

2013 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2162

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162

1/21/13

Recording Job Number: 17428

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature:



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Lee opens hearing on SB 2162.

Senator Grindberg introduces the bill to the committee. See attached testimony #1.

No questions from the committee for Senator Grindberg.

Brian Arett, Executive Director of Valley Senior Services and a representative of the 26 agencies that are members of the North Dakota Senior Service Provider (NDSSP) that provide Older American Act Services to the senior population of this state, testifies in support of SB 2162. See attached testimony #2.

Floor is open for questions from the committee.

(0:07:27) Senator Axness asks why the age for a person to be eligible for senior services is 85 years old.

Mr. Arett explains that the actual age restriction is 60 years and older. 85 years and older is the critical age when people have a more serious need for services. North Dakota is experiencing a boom with people 85 years and older and has the highest number per capita of any state of individuals in this age group.

(0:08:41) Senator Anderson asks for more explanation as to why they need money to repair the senior centers when it was expressed that the 85+ individuals need more home care services.

Mr. Arett explains that the funds through the Mill Levy Match program are allowed to be spent on a variety of services (2nd paragraph of testimony). The funding for senior centers is only one example of where the dollars would be spent. This funding will help subsidize the meals on wheels program, in addition to being available to help provide some funding

for senior centers. If a person is able to get to a center they are certainly going to encourage that. The idea is to spend these dollars on the continuation of care to allow people to maintain as much independence as possible.

(0:11:14) Chairman Lee asks Mr. Arett to explain the element of contribution from the facilities.

Mr. Arett states that one source of funding is the Older American Act (federally funded) to help with a number of services and explains the areas of criteria.

(0:13:07) Senator Larsen asks what determines the mill levy for the seniors.

Mr. Arett explains that the legislature authorized counties to establish up to one mill. Now it's gone up to two mills. The procedure for establishing this was through a referendum.

No further questions from the committee for Mr. Arett.

Terry Traynor, North Dakota Association of Counties, testifies in favor of the bill. No written testimony was submitted but he proceeds to provide information and examples to support.

(0:16:31) Chairman Lee asks if he agrees that some of these programs may assist in keeping people in their homes, rather than the higher cost of providing services in a more restrictive setting.

Mr. Traynor agrees and explains that without these programs it would be very difficult to keep some people in their homes.

(0:17:04) Chairman Lee asks if he has any observations about transportation needs.

Mr. Traynor states that he does not but explains that when they restructured the State Highway Distribution Fund Program two sessions ago, a formula was established that helps transit across the state.

(0:18:05) Senator Dever asks what the total cost is.

Mr. Traynor states that with the 2011 levy's, 1 mill state wide generates 2.4 million dollars per year. Two counties don't levy (McKenzie and Billings).

No further questions from the committee for Mr. Traynor.

Mr. Arett steps back up to address the transportation question. They have a transportation program throughout the region that they serve and it is a constant struggle for funds. They are asking for additional funding over what the Governor included in his budget. It is an extremely critical issue.

No further questions from the committee and no further testimony in favor or opposition.

Chairman Lee closes hearing on SB 2162.

Committee discussion:

(0:21:41) Senator Anderson asks for an explanation on policy committees vs. appropriation committees. Chairman Lee explains the difference.

Senator Anderson continues the discussion, stating that this is an example of continuing entitlements that are made and provides examples. Chairman Lee follows with her opinion and feels that there needs to be a balance between providing appropriate services recognizing that the Older American Act is a factor in this as well. People that have the ability to pay need to have their fair share, but there are others who might not be as fortunate.

Senator Axness offers his opinion on why he feels these services are necessary and why he supports it.

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162

1/21/13

Recording Job Number: 17473

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature:



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Committee discussion on SB 2162:

Senator Axness moves a Do Pass and Rerefers to Appropriations.

Senator Dever seconds.

Senator Dever needs more clarification of the revenue flow in the fiscal note.

Chairman Lee explains that the portion the general fund is coming from is from the sales and motor vehicle excise tax.

Ken Tupa, North Dakota Senior Services Provider, is present in the room and clarifies the committee's fiscal note concerns.

No further questions or committee discussion.

