

HOUSE BILL NO. 1419

Introduced by

Representatives Dockter, Bosch, Heinert, Klemin, Meier, Nathe

Senators Dever, Poolman

1 | A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~a new subsection to section 40-05-01 and~~ a new section
2 | to chapter 40-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the authority of a ~~county or~~ city
3 | to levy an infrastructure fee in lieu of special assessments; and to amend and reenact sections
4 | 11-09.1-05, 11-11-55.1, 40-05.1-06, 40-12-02, and 40-23-21 of the North Dakota Century Code,
5 | relating to the authority of cities and counties to levy an infrastructure fee in lieu of special
6 | assessments and special assessment fund balances.

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

8 | **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-09.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 | amended and reenacted as follows:

10 | **11-09.1-05. Powers.**

11 | After the filing with the secretary of state of a charter approved in reasonable conformity
12 | with this chapter, the county and its citizens may, if included in the charter and implemented
13 | through ordinances:

- 14 | 1. Acquire, hold, operate, and dispose of property within or without the county limits, and,
15 | subject to chapter 32-15, exercise the right of eminent domain for those purposes.
- 16 | 2. Control its finances and fiscal affairs; appropriate money for its purposes, and make
17 | payments of its debts and expenses; contract debts, borrow money, issue bonds,
18 | warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness; establish charges for any county or
19 | other services to the extent authorized by state law; and establish debt limitations.
- 20 | 3. ~~To levy~~Levy and collect property taxes and special assessments for benefits
21 | conferred, for its public and proprietary functions, activities, operations, undertakings,
22 | and improvements, and establish mill levy limitations. Notwithstanding any authority
23 | granted under this chapter, all property must be assessed in a uniform manner as
24 | prescribed by the state board of equalization and the state supervisor of assessments

1 and all taxable property must be taxed by the county at the same rate unless
2 otherwise provided by law. A charter or ordinance or act of a governing body of a
3 home rule county may not supersede any state law that determines what property or
4 acts are subject to, or exempt from, ad valorem taxes. A charter or ordinance or act of
5 the governing body of a home rule county may not supersede section 11-11-55.1
6 relating to the sixty percent petition requirement for improvements and of section
7 40-22-18 relating to the barring proceeding for improvement projects.

8 4. ~~To levy~~Levy~~To levy~~ and collect an infrastructure fee ~~in lieu of~~. The fee must replace a
9 general special ~~assessments~~assessment on all ~~residential and commercial~~taxable
10 property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs through a utility bill issued by
11 the county. The money collected under this subsection may not be used for any
12 purpose other than infrastructure maintenance costs. If a home rule county levies an
13 infrastructure fee, the home rule county also may levy and collect green field special
14 assessments. As used in this subsection:

15 a. "General special assessments" means special assessments levied for the
16 purpose of maintaining existing roads and infrastructure and special
17 assessments levied for the construction or repair of arterial roads and
18 infrastructure that provide a benefit to the entire community.

19 b. "Green field special assessments" means special assessments levied for
20 infrastructure costs associated with the development of agricultural or
21 undeveloped property.

22 5. Levy and collect sales and use taxes, farm machinery gross receipts taxes, alcoholic
23 beverage gross receipts taxes, a county lodging tax, and a county restaurant tax.

24 Sales and use taxes and gross receipts taxes levied under this chapter:

25 a. Must conform in all respects with regard to the taxable or exempt status of items
26 under chapters 57-39.2, 57-39.5, 57-39.6, and 57-40.2 and may not be imposed
27 at multiple rates with the exception of sales of manufactured homes or mobile
28 homes.

29 b. May not be newly imposed or changed except to be effective on the first day of a
30 calendar quarterly period after a minimum of ninety days' notice to the tax
31 commissioner or, for purchases from printed catalogs, on the first day of a

- 1 calendar quarter after a minimum of one hundred twenty days' notice to the
2 seller.
- 3 c. May not be limited to apply to less than the full value of the transaction or item as
4 determined for state sales and use tax, except for farm machinery gross receipts
5 tax purposes.
- 6 d. Must be subject to collection by the tax commissioner under an agreement under
7 section 57-01-02.1, with the exception of a county lodging or county restaurant
8 tax, and must be administered by the tax commissioner in accordance with the
9 relevant provisions of chapter 57-39.2, including reporting and paying
10 requirements, correction of errors, payment of refunds, and application of penalty
11 and interest.

