an amount determined by the agricultural economics department of North Dakota state university to represent the annual gross income potential of the land based upon the animal unit carrying capacity of the land. The "average annual gross return" for each county must be determined as follows:

1. Total the annual gross returns for the most recent ~~six~~ seven years immediately preceding the current year for which data is available and discard the highest and lowest annual gross returns of the ~~six~~ seven.
2. Divide the figure arrived at in subsection 1 by ~~four~~ five.

To find the "capitalized average annual gross return" ~~for years after 1983~~, the average annual gross return must be capitalized by a rate ~~which~~ that is a ten-year average of the gross federal land bank mortgage rate of interest for North Dakota. The ten-year average must be computed from the twelve years ending with the most recent year used in subsection 1, discarding the highest and lowest years, and the gross federal land bank mortgage rate of interest for each year must be determined in the manner provided in section 20.2032A-4(e)(1) of the United States treasury department regulations for valuing farm real property for federal estate tax purposes, except that the interest rate may not be adjusted as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of section 20.2032A-4.

~~It is the duty of the~~ The agricultural economics department of North Dakota state university ~~to~~ shall compute annually an estimate of the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] of agricultural lands on a statewide and on a countywide basis, ~~to~~ shall compute the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] for cropland and noncropland, which is agricultural land, for each county, and ~~to~~ shall provide the tax commissioner with this information by December first of each year. Fifty percent of the annual gross income from irrigated cropland must be considered additional expense of production and may not be included in computation of the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] for cropland for the county as determined by the agricultural economics department. ~~Prior to~~

Before January first of each year, the tax commissioner shall provide to each county director of tax equalization these estimates of agricultural value for each county.

~~Prior to~~ Before February first of each year, the county director of tax equalization in each county shall provide to all assessors within the county an estimate of the average agricultural value of agricultural lands within each assessment district. ~~Such~~ The estimate must be based upon the average agricultural value for the county adjusted by the relative values of lands within each assessment district compared to the county average. In determining the relative value of lands for each assessment district compared to the county average, the county director of tax equalization ~~shall~~, wherever possible, shall use soil type and soil classification data from detailed and general soil surveys. Where such data cannot be used, the county director of tax equalization shall use whatever previous assessment data is best suited to the purpose.

~~It is the duty of each~~ Each local assessor ~~to shall~~ determine the relative value of each assessment parcel within ~~his~~ the assessor's jurisdiction and ~~to shall~~ determine the agricultural value of each assessment parcel by adjusting the agricultural value estimate for the assessment district by the relative value of the parcel. Each parcel must then be assessed according to ~~the provisions in~~ section 57-02-27. If either a local assessor or a township board of equalization develops an agricultural value for the lands in its assessment district differing substantially from the estimate provided by the county director of tax equalization, written evidence to support the change must be provided to the county director of tax equalization.

(Effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1997) Valuation and assessment of agricultural lands. "True and full value" of agricultural lands must be their agricultural value for the purposes of sections 57-02-27, 57-02-27.1, 57-02-27.2, and 57-55-04. Agricultural value is defined as the "capitalized average annual gross return". The "annual gross return" must be determined from crop share rent, cash rent, or a combination thereof reduced by estimated property taxes and crop marketing expenses incurred by farmland owners renting their lands on a cash or crop share basis. For purposes of this section, "annual gross return" for cropland used for growing crops other than sugar beets and potatoes means thirty percent of annual gross income produced, "annual gross return" for cropland used for growing sugar beets and potatoes means twenty percent of annual gross income produced, and "annual gross return" for land used for grazing farm animals means twenty-five percent of an amount determined by the agricultural economics department of North Dakota state university to represent the annual gross income potential of the land based upon the animal unit carrying capacity of the land. The "average annual gross return" for each county must be determined as follows:

1. ~~Total~~ For taxable year 1998, ~~total~~ the annual gross returns for the most recent ~~six~~ eight years immediately preceding the current year for which data is available and discard the highest and lowest annual gross returns of the ~~six~~ eight. For taxable year 1999, ~~total~~ the annual gross returns for the nine years immediately preceding the current year for which data is available and discard the highest and lowest annual gross returns of the nine. For taxable year 2000 and thereafter, ~~total~~ the annual gross returns for the ten years immediately preceding the current year for which data is available and discard the highest and lowest annual gross returns of the ten.
2. ~~Divide~~ For taxable year 1998, divide the figure arrived at in subsection 1 by ~~four~~ six. For taxable year 1999, divide the figure arrived at in subsection 1 by seven. For taxable year 2000 and thereafter, divide the figure arrived at in subsection 1 by eight.

To find the "capitalized average annual gross return" ~~for years after 1983~~, the average annual gross return must be capitalized by a rate ~~which~~ that is a ten-year average of the gross federal land bank mortgage rate of interest for North Dakota. The ten-year average must be computed from the twelve years ending with the most recent year used in subsection 1, discarding the highest and lowest years, and the gross federal land bank mortgage rate of interest for each year must be determined in the manner provided in section 20.2032A-4(e)(1) of the United States treasury department regulations for valuing farm real property for federal estate tax purposes, except that the interest rate may not be adjusted as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of section 20.2032A-4.

~~It is the duty of the~~ The agricultural economics department of North Dakota state university ~~to~~ shall compute annually an estimate of the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] of agricultural lands on a statewide and on a countywide basis, ~~to~~ shall compute the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] for cropland and noncropland, which is agricultural land, for each county, and ~~to~~ shall provide the tax commissioner with this information by December first of each year. ~~Prior to~~ Before January first of each year, the tax commissioner shall provide to each county director of tax equalization these estimates of agricultural value for each county.

~~Prior to~~ Before February first of each year, the county director of tax equalization in each county shall provide to all assessors within the county an estimate of the average agricultural value of agricultural lands within each assessment district. ~~Such~~ The estimate must be based upon the average agricultural value for the county adjusted by the relative values of lands within each assessment district compared to the county average. In determining the relative value of lands for each assessment district compared to the county average, the county director of tax equalization ~~shall~~, wherever possible, shall use soil type and soil classification data from detailed and general soil surveys. Where such data cannot be used, the county director of tax equalization shall use whatever previous assessment data is best suited to the purpose.

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SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1996.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1069.

House Vote: Yeas 94 Nays 0 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 49 Nays 0 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State