Roll call vote: 5-0, Do Pass with Rereferral to Appropriations

Senator Larsen is the carrier.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/15/2013

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2162

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$(1,200,000)	\$1,200,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2011-2013 Biennium	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium
Counties		\$1,200,000	
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

SB 2162 increases the amount of revenue available to counties for a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section 1 of SB 2162 increases the amount of the grant to each eligible county equal to the actual amount levied up to one mill. Section 2 of SB 2162 allocates a larger portion of sales and motor vehicle excise tax revenues to the senior citizen services and programs fund.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

If enacted, SB 2162 is expected to reduce state general fund revenues by an estimated \$1.2 million in the 2013-15 biennium, and increase revenues in the senior citizen services and programs fund by the same amount. This additional revenue will be distributed to qualifying counties.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck

Agency: Office of Tax Commissioner

Telephone: 328-3402

Date Prepared: 01/19/2013

Date: 1/21/13
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2162

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Axness Seconded By Sen. Derer

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Judy Lee	✓		Senator Tyler Axness	✓	
Vice Chairman Oley Larsen	✓				
Senator Dick Dever	✓				
Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Larsen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2162: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2013 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2162

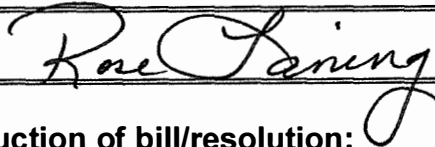
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2162
January 28, 2013
Job # 17783

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 57-15-56 and section 57-39.2-26.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties; and to provide an effective date.

Minutes:

Testimony attached - #1.

Legislative Council - Brady Larson
OMB - Tammy Dolan

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on SB 2162. All committee members were present.

V.Chairman Grinberg, District 41, Bill Sponsor

Testified in favor of SB 2162

This is a bill that is familiar to this committee. It's identical to what we passed two years ago in moving a fifty cent match for senior services across the state to one dollar. In conference committee it was settled at seventy five cents. In the interest of wanting to see this back to one dollar, I agreed to sponsor it once again with **Senator Robinson** and **Senator Krebsbach** on the Senate side. The fiscal note is about \$1.2M. This bill was passed out of the senate at one dollar last time and so I'm hopeful that we can move it up to where it once was. Years ago it was one dollar, but through tight fiscal times in the states' history, it was reduced. I think we can argue that conditions in the state are favorable to bring it back to where it once was - at one dollar.

Senator Kilzer: Is this bill have any relation at all to aging services?

V.Chairman Grinberg: I could stand to be corrected, but I don't believe so.

Chairman Holmberg: The audience is shaking their heads no.

Brian Arett, Director, Valley Senior Services

Testified in favor of SB 2162
Testimony attached # 1

(5:37) In 2011, when the most recent figures were available, 30% of the mill levy match fund was spent on senior center maintenance and improvements. The bottom line, from my perspective, and I've worked in the field of aging for 30 years, is that these facilities serve as a major focal point for seniors in their respective communities. It's a place where seniors congregate and where services are provided that assist them in maintaining an active and independent life style.

(7:02) **Senator Gary Lee:** This is based on property value, isn't it, the formula is property value. With increase in property value around most of the state, how has that fund enhanced itself with just that factor?

Brian Arett: Yes. It is based on property value. Counties have the authority to levy up to two mills for senior programming. Fifty one of fifty three counties levy at least one mill. I think there are thirteen that levy two mills. This bill would only match up to that one mill, but yes, it's based on valuation. I'm not sure how that changed between 2011 and 2012. It seems to me that it was up 3.8 percent from 2011-2012 and I don't know if the figures have been released yet for what is going to be paid out in 2013.

(8:17) - **Josh Asvig, AARP of North Dakota**
Testified in favor of SB 2162
No written testimony.

I will say "ditto" to what Brian said. The only point I'll make is that they (the senior centers) not only serve as a focal point for people that come, but also as a check in that sometimes people are allowed to stay in their homes a lot longer than they might have otherwise been. There was a story last week in the House talking about home delivered meals funding and one of the ladies told of when people don't show up to the senior center, they know to call them and make sure they are ok, especially if they haven't notified them. This is a great program and thanks to the senators who are working on this and look forward to hopefully seeing it move forward.

(9:10) **Chairman Holmberg** said there is a study that was done in 2011 about one of the effects of our home delivered meals and keeping them in their own homes. It indicated that in ND in federal fiscal year 2011, 345 of the home delivered meal clients in ND scored as nursing home eligible and Medicaid eligible. The average cost in ND in a nursing home is \$71,000 a year - according to the insurance department. The savings that is caused by home delivered meals can be quantified and is really quite a bit of money.