12 After December 31, 2005, any portion of a charter or any portion of an ordinance or
13 act of a governing body of a home rule county passed pursuant to a charter which
14 does not conform to the requirements of this subsection is invalid to the extent that it
15 does not conform. The invalidity of a portion of a charter or ordinance or act of a
16 governing body of a home rule county because it does not conform to this subsection
17 does not affect the validity of any other portion of the charter or ordinance or act of a
18 governing body of a home rule county or the eligibility for a refund under section
19 57-01-02.1. Any taxes imposed under this chapter on farm machinery, farm irrigation
20 equipment, and farm machinery repair parts used exclusively for agricultural purposes,
21 or on alcoholic beverages, which were in effect on December 31, 2005, become gross
22 receipts taxes after December 31, 2005. Ordinances enacted after August 1, 2017,
23 may not allow for the collection and levy of any tax not otherwise specified under this
24 section.

25 ~~5-6.~~ Provide for county elected and appointed officers and employees, their selection,
26 powers, duties, qualifications, and compensation, and the terms of county appointed
27 officers and employees. However, after adoption of a home rule charter, a county
28 elected office may not be eliminated or combined with another office except upon
29 approval of a majority of the electors of the county voting upon the question at a
30 primary or general election or pursuant to the county officer combination, separation,
31 or redesignation procedures of chapter 11-10.2. A home rule charter may not diminish

1 the term of office for which a current county officer was elected, redesignate that
2 elected office during that term as appointed, or reduce the salary of the office for that
3 term. This subsection does not authorize a county to redesignate the elected offices of
4 sheriff and state's attorney as appointed, except as provided in section 11-10-02.3.

5 ~~6-7.~~ Provide for all matters pertaining to county elections, except as to qualifications of
6 electors.

7 ~~7-8.~~ Provide for the adoption, amendment, repeal, initiative, referral, enforcement, and civil
8 and criminal penalties for violation of ordinances, resolutions, and regulations to carry
9 out its governmental and proprietary powers and to provide for public health, safety,
10 morals, and welfare. However, this subsection does not confer any authority to
11 regulate any industry or activity which is regulated by state law or by rules adopted by
12 a state agency.

13 ~~8-9.~~ Lay out or vacate public grounds, and provide through its governing body for the
14 construction, use, operation, designation, and regulation of a county road system.

15 ~~9-10.~~ Provide for zoning, planning, and subdivision of public or private property within the
16 county limits but outside the zoning authority of any city or organized township.

17 ~~10-11.~~ Exercise in the conduct of its affairs all powers usually exercised by a corporation.

18 ~~11-12.~~ Contract with and receive grants from any other governmental entity or agency, with
19 respect to any local, state, or federal program, project, or works.

20 The people of all counties coming within this chapter have the full right of
21 self-government in all matters within the powers enumerated in this chapter. The statutes of this
22 state, so far as applicable, continue to apply to counties, except as superseded by the charters
23 of the counties or by ordinances passed pursuant to the charters.

24 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-11-55.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **11-11-55.1. Petition or resolution for improvements - Levy of special assessments -**
27 **Levy of infrastructure fee.**

28 1. The board of county commissioners of any county, by resolution or upon receipt of a
29 petition of sixty percent of the landowners in a defined area, outside of the limits of any
30 incorporated city, may install the petitioned improvements as benefit the defined area,

1 provide for the financing of the improvements, and levy special assessments for the
2 payment of all or part of the improvements within the defined area.

3 2. The board of county commissioners, by resolution or upon petition of sixty percent of
4 the qualified electors who voted in the last general election in a defined area, may levy
5 and collect an infrastructure fee in lieu of general special assessments on all
6 residential and commercial county utility bills for payment of infrastructure
7 maintenance costs. If a home rule county levies an infrastructure fee, the home rule
8 county also may levy and collect green field special assessments.

9 3. In providing for the improvements, the county shall have the authority granted to
10 municipalities in chapters 40-22, 40-23, 40-23.1, 40-24, 40-25, 40-26, 40-27, and
11 40-28, and the county shall comply with the provisions of those chapters in making the
12 improvements. Whenever action is required of city officials in those chapters, the
13 comparable county officials shall take the action.

14 4. As used in this section:

15 a. "General special assessments" means special assessments levied for the
16 purpose of maintaining existing roads and infrastructure and special
17 assessments levied for the construction or repair of arterial roads and
18 infrastructure that provide a benefit to the entire community.

19 b. "Green field special assessments" means special assessments levied for
20 infrastructure costs associated with the development of agricultural or
21 undeveloped property.

22 ~~SECTION 3. A new subsection to section 40-05-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
23 ~~created and enacted as follows:~~

24 ~~Levy and collect an infrastructure fee in lieu of general special assessments on all~~
25 ~~residential and commercial property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs~~
26 ~~through a utility bill issued by a municipality. If a municipality levies an infrastructure~~
27 ~~fee, the municipality also may levy and collect green field special assessments.~~

28 ~~As used in this section:~~

29 ~~a. "General special assessments" means special assessments levied for the~~
30 ~~purpose of maintaining existing roads and infrastructure and special~~

~~assessments levied for the construction or repair of arterial roads and
infrastructure that provide a benefit to the entire community.~~

~~b. "Green field special assessments" means special assessments levied for
infrastructure costs associated with the development of agricultural or
undeveloped property.~~

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 40-05.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-05.1-06. Powers.

