

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2267**

Introduced by

Senator O'Connell

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 57-02-27.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to a limitation on the annual change in agricultural property assessments on a statewide  
3 basis; and to provide an effective date.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

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

7 **57-02-27.2. (Effective for first ~~three~~ taxable years year beginning after December**  
8 **31, 1994 1996) Valuation and assessment of agricultural lands.** "True and full value" of  
9 agricultural lands must be their agricultural value for the purposes of sections 57-02-27,  
10 57-02-27.1, 57-02-27.2, and 57-55-04. Agricultural value is defined as the "capitalized average  
11 annual gross return". The "annual gross return" must be determined from crop share rent, cash  
12 rent, or a combination thereof reduced by estimated property taxes and crop marketing  
13 expenses incurred by farmland owners renting their lands on a cash or crop share basis. For  
14 purposes of this section, "annual gross return" for cropland used for growing crops other than  
15 sugar beets and potatoes means thirty percent of annual gross income produced, "annual gross  
16 return" for cropland used for growing sugar beets and potatoes means twenty percent of annual  
17 gross income produced, and "annual gross return" for land used for grazing farm animals  
18 means twenty-five percent of an amount determined by the agricultural economics department  
19 of North Dakota state university to represent the annual gross income potential of the land  
20 based upon the animal unit carrying capacity of the land. The "average annual gross return" for  
21 each county must be determined as follows:

22 1. Total the annual gross returns for the most recent six years immediately preceding  
23 the current year for which data is available and discard the highest and lowest  
24 annual gross returns of the six.

2. Divide the figure arrived at in subsection 1 by four.

To find the "capitalized average annual gross return" for years after 1983, the average annual gross return must be capitalized by a rate which 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 agricultural economics department of North Dakota state university to 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 compute the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] for cropland and noncropland, which is agricultural land, for each county, and to provide the tax commissioner with this information by December first of each year. The statewide average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] may not increase in comparison to the statewide average determined for the previous year by more than the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all nonmetropolitan consumers in the north central region as determined by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, for the most recent full calendar 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 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 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 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, 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 local assessor to determine the relative value of each assessment parcel within his jurisdiction and to 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 the annual gross returns for the most recent six years immediately preceding the current year for which data is available and discard the highest and lowest annual gross returns of the six.
2. Divide the figure arrived at in subsection 1 by four.

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

10 It is the duty of the agricultural economics department of North Dakota state university  
11 to compute annually an estimate of the average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] of  
12 agricultural lands on a statewide and on a countywide basis, to compute the average  
13 agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] for cropland and noncropland, which is agricultural land,  
14 for each county, and to provide the tax commissioner with this information by December first of  
15 each year. The statewide average agricultural value per acre [.40 hectare] may not increase in  
16 comparison to the statewide average determined for the previous year by more than the  
17 percentage increase in the consumer price index for all nonmetropolitan consumers in the north  
18 central region as determined by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor  
19 statistics, for the most recent full calendar year. Prior to January first of each year, the tax  
20 commissioner shall provide to each county director of tax equalization these estimates of  
21 agricultural value for each county.

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

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

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