Josh Asvig: There is a Brown University study - and I don't have the figures in front of me, but would be happy to get it to the committee. The general overview is that they can usually stay in their homes 10% longer. The generally accepted counts figure is for every one individual in a long term care facility, you can fund three to stay at home. It's a difference in that congregate home delivered meals are a huge part of that.

Chairman Holmberg: The big discussion would be in the Human Services budget which is over in the House.

(11:03) **Senator Robinson** supports the bill. He and his wife delivered meals and many of the folks should be or soon will be in long-term care. The program is a little costly, but a whole lot less than a nursing home placement and Medicaid costs. It's an investment in quality of life and many of the folks would prefer it to stay at home as long as they can.

Josh Askvig: After the election, all of the senators should have received a packet from us that shows we did a survey of all ND age fifty and older. The number one concern of people as they age is how they are going to stay in their homes. Senior centers are certainly a part of that as well and for many people who go to the senior centers that is their only social interaction for the day that they may have with anybody. Otherwise, they are home alone and isolated. The senior centers, as well as the programing they provide are vitally important.

(12:35) **Jay Schechter, Bismarck, ND**

Testified in favor of SB 2162

No written testimony.

I am just speaking for my own personal experience. I've been in ND since July and about a month ago, I'm going on Medicare and I need a good gerontologist. I live in the City of Bismarck, and I was wondering where I could go. I called the Medical Association and nobody got back to me. However, I went to the Burleigh County Senior Center, and they gave me a list of resources of who to contact. The senior centers are not only a base for meals, nutrition and for delivering home based meals, but they are also a reference point and they are going to be increasingly so for other types of services. For example, I have a calendar for the month of February, of what the centers provide. They have doctors that come in and examine for foot care. They have legal people coming in discussing guardianship conservation wills. Increasingly, I see this in the foreseeable future that they might have people in from the State Dept. of Labor discussing senior employment. You'll see the senior centers taking on an increasing responsibility as far as being the overall focal point for senior citizens, not only for whole nutrition and delivering meals, but for other services as well.

(15:15) **Senator Carlisle** (for Mr. Askvig): The senior center here in Bismarck is in my district. Do you have a general idea of the traffic count? I know it's used a lot.

Josh Askvig: I don't know but I'd be happy to find out. We always volunteer there at least once a quarter to help out over lunch hours and all the tables are full. I could get you a count.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2162.

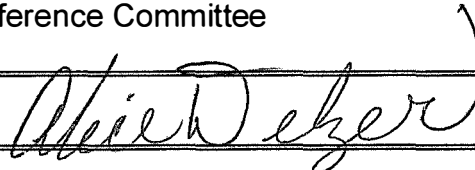
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2162
01-30-2013
Job # 17949

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A Bill relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties

Minutes:

No testimony presented.

Chairman Holmberg called the committee to order on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 in regards to SB 2162. All committee members were present except Senator Warner.

Vice Chairman Grindberg : Explained to the visiting students the nature of the bill. .

Senator Krebsbach Moved Do Pass.

Vice Chairman Grindberg seconded the motion.

Chairman Holmberg: Any further discussion on the bill? the Senate passed it two years ago. It didn't pass last time. Call the roll on a Do Pass on SB 2162.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 12, Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

Vice Chairman Grindberg will carry the bill on the floor.

Senator O'Connell how many billion dollars will be coming out of this committee? He was told \$13B The hearing was closed on SB 2162.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/15/2013

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2162

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$(1,200,000)	\$1,200,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2011-2013 Biennium	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium
Counties		\$1,200,000	
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

SB 2162 increases the amount of revenue available to counties for a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section 1 of SB 2162 increases the amount of the grant to each eligible county equal to the actual amount levied up to one mill. Section 2 of SB 2162 allocates a larger portion of sales and motor vehicle excise tax revenues to the senior citizen services and programs fund.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

If enacted, SB 2162 is expected to reduce state general fund revenues by an estimated \$1.2 million in the 2013-15 biennium, and increase revenues in the senior citizen services and programs fund by the same amount. This additional revenue will be distributed to qualifying counties.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck
Agency: Office of Tax Commissioner
Telephone: 328-3402
Date Prepared: 01/19/2013

Date: 1-30-13Roll Call Vote # 12013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTESBILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2162Senate Appropriations Committee☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do PassMotion Made By Krebsbach Seconded By Grindberg

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Ray Holmberg	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Co-Vice Chairman Bill Bowman	✓		Senator David O'Connell	✓	
Co-Vice Chair Tony Grindberg	✓		Senator Larry Robinson	✓	
Senator Ralph Kilzer	✓		Senator John Warner	A	
Senator Karen Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Robert Erbele	✓				
Senator Terry Wanzek	✓				
Senator Ron Carlisle	✓				
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0Absent 1Floor Assignment Grindberg

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2162: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

SB 2162

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Finance and Taxation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2162
March 11, 2013
Job #19679

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary Brucher

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A Bill relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties.

