

February 17, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1440**

Introduced by

Representatives D. Ruby, Dockter, Headland, Kasper, Marschall, Porter, Rohr, M. Ruby, Wolff  
Senators Paulson, Weston, Wobbema

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subdivision d of subsection 3 of section 23-12-10 of the  
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to cigar lounges.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision d of subsection 3 of section 23-12-10 of the North  
5 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 d. ~~A cigar lounge, which has a valid certificate issued by the tax commissioner~~  
7 ~~under this subdivision; has a humidor on the premises; is enclosed by solid walls~~  
8 ~~or windows, a ceiling, and a solid door; and is equipped with a ventilation system~~  
9 ~~by which exhausted air is not recirculated to nonsmoking areas and smoke is not~~  
10 ~~backstreamed into nonsmoking areas. A cigar lounge meeting the requirements~~  
11 ~~of this subdivision may permit that permits the smoking of cigars and pipe tobacco~~  
12 ~~purchased on the premises; but may does not permit the smoking of any other~~  
13 ~~product on the premises.~~

14 (1) An applicant for a certificate to operate a cigar lounge shall report to the tax  
15 commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, that the premises  
16 in which the cigar lounge will be operated has a humidor; is enclosed by  
17 solid walls or windows, a ceiling, and a solid door; and is equipped with a  
18 ventilation system by which exhausted air is not recirculated to nonsmoking  
19 areas and smoke is not backstreamed into nonsmoking areas. The  
20 commissioner may not require an applicant to report information regarding

1 income from the sale of cigars in an initial application. Upon receipt of a  
2 report asserting compliance with this paragraph, the commissioner shall  
3 issue the applicant a certificate to operate a cigar lounge.

4 (2) A cigar lounge asserting the lounge meets the requirements of ~~this-~~  
5 ~~subdivision~~paragraph 1 shall report to the tax commissioner before  
6 February first of each year following a full calendar year of operation, on a  
7 form prescribed by the commissioner, the revenue from the previous  
8 calendar year generated from the sale of cigars as a percentage of annual  
9 gross income from receipts or sales. Upon receipt of a report asserting  
10 ~~compliance with the annual gross income requirements of this-~~  
11 ~~subdivision~~the cigar lounge generates fifteen percent or more of the  
12 business's annual gross income from receipts or sales from the sale of  
13 cigars ~~and pipe tobacco~~, the commissioner shall ~~issue an~~renew the annual  
14 certificate. The commissioner is not required to confirm the accuracy of  
15 information reported but may not ~~issue~~renew a certificate absent supporting  
16 documentation from the lounge.

17 (3) Information reported to the commissioner under this subdivision is subject to  
18 the confidentiality provisions of section 57-39.2-23.

19 (2)(4) For purposes of this subdivision:

20 (a) "Cigar" means an individual roll of tobacco which has a wrapper or  
21 cover of whole leaf tobacco; does not contain filler other than tobacco  
22 filler; does not contain binder other than tobacco binder; does not  
23 contain additives other than water; does not contain a filter, tip, or  
24 nontobacco mouthpiece; weighs at least six pounds per thousand  
25 count; and is made by hand, except to allow for the use of a manually  
26 operated machine to assist in bunching, rolling, and binding.

27 (b) "Cigar lounge" means a business dedicated, in whole or in part, to the  
28 smoking of cigars ~~which generates fifteen percent or more of the~~  
29 ~~business's annual gross income from the sale of cigars~~and pipe-  
30 tobacco, which has a valid certificate issued by the tax commissioner.

31 (c) ~~"Pipe tobacco" has the meaning provided in section 57-36-01.~~