

HOUSE BILL NO. 1190

Introduced by

Representatives Weiler, Drovdal, S. Kelsh

Senators Anderson, Tollefson, Urlacher

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 57-36-01, 57-36-09, 57-36-25, 57-36-26,
2 57-36-28, 57-36-29, and 57-36-33 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the tobacco
3 products tax; and to provide an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **57-36-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter
8 otherwise requires:

- 9 1. "Chewing tobacco" means any leaf tobacco that is intended to be placed in the
10 mouth.
- 11 2. "Cigar" means any roll of tobacco wrapped in tobacco.
- 12 3. "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco and
13 encased in any material except tobacco.
- 14 4. "Consumer" means any person who has title to or possession of cigarettes, cigars,
15 pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing tobacco products in storage, for use or other
16 consumption in this state.
- 17 5. "Dealer" includes any person other than a distributor who is engaged in the
18 business of selling cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~
19 chewing tobacco products.
- 20 6. "Distributor" includes any person engaged in the business of producing or
21 manufacturing cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~
22 chewing tobacco products, or importing into this state cigarettes, cigarette papers,
23 cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing tobacco products, for the purpose of
24 distribution and sale thereof to dealers and retailers.

- 1 7. "Licensed dealer" means a dealer licensed under the provisions of this chapter.
2 8. "Licensed distributor" means a distributor licensed under the provisions of this
3 chapter.
4 9. ~~"Other tobacco products" means snuff and chewing tobacco.~~
5 40. "Person" means any individual, firm, fiduciary, partnership, corporation, limited
6 liability company, trust, or association however formed.
7 44. 10. "Pipe tobacco" means any tobacco that, because of its appearance, type,
8 packaging, or labeling, is suitable for use and likely to be offered to, or purchased
9 by, consumers as tobacco to be smoked in a pipe.
10 42. 11. "Sale" or "sell" applies to gifts, exchanges, and barter.
11 43. 12. "Snuff" means any finely cut, ground, or powdered tobacco that is intended to be
12 placed in the mouth.
13 44. 13. "Storage" means any keeping or retention of cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff,
14 or ~~other chewing tobacco products~~ for use or consumption in this state.
15 45. 14. "Use" means the exercise of any right or power incidental to the ownership or
16 possession of cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other chewing tobacco~~
17 ~~products~~.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **57-36-09. Records to be kept by distributors and reports made - Penalty.**

21 Distributors shall keep records and make reports relating to purchases and sales of cigarettes,
22 cigarette papers, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other chewing tobacco products~~ made by them,
23 and must be punished for failure so to do, as follows:

- 24 1. Each distributor who shall dispose of cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, pipe
25 tobacco, snuff, or ~~other chewing tobacco products~~ shall keep and preserve for one
26 year all invoices of cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~
27 chewing tobacco products purchased by the distributor and shall permit the state
28 tax commissioner, and assistants, authorized agents, or representatives of the
29 state tax commissioner, to inspect and examine all taxable merchandise, invoices,
30 receipts, books, papers, and memoranda as may be deemed necessary by the
31 state tax commissioner, and assistants, authorized agents, or representatives of

1 the state tax commissioner in determining the amount of the tax as may be yet
2 due. Each person selling or otherwise disposing of cigarettes, cigarette papers,
3 cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other chewing tobacco products~~ as a distributor shall
4 keep a record of all sales made within the state showing the name and address of
5 the purchaser and the date of sale. ~~For sales of other tobacco products, the~~
6 ~~records must also include the net weight in ounces, as listed by the manufacturer.~~

7 2. On or before the fifteenth day of each month, each licensed distributor, on such
8 form as the state tax commissioner shall prescribe, shall report to the tax
9 commissioner all purchases and sales of cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, pipe
10 tobacco, snuff, or ~~other chewing tobacco products~~ made from or to any persons
11 either within or without this state during the preceding month. ~~For sales of other~~
12 ~~tobacco products, each licensed distributor shall also report to the tax~~
13 ~~commissioner the net weight in ounces, as listed by the manufacturer.~~ The tax
14 levied by this chapter is payable monthly and must be remitted to the tax
15 commissioner by each licensed distributor on or before the fifteenth day of the
16 month following the monthly period.