Minutes:

Attached testimony #1.

Chairman Belter: Opened hearing on SB 2162.

Ken Tupa, North Dakota Senior Service Providers: We had Brian Arett, the Executive Director with the Valley Senior Services here who will speak to the bill and visit with you about the mill levy match and answer any questions you may have.

Brian Arett, Executive Director of Valley Senior Services: See attached testimony #1.

Representative Zaiser: How many or do all of the regions in the state provide transportation services?

Brian Arett: Yes, every region in the state has a transportation service and multiple transportation providers. I don't know how many there are exactly but it is a significant element in what receives funding through the senior mill levy match. In the last year about \$500,000 of senior mill levy match funding was spent on transportation services.

Representative Zaiser: Would it be possible for your senior program to allow non-seniors to get use those services for a fee?

Brian Arett: Transportation services that are funded through the North Dakota Public Transit fund are open to anybody. There is not an age restriction or an age requirement in terms of who can ride in those vehicles?

Vice Chairman Headland: Do you recall what the increase in the bill from last session was?

Brian Arett: Yes, the increase in the last session was from \$.67 to \$.75 on the dollar.

Vice Chairman Headland: These have been traditionally funded at the county level and we all know what has happened with taxable value with property tax so a mill generates a lot more dollars locally than it used to. I understand expenses continue to go up but I have a bit of a problem of the state having to take care of some of the building needs or the equipment in the buildings. We used to provide a dollar for dollar match saying we provided a whole dollar but I believe we have increased it last time so I wonder if we go to a full dollar to match that mill what responsibility are they going to have to provide increasing dollars locally if the state is going to pick up the cost of it?

Brian Arett: Every county across the state that has a senior mill levy program established is going to be impacted by this. If the state increases their contribution to a dollar for dollar up to the first mill that is levied every county is still going to have some skin in the game. Many of the counties that are impacted by this are already levying more than a mill; some up to 2 mills which is the top limit that a county can levy. From my perspective counties are still going to be putting a significant amount of dollars into what happens with seniors. From my viewpoint as a provider we are asking for the state to match what the county does at the one mill level. The rationale for doing that is the significant benefit not only to the senior population but to the taxpayers of the state as a whole because of the reduction of potential Medicaid expenses if people are not able to be helped to stay in their home.

Vice Chairman Headland: Can you give us an idea of how much money is provided for these programs in the human services budget?

Brian Arett: I would be pulling a number out of the air so I would rather get that number provided to you.

Representative Haak: In Jamestown I'm a Meals on Wheels deliverer and we ran short the last three months; we had to run strictly on donations. Is that a common theme across the state or is that specific to our area?

Brian Arett: Thank you for being a Meals on Wheels volunteer. Half the regions in the state are not funded for all the meals they provide. In our region the last month and a half of all the meals that we do we don't receive any reimbursement from the department of human services or the state of North Dakota. I think four of the regions are funded for all the meals they provide but that leaves the other four to fund everything locally. Some of these dollars would go to fill that void and that's one of the reasons we scramble because of the lack of state funding to cover all the services we are currently doing.

Representative Kelsh: Did you say that some areas are limited to two mills for the senior mill levy fund? Can that be increased through a vote by the local political subdivision?

Brian Arett: From my understanding state law restricts the number of mills that a county can levy for the senior mill levy program to two. In order for those two mills to be established it has to be approved by a vote of the people. We are asking to match up to one mill of what is levied locally.

Representative Kelsh: You are capped at 2 mills regardless, there is no ability for any political subdivision to go above that 2 even if there is a vote of the people in that subdivision, isn't that right?

Brian Arett: That is correct.

Representative Trottier: The \$1.2 million that is listed in the fiscal note is for the 1 mill and we are now paying .75.

Brian Arett: That is correct. The fiscal note is the difference between the .75.

Josh Askvig, AARP: I could say "ditto" to what Brian just said. There is \$800,000 in 1012 under the aging services budget for congregate yields but this is for the other things like maintenance as well. We like this bill.

