

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1437**

Introduced by

Representatives Wrangham, Trottier, Winrich

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 11-09.1 and a new section to  
2 chapter 40-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to limitation of the rate of home rule  
3 sales, use, or excise taxes; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 57-39.2-02.1,  
4 subsection 1 of section 57-40.2-02.1, and sections 57-40.3-02 and 57-40.5-02 of the North  
5 Dakota Century Code, relating to reduction of the rate of sales, use, motor vehicle excise, and  
6 aircraft excise taxes; and to provide an effective date.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 11-09.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
9 and enacted as follows:

10 **Sales, use, and excise taxes - Rate restriction.**

11 A home rule county may not impose a new or extend or increase any existing home rule  
12 sales, use, or excise tax after June 30, 2011, at a rate exceeding one-half of one percent. Sales  
13 and use taxes or gross receipts taxes levied under this chapter before July 1, 2011, at a rate  
14 exceeding one-half of one percent may continue to be imposed at the rate in effect on June 30,  
15 2011, until the expiration of the period for which the tax rate in excess of one-half of one percent  
16 was approved but may not thereafter be reimposed at a rate exceeding one-half of one percent.

17 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 40-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
18 and enacted as follows:

19 **Sales, use, and excise taxes - Rate restriction.**

20 A home rule city may not impose a new or extend or increase any existing home rule sales,  
21 use, or excise tax after June 30, 2011, at a rate exceeding one and one-half percent. Sales and  
22 use taxes or gross receipts taxes levied under this chapter before July 1, 2011, at a rate  
23 exceeding one and one-half percent may continue to be imposed at the rate in effect on  
24 June 30, 2011, until the expiration of the period for which the tax rate in excess of one and

1 one-half percent was approved but may not thereafter be reimposed at a rate exceeding one  
2 and one-half percent.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-39.2-02.1 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 5 1. Except as otherwise expressly provided in subsection 2 for sales of mobile homes  
6 used for residential or business purposes, and except as otherwise expressly provided  
7 in this chapter, there is imposed a tax of ~~five~~four and one-half percent upon the gross  
8 receipts of retailers from all sales at retail including the leasing or renting of tangible  
9 personal property as provided in this section, within this state of the following to  
10 consumers or users:
  - 11 a. Tangible personal property, consisting of goods, wares, or merchandise, except  
12 mobile homes used for residential or business purposes and including bundled  
13 transactions consisting entirely of tangible personal property.
  - 14 b. The furnishing or service of communication services or steam other than steam  
15 used for processing agricultural products.
  - 16 c. Tickets or admissions to places of amusement or entertainment or athletic  
17 events, including amounts charged for participation in an amusement,  
18 entertainment, or athletic activity and the playing of any machine for amusement  
19 or entertainment in response to the use of a coin. The tax imposed by this section  
20 applies only to eighty percent of the gross receipts collected from coin-operated  
21 amusement devices.
  - 22 d. Magazines and other periodicals.
  - 23 e. The leasing or renting of a hotel or motel room or tourist court accommodations.
  - 24 f. The leasing or renting of tangible personal property the transfer of title to which  
25 has not been subjected to a retail sales tax under this chapter or a use tax under  
26 chapter 57-40.2.
  - 27 g. Sale, lease, or rental of a computer and prewritten computer software, including  
28 prewritten computer software delivered electronically or by load and leave. For  
29 purposes of this subdivision:

- (1) "Computer" means an electronic device that accepts information in digital or similar form and manipulates it for a result based on a sequence of instructions.
- (2) "Computer software" means a set of coded instructions designed to cause a computer or automatic data processing equipment to perform a task.
- (3) "Delivered electronically" means delivered from the seller to the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media.
- (4) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.
- (5) "Load and leave" means delivery to the purchaser by use of a tangible storage media when the tangible storage media is not physically transferred to the purchaser.
- (6) "Prewritten computer software" means computer software, including prewritten upgrades, which is not designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser. The combining of two or more "prewritten computer software" programs or prewritten portions thereof does not cause the combination to be other than "prewritten computer software". "Prewritten computer software" includes software designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser when it is sold to a person other than the purchaser. If a person modifies or enhances "computer software" of which the person is not the author or creator, the person is deemed to be the author or creator only of such person's modifications or enhancements. "Prewritten computer software" or a prewritten portion thereof that is modified or enhanced to any degree, if such modification or enhancement is designed and developed to the specifications of a specific purchaser, remains "prewritten computer software". However, if there is a reasonable, separately stated charge or an invoice or other statement of the price given to the purchaser for such modification or enhancement, such modification or enhancement shall not constitute "prewritten computer software".

- 1           h. A mandatory computer software maintenance contract for prewritten computer  
2           software.
- 3           i. An optional computer software maintenance contract for prewritten computer  
4           software that provides only software upgrades or updates or an optional  
5           computer software maintenance contract for prewritten computer software that is  
6           a bundled transaction and provides software upgrades or updates and support  
7           services.

8           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-40.2-02.1 of the North Dakota  
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 10          1. Except as otherwise expressly provided in subsection 2 for purchases of mobile  
11          homes used for residential or business purposes, an excise tax is imposed on the  
12          storage, use, or consumption in this state of tangible personal property purchased at  
13          retail for storage, use, or consumption in this state, at the rate of fivefour and one-half  
14          percent of the purchase price of the property. Except as limited by section 57-40.2-11,  
15          an excise tax is imposed on the storage, use, or consumption in this state of tangible  
16          personal property not originally purchased for storage, use, or consumption in this  
17          state at the rate of fivefour and one-half percent of the fair market value of the property  
18          at the time it was brought into this state.

19          **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-40.3-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21          **57-40.3-02. Tax imposed.**

22          There is hereby imposed an excise tax at the rate of fivefour and one-half percent on the  
23 purchase price of any motor vehicle purchased or acquired either in or outside of the state of  
24 North Dakota for use on the streets and highways of this state and required to be registered  
25 under the laws of this state.

26          **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-40.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28          **57-40.5-02. Tax imposed.**

29          There is imposed an excise tax at the rate of fivefour and one-half percent on the purchase  
30 price of any aircraft purchased or acquired either in or outside of the state of North Dakota or on  
31 the lease or rental cost of any aircraft, less fuel, if rented dry and required to be registered

1 under the laws of this state, except on aircraft or helicopters designed or modified for exclusive  
2 use as agricultural aircraft for aerial application of agricultural chemicals, insecticides,  
3 fungicides, growth regulators, pesticides, dusts, fertilizer, or other agricultural materials, the  
4 excise tax is imposed at the rate of three percent on the purchase price of any such aircraft  
5 purchased or acquired in or outside of this state, including the leasing or renting of such  
6 agricultural aircraft to users for agricultural purposes.

7 **SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable events occurring after  
8 June 30, 2011.