



Wednesday, January 20, 2021

HB 1192 (1/21/2021 Hearing-10:00 AM)

Dear Chair Dockter and Honorable Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee:

I am respectfully requesting you to support a **“DO NOT PASS”** on House Bill 1192 relating to limitations on the true and full valuation of property for tax purposes and limitations on property tax levied by taxing districts without voter approval.

The language in HB 1192 restricts both valuations and mill levies which will impact all political subdivisions. In reference to limiting values, this bill would constitute a valuation “freeze” on all classes of property with the exception of new construction, demolition, exempt to taxable and taxable to exempt. This appears to overturn all of our valuation methods as prescribed by Century Code at this time.

Would this bill apply to centrally assessed properties that are valued by the State Tax Department? Centrally assessed properties are properties such as railroads, pipelines, electric generation, distribution and transmission lines.

To increase values or to exceed the limitations, a majority of the qualified electors of each taxing district would need to approve a ballot measure at a regular or special election of that taxing district. Our County has 55 townships, 7 cities, 7 school districts, 5 ambulance districts and 8 fire districts. **How many elections would be required due to a request to exceed the limitations?** Example: Township A wants to request an increase of 5% in value. Township A would prepare a ballot measure to be voted on by their electors. However, there are several different taxing districts within this township – such as fire, ambulance and school – as the bill reads I believe each district would need to vote on the increase as you may have different electors.

Who has the authority to request or establish an election for an increase in values or mill rates? At this time, assessors, townships, cities and counties can influence valuations through existing Century Code processes. Schools, fire and ambulance districts are not a part of the equalization/valuation process. The equalization meetings are open to the public to address issues with valuations.

The restrictions of HB 1192 would place unnecessary burdens on local governments and your support for a **“DO NOT PASS”** is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

**Lori Hanson**  
**Mountrail County Director of Tax Equalization**