Vice Chairman Headland: We're funding these programs to the tune of \$800,000 in the human services budget but yet it has been inferred that's what they need this money for.

Josh Askvig: I would say \$800,000 is short of what they would need to get to their funding level.

Representative Drovdal: This committee has been wrestling with property tax issues session after session and one of the things we found out is that separating the costs from the consumer the costs get out of hand. This is separating the costs from services because the costs are going to come from the state instead of the local level. What is your comment?

Josh Askvig: I would disagree that it takes the local out of the decision because they still have to levy that mill to get the match. It's not that you're replacing the local mill you're just saying for up to one dollar we are matching that dollar. Many of them are struggling to get those donations especially with some of the federal funding situations that are going on. These are important programs and we should fund them at a dollar for dollar level.

Representative Trottier: In the small towns around where I live I feel that it is keeping a lot of people out of nursing homes. At \$200 a day which a lot of them cost, I am trying to justify the \$1.2 million as to what it would be offset by if these people were in a nursing home and we are paying for that through Medicaid.

Josh Askvig: We have a figure at AARP in our research department that for every one person we place in an institutional setting we could keep three at home. If you take the average rate of a nursing home, \$71,000 a year, you could keep three people at home. Home deliveries for meals were one of the most important cogs in allowing individuals to stay in their homes as they age. In a study in 2011 the number one concern for individuals as they age is how they are going to stay at home and how do they cook for themselves. Having the funding level at the appropriate place will make sure that those people are able to use those vitally important things and in the end would be a cost savings because they are not using the Medicaid services for more expensive institutional care when it's not needed.

Chairman Belter: Further testimony in support of 2162? Any opposition to 2162? Any neutral testimony?

Vice Chairman Headland: Marcy, I'm trying to get to the bottom of how much this would program is costing us across the state. Human Services is providing \$800,000 so if this bill were to pass in its current form it would be an additional \$1.2 million. Can you tell us what the $\frac{3}{4}$ of a dollar is generating today?

Marcy Dickerson, State Supervisor of Assessments: I don't have that information with me but Kathy Strombeck is here and could answer that for you.

Vice Chairman Headland: Can you tell us how much the mill levy that goes for these services produces across the state?

Marcy Dickerson: Kathy just provided me with this information.

Kathy Strombeck, Research Analyst with the Office of the Tax Commissioner: The fiscal note of \$1.2 million assumes that \$598,000 per year so it's a two year impact. In the current law of 2011 that amount was \$1,795,000 so that's a one year impact plus the \$598,000 which is the new provision in this bill would give you a one year impact. The \$800,000 in the human services budget is a two year impact so we're talking \$3.5; \$1.2 new in this bill and \$3.5 over a two year period and then your \$800,000.

Vice Chairman Headland: Do you know how much local money is generated across the state?

Kathy Strombeck: It looks like levied under 1221 generated in this year which was 2012 \$2,865,000 and that's a combination of those that levy up to the maximum 2 mills.

Chairman Belter: Any other questions? Any other neutral testimony on 2162?

Jan Engan, Director of Aging Services with the Department of Human Services: I'm here to provide information and I understand there is some question regarding the amount of money that is in our budget for nutritional services. I don't have that information with me but I can get that to the committee if you so desire.

Chairman Belter: We would appreciate it if you could provide the committee with that information.

Chairman Belter: Any other testimony on 2162? If not, we will close the hearing on SB 2162.

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Finance and Taxation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2162
March 13, 2013
Job #19868

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Attached Amendment .01001

Chairman Belter: We asked for information from the tax department.

Representative Klein: I have it.

Representative Trottier: There are a lot of small town cafes that survive only because of senior meals.

Representative Hatlestad: How about if we amended it to make it any additional new money, anything above that .75 had to be used strictly for meals?

Representative Drovdal: That's just a bookkeeping issue.

Representative Hatlestad: True but that extra \$.25 would be used strictly for meals.

Chairman Belter: Any other ideas? They put in \$800,000 in the governor's budget for that.

Vice Chairman Headland: Would it be possible to tie the increase to support locally? I know they have the opportunity to vote now to increase their levy. Can we tie it to an increase that the voters have supported locally? If they're not willing to pay it locally I don't know why we should allow them to come to the state and get us to fund it for them.

Chairman Belter: Are you talking about the mill levy match?

Vice Chairman Headland: That's what this is.

Chairman Belter: You're talking about the county increasing the mill levy match?