17 3. Any person failing to file any prescribed form or return or to pay any tax within the
18 time required or permitted by this section is subject to a penalty of five percent of
19 the amount of tax due or five dollars, whichever is greater, plus interest of one
20 percent of the tax per month or fraction of a month of delay except the first month
21 after the return or the tax became due. The tax commissioner, if satisfied that the
22 delay was excusable, may waive all or any part of the penalty. The penalty must
23 be paid to the tax commissioner and disposed of in the same manner as are other
24 receipts under this chapter.

25 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **57-36-25. Cigars and, pipe tobacco, snuff, and chewing tobacco - Excise tax on**
28 **wholesale purchase price - ~~Other tobacco products~~ - ~~Excise tax on weight~~ - Penalty -**
29 **Reports - Collection - Allocation of revenue.**

30 1. There is hereby levied and assessed upon all cigars ~~and~~, pipe tobacco, snuff, and
31 chewing tobacco sold in this state an excise tax at the rate of twenty-eight percent

1 of the wholesale purchase price at which such cigars ~~and~~, pipe tobacco, snuff, and
2 chewing tobacco are purchased by distributors. For the purposes of this section,
3 the term "wholesale purchase price" shall mean the established price for which a
4 manufacturer sells cigars ~~or~~, pipe tobacco, snuff, or chewing tobacco to a
5 distributor exclusive of any discount or other reduction.

6 2. ~~There is levied and assessed upon all other tobacco products sold in this state an~~
7 ~~excise tax at the following rates:~~

8 a. ~~Upon each can or package of snuff, sixty cents per ounce and a proportionate~~
9 ~~tax at the like rate on all fractional parts of an ounce.~~

10 b. ~~On chewing tobacco, sixteen cents per ounce and a proportionate tax at the~~
11 ~~like rate on all fractional parts of an ounce.~~

12 ~~For purposes of this subsection, the tax on other tobacco products is computed~~
13 ~~based on the net weight as listed by the manufacturer.~~

14 3. The proceeds of the taxes imposed under this section, together with such forms of
15 return and in accordance with such rules and regulations as the tax commissioner
16 may prescribe, shall be remitted to the tax commissioner by the distributor on a
17 calendar quarterly basis on or before the fifteenth day of the month following the
18 quarterly period for which paid. The tax commissioner shall, however, have
19 authority to prescribe monthly returns upon the request of the licensee distributor
20 and such returns accompanied with remittance shall be filed before the fifteenth
21 day of the month following the month for which the returns are filed.

22 4. 3. Any person failing to file any prescribed form or return or to pay any tax within the
23 time required or permitted by this section is subject to a penalty of five percent of
24 the amount of tax due or five dollars, whichever is greater, plus interest of one
25 percent of the tax per month or fraction of a month of delay except the first month
26 after the return or the tax became due. The tax commissioner, if satisfied that the
27 delay was excusable, may waive all or any part of the penalty. The penalty must
28 be paid to the tax commissioner and disposed of in the same manner as are other
29 receipts under this chapter.

1 ~~5-~~ 4. All moneys received by the tax commissioner under the provisions of this section
2 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer at the end of each month and deposited
3 in the state treasury to the credit of the general fund.

4 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **57-36-26. Cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, and ~~other~~ chewing tobacco products -**
7 **Excise tax payable by dealers - Reports - Penalties - Collection - Allocation of revenue.**

- 8 1. There is levied and assessed, upon all cigars ~~and~~, pipe tobacco, snuff, and
9 chewing tobacco purchased in another state and brought into this state by a dealer
10 for the purpose of sale at retail, an excise tax at the rate of twenty-eight percent of
11 the wholesale purchase price ~~and, upon all other tobacco products purchased in~~
12 ~~another state and brought into this state by a dealer for the purpose of sale at~~
13 ~~retail, an excise tax at the rates indicated in section 57-36-25~~, at the time the
14 products were brought into this state. For the purposes of this section, the term
15 "wholesale purchase price" means the established price for which a manufacturer
16 sells cigars ~~or~~, pipe tobacco, snuff, or chewing tobacco to a distributor exclusive of
17 any discount or other reduction. However, the dealer may elect to report and remit
18 the tax on the cost price of the products to the dealer rather than on the wholesale
19 purchase price. The proceeds of the tax, together with the forms of return and in
20 accordance with any rules and regulations the tax commissioner may prescribe,
21 must be remitted to the tax commissioner by the dealer on a monthly basis on or
22 before the fifteenth day of the month following the monthly period for which it is
23 paid. The tax commissioner shall have the authority to place any dealer on an
24 annual remittance basis when in the judgment of the tax commissioner the
25 operations of the dealer merit that remittance period. In addition, the tax
26 commissioner shall have the authority to permit the consolidation of the filing of a
27 dealer's return when the dealer has more than one location and thereby would be
28 required to file more than one return.
- 29 2. If cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing tobacco products have been
30 subjected already to a tax by any other state in respect to their sale in an amount
31 less than the tax imposed by this section, the provisions of this section apply, but at