From and after the filing with the secretary of state of a charter framed and approved in reasonable conformity with the provisions of this chapter, such city, and the citizens thereof, shall, if included in the charter and implemented through ordinances, have the following powers set out in this chapter:

1. To acquire, hold, operate, and dispose of property within or without the corporate limits, and, subject to chapter 32-15, exercise the right of eminent domain for such purposes.
2. To control its finances and fiscal affairs; to appropriate money for its purposes, and make payment of its debts and expenses; to contract debts, borrow money, issue bonds, warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness; to establish charges for any city or other services; and to establish debt limitations.
3. To levy and collect property taxes and special assessments for benefits conferred, for its public and proprietary functions, activities, operations, undertakings, and improvements, and establish mill levy limitations. Notwithstanding any authority granted under this chapter, all property must be assessed in a uniform manner as prescribed by the state board of equalization and the state supervisor of assessments and all taxable property must be taxed by the city at the same rate unless otherwise provided by law.
4. To levy and collect an infrastructure fee ~~in lieu of~~. The fee must replace a general special ~~assessments~~assessment on all ~~residential and commercial~~taxable property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs through a utility bill issued by a municipality. The money collected under this subsection may not be used for any purpose other than infrastructure maintenance costs. If a home rule city levies an

1 infrastructure fee, the home rule city also may levy and collect green field special
2 assessments. As used in this subsection:

3 a. "General special assessments" means special assessments levied for the
4 purpose of maintaining existing roads and infrastructure and special
5 assessments levied for the construction or repair of arterial roads and
6 infrastructure that provide a benefit to the entire community.

7 b. "Green field special assessments" means special assessments levied for
8 infrastructure costs associated with the development of agricultural or
9 undeveloped property.

10 5. To levy and collect excises, fees, charges, franchise and license taxes, sales and use
11 taxes, farm machinery gross receipts taxes, alcoholic beverage gross receipts taxes, a
12 city lodging tax, and a city restaurant tax. For purposes of this section, any taxes
13 imposed under this section on farm machinery, farm irrigation equipment, and farm
14 machinery repair parts used exclusively for agricultural purposes, or on alcoholic
15 beverages, which were in effect on December 31, 2005, become gross receipts taxes
16 after December 31, 2005. After December 31, 2005, any portion of a charter or any
17 portion of an ordinance passed pursuant to a charter which does not conform to the
18 requirements of this section is invalid to the extent it does not conform. The invalidity
19 of a portion of a charter or ordinance because it does not conform with this subsection
20 does not affect the validity of any other portion of the charter or ordinance of the
21 eligibility for a refund under section 57-01-02.1. Ordinances enacted after August 1,
22 2017, may not allow for the collection and levy of any tax not otherwise specified
23 under this section. Sales and use taxes and gross receipts taxes levied under this
24 section:

25 a. Must conform in all respects with regard to the taxable or exempt status of items
26 under chapters 57-39.2, 57-39.5, 57-39.6, and 57-40.2 and may not be imposed
27 at multiple rates with the exception of sales of manufactured homes or mobile
28 homes.

29 b. May not be newly imposed or changed except to be effective on the first day of a
30 calendar quarterly period after a minimum of ninety days' notice to the tax
31 commissioner or, for purchases from printed catalogs, on the first day of a

- 1 calendar quarter after a minimum of one hundred twenty days' notice to the
2 seller.
- 3 c. May not be limited to apply to less than the full value of the transaction or item as
4 determined for state sales and use tax purposes, except for farm machinery
5 gross receipts tax.
- 6 d. Must be subject to collection by the tax commissioner under an agreement under
7 section 57-01-02.1, with the exception of a city lodging or city restaurant tax, and
8 must be administered by the tax commissioner in accordance with the relevant
9 provisions of chapter 57-39.2, including reporting and paying requirements,
10 correction of errors, payment of refunds, and application of penalty and interest.
- 11 ~~5-6.~~ To fix the fees, number, terms, conditions, duration, and manner of issuing and
12 revoking licenses in the exercise of its governmental police powers.
- 13 ~~6-7.~~ To provide for city officers, agencies, and employees, their selection, terms, powers,
14 duties, qualifications, and compensation. To provide for change, selection, or creation
15 of its form and structure of government, including its governing body, executive officer,
16 and city officers.
- 17 ~~7-8.~~ To provide for city courts, their jurisdiction and powers over ordinance violations,
18 duties, administration, and the selection, qualifications, and compensation of their
19 officers; however, the right of appeal from judgment of such courts shall not be in any
20 way affected.
- 21 ~~8-9.~~ To provide for all matters pertaining to city elections, except as to qualifications of
22 electors.
- 23 ~~9-10.~~ To provide for the adoption, amendment, and repeal of ordinances, resolutions, and
24 regulations to carry out its governmental and proprietary powers and to provide for
25 public health, safety, morals, and welfare, and penalties for a violation thereof.
- 26 ~~10-11.~~ To lay out or vacate streets, alleys, and public grounds, and to provide for the use,
27 operation, and regulation thereof.
- 28 ~~11-12.~~ To define offenses against private persons and property and the public health, safety,
29 morals, and welfare, and provide penalties for violations thereof.

