Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2037

Introduced by

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Legislative Management

provide an effective date.

(Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 57-06-14.1, section 57-33.2-01, section
57-33.2-04, subsection 1 of section 57-38-01.8, section 57-39.2-04.2, section 57-39.2-04.8, and
section 57-40.2-04.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to taxable valuation of centrally
assessed wind turbine electric generators, wind generation taxation, an income tax credit for
installation of geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy devices, a sales tax exemption for
machinery or equipment used to produce coal from a new mine, and a sales and use tax
exemption for materials used in the construction or expansion of a wind-powered facility; and to

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 57-06-14.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 12 57-06-14.1. Taxable valuation of centrally assessed wind turbine electric generators.
 - A centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more on which construction is completed before January 1, 2015, must be valued at three percent of assessed value to determine taxable valuation of the property except:
 - 1. A centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more, for which a purchased power agreement was executed after April 30, 2005, and before January 1, 2006, and construction was completed after April 30, 2005, and before July 1, 2006, must be valued at one and one-half percent of assessed value to determine taxable valuation of the property for the duration of the initial purchased power agreement for the generation unit; and
 - 2. A centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more, on which construction is completed after

- 1 June 30, 2006, and before January 1, 2015, must be valued at one and one-half 2 percent of assessed value to determine taxable valuation of the property;
- 3 <u>3.</u> A centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation 4 capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more, for which an executory purchase power 5 agreement was entered or to which an advanced determination of prudence was 6 issued by the public service commission and construction was commenced before 7 January 1, 2015, and which is placed in service or installed before January 1, 2017, 8 must be valued at three percent of assessed value to determine taxable valuation of 9 the property;
- 10 A wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more, on which construction was completed after December 31, 12 2014, and which is not taxable under this section, must be subject to taxation under 13 chapter 57-33.2; and
- 14 Wind generators, wind farms, and associated collector systems on which construction 5. 15 was completed before January 1, 2015, purchased by a company subject to taxation 16 under this chapter after December 31, 2014, must be taxed under subsections 1 17 and 2.
 - SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 57-33.2-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 20 57-33.2-01. Definitions.

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- 21 As used in this chapter:
- 22 "Collector system" means all property used or constructed to interconnect individual 23 wind turbines within a wind farm into a common project, including step-up 24 transformers, electrical collection equipment, collector substation transformers, and 25 communication systems.
 - 2. "Commissioner" means the state tax commissioner.
- 27 3. "Company" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, 28 limited liability partnership, cooperative, or any other organization or association 29 engaged in generation, distribution, or transmission of electricity. A company subject to 30 taxation under chapter 57-06, is not a "company" for purposes of this chapter unless it 31 files an irrevocable election with the commissioner to be treated as a company under

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- this chapter by October 1, 2013, for taxable periods after December 31, 2013; by

 October 1, 2014, for taxable periods after December 31, 2014; by October 1, 2015, for

 taxable periods after December 31, 2015; or by October 1, 2016, for taxable periods

 after December 31, 2016. Property subject to taxation under this chapter which is

 owned by a company that is otherwise taxable under chapter 57-06 which files an

 election under this chapter is exempt from taxation under chapter 57-06.
 - 4. "Distribution company" means a company engaged in distribution of electricity for retail sale to consumers in this state through distribution lines. The term does not include a municipal electric utility operated under chapter 40-33 and that utility is not subject to taxes under section 57-33.2-03.
- 15. "Distribution line" means a line to transmit electricity which operates at a voltage of less than forty-one and six-tenths kilovolts.
 - 6. "Generation company" means a company engaged in the generation of electrical energy from a wind farm, wind generator, or grid-connected generators that are part of a project with a generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more that is not generated from coal.
- 17 6.7. "Retail sale" means transfer of electricity to the end-use consumer for consideration.

