

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 57-38-01.8 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to an income tax credit for installation of geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy
3 devices; and to provide an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-38-01.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **57-38-01.8. Income tax credit for installation of geothermal, solar, wind, or**
8 **biomass energy devices.**

9 1. Any taxpayer filing a North Dakota income tax return pursuant to the provisions of
10 this chapter may claim a credit for the cost of a geothermal, solar, wind, or
11 biomass energy device installed before January 1, ~~2014~~ 2015, in a building or on
12 property owned or leased by the taxpayer in North Dakota. The credit provided in
13 this section for a device installed before January 1, 2001, must be in an amount
14 equal to five percent per year for three years, and for a device installed after
15 December 31, 2000, must be in an amount equal to three percent per year for five
16 years of the actual cost of acquisition and installation of the geothermal, solar,
17 wind, or biomass energy device and must be subtracted from any income tax
18 liability of the taxpayer as determined pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

19 2. For the purposes of this section:

20 a. "Biomass energy device" means a system using agricultural crops, wastes, or
21 residues; wood or wood wastes or residues; animal wastes; landfill gas; or
22 other biological sources to produce fuel or electricity.

23 b. "Geothermal energy device" means a system or mechanism or series of
24 mechanisms designed to provide heating or cooling or to produce electrical or

mechanical power, or any combination of these, by a method which extracts or converts the energy naturally occurring beneath the earth's surface in rock structures, water, or steam.

c. "Solar or wind energy device" means a system or mechanism or series of mechanisms designed to provide heating or cooling or to produce electrical or mechanical power, or any combination of these, or to store any of these, by a method which converts the natural energy of the sun or wind.

3. If a geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy device is a part of a system which uses other means of energy, only that portion of the total system directly attributable to the cost of the geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy device may be included in determining the amount of the credit. The costs of installation may not include costs of redesigning, remodeling, or otherwise altering the structure of a building in which a geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy device is installed.

4. A partnership, subchapter S corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, or any other passthrough entity that installs a geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy device in a building or on property owned or leased by the passthrough entity must be considered to be the taxpayer for purposes of this section, and the amount of the credit allowed with respect to the entity's investments must be determined at the passthrough entity level. The amount of the total credit determined at the entity level must be passed through to the partners, shareholders, or members in proportion to their respective interests in the passthrough entity.

5. If a taxpayer entitled to the credit provided by this section is a member of a group of corporations filing a North Dakota consolidated tax return using the combined reporting method, the credit may be claimed against the aggregate North Dakota tax liability of all of the corporations included in the North Dakota consolidated return.

6. a. The credit allowed under this section may not exceed the liability for tax under this chapter. If the amount of credit determined under this section exceeds

the liability for tax under this chapter, the excess may be used as a credit carryover to each of the five succeeding taxable years.

b. Any excess tax credits earned for wind energy devices installed after September 30, 2008, and before January 1, 2012, may be used as a credit carryover to each of the twenty succeeding taxable years.

c. For any tax credits for geothermal, solar, or biomass energy devices installed after September 30, 2008, and wind energy devices installed after December 31, 2011, the excess may be used as a credit carryover to each of the ten succeeding taxable years.

7. ~~All or part of the unused credit allowed under this section may be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred by the taxpayer to the purchaser of the power generated by the device as part of the consideration in a power purchase agreement, or to any North Dakota taxpayer that constructs or expands an electricity transmission line in North Dakota after August 1, 2007. The taxpayer receiving the assignment of the credit is entitled to claim the credit against that taxpayer's tax liability under this chapter beginning with the tax year in which the power purchase agreement or the tax credit purchase agreement was fully executed by the parties and the geothermal, solar, or wind energy device is installed. If the credit is transferred to an entity that constructs or expands transmission lines, the amount of credit claimed by that entity in any taxable year may not exceed the actual cost of acquisition and installation of the transmission lines constructed in North Dakota for that taxable year.~~

a. ~~A purchaser of the tax credit must claim the credit beginning with the tax year in which the purchase agreement is fully executed by the parties and the geothermal, solar, or wind energy device is installed. A purchaser of a tax credit under this section has only the right to claim and use the credit under the terms that would have applied to the tax credit transferor, except that in the case of a credit that is sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred by the taxpayer to the tax credit transferor, the credit allowed under this section may not exceed sixty percent of the liability for tax of the tax credit purchaser under this chapter. This subsection does not limit the ability of the tax credit~~

~~purchaser to reduce the tax liability of the purchaser, regardless of the actual tax liability of the tax credit transferor.~~

- ~~b. The tax credit transferor may sell the credit to only one tax credit purchaser each taxable year. The tax credit purchaser may not sell, assign, or otherwise transfer the credit purchased under the purchase agreement.~~
- ~~e. If the taxpayer elects to sell, assign, or otherwise transfer an excess credit under this subsection, the tax credit transferor and the tax credit purchaser shall file jointly with the tax commissioner a copy of the purchase agreement affecting the tax credit transfer and a statement containing the name, address, and taxpayer identification number of any party to the transfer; the total installed cost of the qualifying geothermal, solar, or wind energy device; the amount of the credit being transferred; the gross proceeds received by the transferor; and the tax year for which the credit may be claimed. The purchase agreement must state clearly the purchase price associated with the tax credit sold. The taxpayer and the purchaser also shall file a document allowing the tax commissioner to disclose tax information to either party for the purpose of verifying the correctness of the transferred tax credit. The purchase agreement, supporting statement, and confidentiality waiver must be filed within thirty days after the date the purchase agreement is fully executed. The tax commissioner may audit the returns and assess or issue refunds, notwithstanding any other time limitation prescribed under law which may have expired for the purchaser.~~
- ~~d. If the amount of the credit available under this section is changed as a result of an amended return filed by the transferor or as the result of an audit conducted by the internal revenue service or the tax commissioner, the transferor shall report to the purchaser the adjusted credit amount within thirty days of the amended return or within thirty days of the final determination made by the internal revenue service or the tax commissioner. The tax credit purchaser shall file amended returns reporting the additional tax due or claiming a refund as provided in section 57-38-38 or 57-38-40.~~

e. ~~The total amount of credits that can be sold by all taxpayers is limited to three million dollars each biennium. This limit applies on the basis of the date of installation of the geothermal, solar, or wind energy device.~~

f. ~~Gross proceeds received under the purchase agreement by the tax credit transferor for the sale, assignment, or transfer of the tax credit must be allocated to North Dakota. The amount assigned under this subsection may not be reduced by the taxpayer's income apportioned to North Dakota or any North Dakota net operating loss of the taxpayer.~~

g. ~~Within four years after the date of the credit assignment, the tax commissioner may audit the returns of the credit transferor and the purchaser to verify the correctness of the amount of the transferred credit and, if necessary, assess the credit purchaser if additional tax is found due. This subdivision does not limit or restrict any other time period prescribed in this chapter for the assessment of tax.~~

h. ~~The tax commissioner may adopt rules to permit verification of the validity, timeliness, and limitations on the sale of the tax credit transferred under this section.~~

8. For geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy devices installed after December 31, 2006, if ownership of a device is transferred at the time installation is complete and the device is fully operational, the purchaser of the device is eligible for the tax credit under this section. Subsequent purchasers of the device are not eligible for the tax credit.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008.