- 1 ~~12-13.~~ To engage in any utility, business, or enterprise permitted by the constitution or not
2 prohibited by statute or to grant and regulate franchises therefor to a private person,
3 firm, corporation, or limited liability company.
- 4 ~~13-14.~~ To provide for zoning, planning, and subdivision of public or private property within the
5 city limits. To provide for such zoning, planning, and subdivision of public or private
6 property outside the city limits as may be permitted by state law.
- 7 ~~14-15.~~ To exercise in the conduct of its affairs all powers usually exercised by a corporation.
- 8 ~~15-16.~~ To fix the boundary limits of said city and the annexation and deannexation of territory
9 adjacent to said city except that such power shall be subject to, and shall conform with
10 the state law made and provided.
- 11 ~~16-17.~~ To contract with and receive grants from any other governmental entity or agency, with
12 respect to any local, state, or federal program, project, or works.

13 It is the intention of this chapter to grant and confirm to the people of all cities coming within
14 its provisions the full right of self-government in both local and city matters within the powers
15 enumerated herein. The statutes of the state of North Dakota, so far as applicable, shall
16 continue to apply to home rule cities, except insofar as superseded by the charters of such
17 cities or by ordinance passed pursuant to such charters.

18 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-12-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **40-12-02. Submission of proposed ordinance by petition - Filed with city auditor -**
21 **Request in petition.**

- 22 1. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the governing body of the municipality
23 by a petition signed by qualified electors thereof equal in number to fifteen percent of
24 the votes cast for all candidates for the executive officer at the preceding regular
25 municipal election. The petition must be filed in the city auditor's office and must
26 contain a request that the ordinance set out in the petition be submitted to a vote of
27 the qualified electors of the city if it is not passed by the governing body of the
28 municipality.
- 29 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a proposed ordinance for the purpose of levying an
30 infrastructure fee under section 6 of this Act may be submitted to the governing body
31 of the municipality by a petition signed by sixty percent of the qualified electors who

1 voted in the preceding municipal election. The petition must be filed in the city
2 auditor's office and submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the city at the next
3 municipal election.

4 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 40-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Power of municipality to defray expense of improvements - Infrastructure fee.**

7 1. Notwithstanding section 40-22-01, a municipality may levy and collect an infrastructure
8 fee ~~in lieu of~~. The fee must replace a general special ~~assessments~~assessment on all
9 ~~residential and commercial~~taxable property for payment of infrastructure maintenance
10 costs through a utility bill issued by a municipality. The money collected under this
11 subsection may not be used for any purpose other than infrastructure maintenance
12 costs. If a municipality levies an infrastructure fee, the municipality also may levy and
13 collect green field special assessments.

14 2. As used in this section:

15 a. "General special assessments" means special assessments levied for the
16 purpose of maintaining existing roads and infrastructure and special
17 assessments levied for the construction or repair of arterial roads and
18 infrastructure that provide a benefit to the entire community.

19 b. "Green field special assessments" means special assessments levied for
20 infrastructure costs associated with the development of agricultural or
21 undeveloped property.

22 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-23-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **40-23-21. Use of collections of subsequent assessments.**

25 1. All collections of special assessments levied pursuant to sections 40-23-17 through
26 40-23-21 shall be credited as received to the special fund maintained by the
27 municipality for the payment of any outstanding special improvement warrants,
28 refunding improvement bonds, general obligation bonds, or revenue bonds which were
29 issued to finance the improvement for which the assessments were levied, or, if no
30 such obligations are outstanding, to such fund as the governing body may direct.

1 2. If a governing body of a municipality levied and collected an infrastructure fee under
2 section 5 of this Act, the funds generated by the fee must be used for the payment of
3 any outstanding special improvement warrants, refunding improvement bonds, general
4 obligation bonds, or revenue bonds issued to finance the improvement. The governing
5 body of a municipality may not use funds generated by an infrastructure fee imposed
6 after the effective date of this Act for the payment of any outstanding special
7 improvement warrants, refunding improvement bonds, general obligation bonds, or
8 revenue bonds, issued before the effective date of this Act for the purpose of financing
9 green field special assessments, as defined in section 40-05-01.