 18 The term does not include the sale of electricity to a coal conversion facility that

 19 became operational before January 1, 2009, and which is subject to taxation under

 20 chapter 57-60.
- 7.8. "Transmission company" means a company engaged in transmission of electricity
 through transmission lines.
- 23 8.9. "Transmission line" means a line to transmit electrical energy which operates at a
 24 voltage of forty-one and six-tenths kilovolts or more but does not include a line owned
 25 or operated by an agency or instrumentality of the United States government.
- 26 9-10. "Wind farm" means all property used or constructed for the purpose of producing
 27 electricity for commercial purposes utilizing the wind as an energy source and with a
 28 nameplate capacity of at least two thousand five hundred kilowatts. The term includes
 29 the collector system.
- 30 <u>10.11.</u> "Wind generator" means an individual wind turbine with a generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more which is connected to a transmission or distribution system.

1	SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 57-33.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is				
2	amended and reenacted as follows:				
3	57-3	57-33.2-04. Wind generation taxation - Taxation of generation from sources other than			
4	coal - T	axati	on of coal generation not subject to coal conversion taxes.		
5	Wind generators, including wind farms and associated collector systems, generators of				
6	electrici	t y fro	m sources other than coal owned by a company subject to taxation under this		
7	chapter, Generation companies and generators of electricity from coal which are not subject to				
8	coal conversion taxes under chapter 57-60 are subject to taxes under this section.				
9	1.	Wir	nd generators, wind farms, and associated collector systems are subject to taxes		
10		con	sisting of the following two components:		
11		a.	A tax of two dollars and fifty cents per kilowatt times the rated capacity of the		
12			wind generator.		
13		b.	A tax of one-half of one mill per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated by the wind		
14			generator during the taxable period.		
15	<u>2.</u>	Wir	nd generators, wind farms, and associated collector systems on which construction		
16		was	s completed before January 1, 2015, purchased by a company subject to taxation		
17		unc	ler this chapter after December 31, 2014, must be taxed under subsections 1 and 2		
18		of s	section 57-06-14.1.		
19	2. 3.	Grie	d-connected generators that are part of a project with generation capacity of one		
20		hur	ndred kilowatts or more not produced from coal or wind, or produced from coal and		
21		not	subject to coal conversion taxes under chapter 57-60, are subject to taxes		
22		con	sisting of the following two components:		
23		a.	Fifty cents per kilowatt times the rated capacity of the generation unit.		
24		b.	One mill per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated by the production unit during		
25			the taxable period.		
26	SEC	СТІО	N 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 57-38-01.8 of the North Dakota		
27	Century	Cod	e is amended and reenacted as follows:		
28	1.	A taxpayer filing a North Dakota income tax return pursuant to the provisions of this			
29		chapter may claim a credit against the tax liability under section 57-38-30 for the cost			
30	of a geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy device installed before January 1,				
31		2015, in a building or on property owned or leased by the taxpayer in North Dakota. A			

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1	winc	energy device on which construction was commenced before January 1, 2015,			
2	and which is installed before January 1, 2017, is eligible for the credit provided in this				
3	section. The credit provided in this section for a device installed before January 1,				
4	2001, must be in an amount equal to five percent per year for three years, and for a				
5	device installed after December 31, 2000, must be in an amount equal to three				
6	percent per year for five years of the actual cost of acquisition and installation of the				
7	geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy device and must be subtracted from any				
8	income tax liability of the taxpayer as determined pursuant to the provisions of this				
9	chapter.				
10	SECTION	5. AMENDMENT. Section 57-39.2-04.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is			
11	amended and	reenacted as follows:			
12	57-39.2-04.2. (Effective through June 30, 2017) Sales tax exemption for power plant				
13	construction	, production, environmental upgrade, and repowering equipment and oil			
14	refinery or ga	as processing plant environmental upgrade equipment.			
15	1. As u	sed in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:			
16	a.	(1) "Environmental upgrade" means an investment greater than twenty-five			
17		million dollars or one hundred thousand dollars per megawatt of installed			
18		nameplate capacity, whichever is less, in machinery, equipment, and related			
19		facilities for reducing emissions or increasing efficiency at an existing power			
20		plant.			
21		(2) "Environmental upgrade" for purposes of a process unit means an			
22		investment greater than one hundred thousand dollars in machinery,			
23		equipment, and related facilities for reducing emissions, increasing			
24		efficiency, or enhancing reliability of the equipment at a new or existing			
25		process unit.			
26	b.	"Operator" means any person owning, holding, or leasing a power plant or			
27		process unit.			
28	C.	"Power plant" means:			