1 a rate measured by the difference only between the rate fixed in this section and
2 the rate by which the previous tax upon the sale was computed. If the tax imposed
3 in the other state is twenty percent of the wholesale purchase price or more, then
4 no tax is due on the article. The provisions of this subsection apply only if the other
5 state allows a tax credit with respect to the excise tax on cigars, pipe tobacco,
6 snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing tobacco ~~products~~ imposed by this state which is
7 substantially similar in effect to the credit allowed by this subsection.

8 3. Any person failing to file any prescribed forms of return or to pay any tax within the
9 time required by this section is subject to a penalty of five dollars or a sum equal to
10 five percent of the tax due, whichever is greater, plus one percent of the tax for
11 each month of delay or fraction thereof excepting the month within which the return
12 was required to be filed or the tax became due. The tax commissioner, if satisfied
13 that the delay was excusable, may waive all or any part of the penalty. The penalty
14 must be paid to the tax commissioner and disposed of in the same manner as are
15 other receipts under this chapter.

16 4. All moneys received by the tax commissioner under the provisions of this section
17 must be transmitted to the state treasurer at the end of each month and deposited
18 in the state treasury to the credit of the general fund.

19 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **57-36-28. Consumer's use tax - Cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, and ~~other~~ chewing**
22 **tobacco ~~products~~ - Reports - Remittances.**

23 1. A tax is imposed upon the use or storage by consumers of cigars, pipe tobacco,
24 snuff, and ~~other~~ chewing tobacco ~~products~~ in this state, and upon those
25 consumers, at the ~~rates indicated in section 57-36-25~~ rate of twenty-eight percent
26 of the cost to the consumer of those products.

27 2. This tax does not apply if the tax imposed by section 57-36-25 or 57-36-26 has
28 been paid and it does not apply to cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing
29 tobacco ~~products~~ exempt under section 57-36-24.

30 3. On or before the tenth day of each calendar quarter, every consumer who, during
31 the preceding calendar quarter, has acquired title to or possession of cigars, pipe

1 tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing tobacco ~~products~~ for use or storage in this state,
2 upon which products the tax imposed by either section 57-36-25 or 57-36-26 has
3 not been paid, shall file a return with the tax commissioner showing the quantity of
4 such products so acquired. ~~For sales of other tobacco products, the return must~~
5 ~~also include the net weight in ounces, as listed by the manufacturer.~~ The return
6 must be made upon a form furnished and prescribed by the tax commissioner and
7 must contain such other information as the tax commissioner may require. The
8 return must be accompanied by a remittance for the full unpaid tax liability shown
9 by it.

10 4. As soon as practicable after any return is filed, the tax commissioner shall examine
11 the return and correct it, if necessary, according to the tax commissioner's best
12 judgment and information.

13 5. If any consumer required to pay the tax levied by this section fails to file a return or
14 remit the tax as required, the tax commissioner shall make an assessment of tax
15 against the consumer according to the tax commissioner's best judgment and
16 information.

17 6. All of the provisions of this chapter relating to corrections of returns, deficiency
18 assessments, protests, hearings, interest and penalties, and collections of taxes
19 apply to consumers under this section.

20 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **57-36-29. Correction of errors.**

23 1. If it appears that as a result of a mistake an amount of tax, penalty, or interest has
24 been paid which was not due under the provisions of this chapter, then such
25 amount becomes due under this chapter, and the amount must be credited or
26 refunded to such person or firm by the tax commissioner.

27 2. Whenever a distributor destroys cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~
28 chewing tobacco ~~products~~ accidentally, or intentionally, because of staleness or
29 other unfitness for sale, a credit or refund must be given to the wholesaler under
30 the terms and conditions prescribed by the tax commissioner.

1 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-36-33 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **57-36-33. Penalties for violation of chapter.** Except as otherwise provided in this
4 chapter, any person who violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a class A
5 misdemeanor. All cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, or ~~other~~ chewing
6 tobacco ~~products~~ in the possession of the person or in the place of business of the person must
7 be confiscated and forfeited to the state.

8 **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable events occurring after
9 June 30, 2007.