(1) An electrical generating plant, and all additions to the plant, which

processes or converts coal in its natural form or beneficiated coal into

1 electrical power and which has at least one single electrical energy 2 generation unit with a capacity of fifty thousand kilowatts or more. 3 (2) A wind-powered electrical generating facility, on which construction is 4 completed before January 1, 2017, and all additions to the facility, which 5 provides electrical power through wind generation and which has at least 6 one single electrical energy generation unit with a nameplate capacity of 7 one hundred kilowatts or more. 8 (3) Any other type of electrical power generating facility excluding the types of 9 power plants identified in paragraphs 1 and 2 which has a capacity of one 10 hundred kilowatts or more and produces electricity for resale or for 11 consumption in a business activity. 12 d. "Process unit" means an oil refinery or gas processing plant and all adjacent 13 units that are utilized in the processing of crude oil or natural gas. 14 "Production equipment" means machinery and attachment units, other than e. 15 replacement parts, directly and exclusively used in the generation, transmission, 16 or distribution of electrical energy for sale by a power plant. 17 "Repowering" means an investment of more than two hundred million dollars or 18 one million dollars per megawatt of installed nameplate capacity, whichever is 19 less, in an existing power plant that modifies or replaces the process used for 20 converting coal in its natural form or beneficiated coal into electrical power. 21 2. Sales of production or environmental upgrade equipment that is delivered on or after 22 January 1, 2007, and used exclusively in power plants or repowering existing power 23 plants or in processing units are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. 24 3. Sales of tangible personal property, other than production or environmental upgrade 25 equipment, which is used in the construction of new power plants or to expand existing 26 power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing power plants or repowering 27 existing power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing process units are 28 exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. 29 To receive the exemption at the time of purchase, the operator must receive from the 30 commissioner a certificate that the tangible personal property or production equipment 31 the operator intends to purchase qualifies for the exemption. If a certificate is not

1		rec	eived	prior to the purchase, the operator shall pay the applicable tax imposed by		
2		this	s chap	ter and apply to the commissioner for a refund.		
3	5.	If th	ne tan	gible personal property or production equipment is purchased or installed by		
4		a c	ontrad	ctor subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, the operator may apply for a		
5		ref	und of	f the difference between the amount remitted by the contractor and the		
6		exe	emptic	on imposed or allowed by this section.		
7	(Eff	fective after June 30, 2017) Sales tax exemption for power plant construction,				
8	produc	t ion,	envii	ronmental upgrade, and repowering equipment and oil refinery or gas		
9	process	sing	plant	environmental upgrade equipment.		
10	1.	As	used	in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:		
11		a.	(1)	"Environmental upgrade" means an investment greater than twenty-five-		
12				million dollars or one hundred thousand dollars per megawatt of installed		
13				nameplate capacity, whichever is less, in machinery, equipment, and related-		
14				facilities for reducing emissions or increasing efficiency at an existing power-		
15				plant.		
16			(2)	"Environmental upgrade" for purposes of a process unit means an		
17				investment greater than one hundred thousand dollars in machinery,		
18				equipment, and related facilities for reducing emissions, increasing		
19				efficiency, or enhancing reliability of the equipment at a new or existing-		
20				process unit.		
21		b.	"O p	erator" means any person owning, holding, or leasing a power plant or		
22			pro	cess unit.		
23		c.	"Po	wer plant" means:		
24			(1)	An electrical generating plant, and all additions to the plant, which		
25				processes or converts coal from its natural form into electrical power and		
26				which has at least one single electrical energy generation unit with a		
27				capacity of fifty thousand kilowatts or more.		
28			(2)	A wind-powered electrical generating facility, on which construction is		
29				completed before January 1, 2017, and all additions to the facility, which		
30				provides electrical power through wind generation and which has at least		

1 one single electrical energy generation unit with a nameplate capacity of 2 one hundred kilowatts or more. 3 (3) Any other type of electrical power generating facility excluding the types of 4 power plants identified in paragraphs 1 and 2 which has a capacity of one-5 hundred kilowatts or more and produces electricity for resale or for-6 consumption in a business activity. 7 "Process unit" means an oil refinery or gas processing plant and all adjacent d. 8 units that are utilized in the processing of crude oil or natural gas. 9 "Production equipment" means machinery and attachment units, other thane. 10 replacement parts, directly and exclusively used in the generation, transmission, 11 or distribution of electrical energy for sale by a power plant. 12 "Repowering" means an investment of more than two hundred million dollars or 13 one million dollars per megawatt of installed nameplate capacity, whichever is-14 less, in an existing power plant that modifies or replaces the process used for 15 converting coal from its natural form into electrical power. 16 2. Sales of production or environmental upgrade equipment that is delivered on or after-17 January 1, 2007, and used exclusively in power plants or repowering existing power-18 plants or in processing units are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. 19 Sales of tangible personal property, other than production or environmental upgrade-20 equipment, which is used in the construction of new power plants or to expand existing-21 power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing power plants or repowering-22 existing power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing process units are 23 exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. 24 To receive the exemption at the time of purchase, the operator must receive from the 25 commissioner a certificate that the tangible personal property or production equipment-26 the operator intends to purchase qualifies for the exemption. If a certificate is not 27 received prior to the purchase, the operator shall pay the applicable tax imposed by 28 this chapter and apply to the commissioner for a refund. 29 If the tangible personal property or production equipment is purchased or installed by 30 a contractor subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, the operator may apply for a

1 refund of the difference between the amount remitted by the contractor and the exemption imposed or allowed by this section.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 57-39.2-04.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-39.2-04.8. Sales tax exemption for machinery or, equipment, <u>and materials</u> used to produce coal from a new mine.

- 1. Gross receipts from sales of machinery er, equipment, or other tangible personal property used to produce coal from a new mine located in this state are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. The exemption for each new mine under this section is limited to the first five million dollars of sales and use tax paid.
- 2. Purchase of replacement machinery or equipment, or other tangible personal property is not exempt if the capitalized investment in the new mine exceeds twenty million dollars using the United States generally accepted accounting principlesunless the replacement creates an expansion of the mine. Purchases of repair or replacement parts for existing machinery or equipment are not exempt under this section.
- 3. The mine operator shall apply to the commissioner for a refund of sales and use taxes paid for which the exemption is claimed under this section. A refund claim may not exceed the limitation in subsection 1. Application for the refund must be made at the time and in the manner directed by the commissioner and must include sufficient information to verify the correctness of the refund claim. To receive the exemption at the time of purchase, the owner of the coal mine must receive from the commissioner a certificate that the machinery, equipment, or other tangible personal property used to produce coal from a new mine which the owner intends to purchase qualifies for the exemption. If a certificate is not received before the purchase, the owner shall pay the applicable tax imposed by this chapter and apply to the commissioner for a refund.
- 4. If the machinery, equipment, or tangible personal property is purchased or installed by a contractor subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, the owner of the coal mine may apply for a refund of the difference between the amount remitted by the contractor and the exemption imposed or allowed under this section. Application for a refund must be made at the times and in the manner directed by the commissioner

1		and	d mus	t include sufficient information to permit the commissioner to verify the sales	
2		and	d use	taxes paid and the exempt status of the sale or use.	
3	4. <u>5.</u>	For purposes of this section:			
4		a.	"Ma	chinery or equipment" means machinery or equipment used directly to	
5			unc	over, sever, crush, handle, or transport coal removed from the earth.	
6			"Ma	chinery or equipment" includes draglines, excavators, rolling stock, conveyor	
7			equ	ipment, reclamation equipment, and equipment to pulverize coal but does not	
8			incl	ude rail spurs, office buildings, workshops, or any component not used	
9			dire	ctly to uncover, sever, crush, handle, or transport coal removed from the	
10			eart	h.	
11		b.	"Ne	w mine" means an area permitted under chapter 38-14.1 by the public service	
12			com	nmission after December 31, 2010 2014.	
13		C.	"Pro	oduce coal" means mining operations to uncover, sever, crush, handle, or	
14			tran	sport coal from its natural location under the earth's surface to the mouth of	
15			the	mine and all activities necessary and incidental to the reclamation of that	
16			loca	ation.	
17	SEC	СТІО	N 7. A	AMENDMENT. Section 57-40.2-04.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is	
18	amende	ed an	d reer	nacted as follows:	
19	57-4	40.2-	04.2.	(Effective through June 30, 2015) Use tax exemption for power plant	
20	constru	ıctio	n, pro	eduction, environmental upgrade, and repowering equipment and oil	
21	refinery	or o	jas pi	rocessing plant environmental upgrade equipment.	
22	1.	As	used	in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:	
23		a.	(1)	"Environmental upgrade" means an investment greater than twenty-five	
24				million dollars or one hundred thousand dollars per megawatt of installed	
25				nameplate capacity, whichever is less, in machinery, equipment, and related	
26				facilities for reducing emissions or increasing efficiency at an existing power	
27				plant.	
28			(2)	"Environmental upgrade" for purposes of a process unit means an	
29				investment greater than one hundred thousand dollars in machinery,	
30				equipment, and related facilities for reducing emissions, increasing	

1				efficiency, or enhancing reliability of the equipment at a new or existing
2				process unit.
3		b.	"Ор	erator" means any person owning, holding, or leasing a power plant or
4			pro	cess unit.
5		C.	"Po	wer plant" means:
6			(1)	An electrical generating plant, and all additions to the plant, which
7				processes or converts coal in its natural form or beneficiated coal into
8				electrical power and which has at least one single electrical energy
9				generation unit with a capacity of fifty thousand kilowatts or more.
10			(2)	A wind-powered electrical generating facility, on which construction is
11				completed before January 1, 2015, and all additions to the facility, which
12				provides electrical power through wind generation and which has at least
13				one single electrical energy generation unit with a nameplate capacity of
14				one hundred kilowatts or more.
15			(3)	Any other type of electrical power generating facility excluding the types of
16				power plants identified in paragraphs 1 and 2 which has a capacity of one
17				hundred kilowatts or more and produces electricity for resale or for
18				consumption in a business activity.
19		d.	"Pro	ocess unit" means an oil refinery or gas processing plant and all adjacent
20			unit	s that are utilized in the processing of crude oil or natural gas.
21		e.	"Pro	oduction equipment" means machinery and attachment units, other than
22			repl	acement parts, directly and exclusively used in the generation, transmission
23			or d	listribution of electrical energy for sale by a power plant.
24		f.	"Re	powering" means an investment of more than two hundred million dollars or
25			one	million dollars per megawatt of installed nameplate capacity, whichever is
26			less	s, in an existing power plant that modifies or replaces the process used for
27			con	verting coal in its natural form or beneficiated coal into electric power.
28	2.	Sale	es of	production or environmental upgrade equipment that is delivered on or after
29		Jan	uary	1, 2007, and used exclusively in power plants or repowering existing power
30		plar	nts or	in process units are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- 3. Sales of tangible personal property, other than production or environmental upgrade equipment, which is used in the construction of new power plants or to expand existing power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing power plants or repowering existing power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing process units are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.
 - 4. To receive the exemption at the time of purchase, the operator must receive from the commissioner a certificate that the tangible personal property or production equipment the operator intends to purchase qualifies for the reduced rate or exemption. If a certificate is not received prior to the purchase, the operator shall pay the applicable tax imposed by this chapter and apply to the commissioner for a refund.
 - 5. If the tangible personal property or production equipment is purchased or installed by a contractor subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, the operator may apply for a refund of the difference between the amount remitted by the contractor and the reduced rate or exemption imposed or allowed by this section.

(Effective after June 30, 2015) Use tax exemption for power plant construction, production, environmental upgrade, and repowering equipment and oil refinery or gas processing plant environmental upgrade equipment.

- 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. (1) "Environmental upgrade" means an investment greater than twenty-five million dollars or one hundred thousand dollars per megawatt of installed nameplate capacity, whichever is less, in machinery, equipment, and related facilities for reducing emissions or increasing efficiency at an existing power-plant.
 - (2) "Environmental upgrade" for purposes of a process unit means an investment greater than one hundred thousand dollars in machinery, equipment, and related facilities for reducing emissions, increasing efficiency, or enhancing reliability of the equipment at a new or existing process unit.
 - b. "Operator" means any person owning, holding, or leasing a power plant or process unit.
 - c. "Power plant" means:

1 (1) An electrical generating plant, and all additions to the plant, which 2 processes or converts coal from its natural form into electrical power and 3 which has at least one single electrical energy generation unit with a 4 capacity of fifty thousand kilowatts or more. 5 (2) A wind-powered electrical generating facility, on which construction is 6 completed before January 1, 2015, and all additions to the facility, which 7 provides electrical power through wind generation and which has at least-8 one single electrical energy generation unit with a nameplate capacity of 9 one hundred kilowatts or more. 10 (3) Any other type of electrical power generating facility excluding the types of 11 power plants identified in paragraphs 1 and 2 which has a capacity of one-12 hundred kilowatts or more and produces electricity for resale or for-13 consumption in a business activity. 14 "Process unit" means an oil refinery or gas processing plant and all adjacent d. 15 units that are utilized in the processing of crude oil or natural gas. 16 "Production equipment" means machinery and attachment units, other thane. 17 replacement parts, directly and exclusively used in the generation, transmission, 18 or distribution of electrical energy for sale by a power plant. 19 "Repowering" means an investment of more than two hundred million dollars or 20 one million dollars per megawatt of installed nameplate capacity, whichever is-21 less, in an existing power plant that modifies or replaces the process used for-22 converting coal from its natural form into electric power. 23 2. Sales of production or environmental upgrade equipment that is delivered on or after-24 January 1, 2007, and used exclusively in power plants or repowering existing power 25 plants or in process units are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. 26 Sales of tangible personal property, other than production or environmental upgrade-27 equipment, which is used in the construction of new power plants or to expand existing-28 power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing power plants or repowering 29 existing power plants or to add environmental upgrades to existing process units are 30 exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly

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- 4. To receive the exemption at the time of purchase, the operator must receive from the commissioner a certificate that the tangible personal property or production equipment the operator intends to purchase qualifies for the reduced rate or exemption. If a certificate is not received prior to the purchase, the operator shall pay the applicable tax imposed by this chapter and apply to the commissioner for a refund.
 - 5. If the tangible personal property or production equipment is purchased or installed by a contractor subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, the operator may apply for a refund of the difference between the amount remitted by the contractor and the reduced rate or exemption imposed or allowed by this section.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this Act are effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014. Sections 5, 6, and 7 of this Act are effective for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2015.