Vice Chairman Headland: I am. I know there are some who made the commitment but there are others who have not and I think it would benefit equally to the ones that have made the commitment. Ken, weren't we provided with something that said exactly what each senior district was levying for a mill?

Ken Tuppa, North Dakota Senior Service Providers: I don't recall that you were provided information that listed the counties and the mills specifically. We have 25 counties that are levying between a mill and 2 mills. There are two counties that don't levy at all. They are only eligible for the state match up to the amount they levied and only up to 1 mill so it's capped at that 1 mill. Anything over that they are not eligible to receive a match.

Vice Chairman Headland: I'm going to offer an amendment that we allow and provide a match up to \$.85.

Chairman Belter: We have a motion to go on line 19 and change the $\frac{3}{4}$ to 85% of a mill?

Vice Chairman Headland: That's correct. It should be noted that it is a larger increase than last time two years ago.

Representative Klein: Seconded.

Chairman Belter: Will, make sure we get the right terminology. Any discussion?

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIES.

Representative Marie Strinden: Made a motion for a Do Pass as Amended.

Representative Klein: Seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11 YES 0 NO 3 ABSENT

Representative Kelsh will carry this bill.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
03/15/2013

Amendment to: SB 2162

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$(480,000)	\$480,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2011-2013 Biennium	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium
Counties		\$480,000	
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

SB 2162 with House Amendments increases the amount of revenue available to counties for a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section 1 of SB 2162 with House Amendments increases the amount of the grant to each eligible county equal to the actual amount levied up to eight-five percent of one mill. Section 2 of SB 2162 allocates a larger portion of sales and motor vehicle excise tax revenues to the senior citizen services and programs fund.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

If enacted, SB 2162 with House Amendments is expected to reduce state general fund revenues by an estimated net \$480,000 in the 2013-15 biennium, and increase revenues in the senior citizen services and programs fund by the same amount. This additional revenue will be distributed to qualifying counties. NOTE: Section 2 appears to transfer revenue equal to a full mill to the senior citizens services and programs fund and is not consistent with the House Amendments contained in Section 1. However, any excess revenue will be returned to the state general fund, and the net amount is shown above.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck

Agency: Office of Tax Commissioner

Telephone: 328-3402

Date Prepared: 03/18/2013

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/15/2013

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2162

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$(1,200,000)	\$1,200,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2011-2013 Biennium	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium
Counties		\$1,200,000	
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

SB 2162 increases the amount of revenue available to counties for a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section 1 of SB 2162 increases the amount of the grant to each eligible county equal to the actual amount levied up to one mill. Section 2 of SB 2162 allocates a larger portion of sales and motor vehicle excise tax revenues to the senior citizen services and programs fund.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

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If enacted, SB 2162 is expected to reduce state general fund revenues by an estimated \$1.2 million in the 2013-15 biennium, and increase revenues in the senior citizen services and programs fund by the same amount. This additional revenue will be distributed to qualifying counties.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck

Agency: Office of Tax Commissioner

Telephone: 328-3402

Date Prepared: 01/19/2013

13.0571.01001
Title.02000

Adopted by the Finance and Taxation
Committee

March 13, 2013

VK
3/13/13

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2162

Page 1, line 19, after "of" insert "eighty-five percent of"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-13-13
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2162

House Finance and Taxation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Headland Seconded By Rep. Klein

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Wesley Belter			Rep. Scot Kelsh		
Vice Chairman Craig Headland			Rep. Steve Zaiser		
Rep. Matthew Klein			Rep. Jessica Haak		
Rep. David Drovdal			Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Glen Froseth					
Rep. Mark Owens					
Rep. Patrick Hatlestad					
Rep. Wayne Trottier					
Rep. Jason Dockter					
Rep. Jim Schmidt					

VOICE - MOTION
VOTE - CARRIES

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Allow + provide a match up
to ~~85%~~ - line 19 change $\frac{3}{4}$ to ~~85%~~
\$.85 \$.85
.85 of 1 mill

Date: 3-13-13
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2162

House Finance and Taxation Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Strinden Seconded By Rep. Klein

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Wesley Belter	✓		Rep. Scot Kelsh	✓	
Vice Chairman Craig Headland	✓		Rep. Steve Zaiser	AB	
Rep. Matthew Klein	✓		Rep. Jessica Haak	AB	
Rep. David Drovdal	✓		Rep. Marie Strinden	✓	
Rep. Glen Froseth	✓				
Rep. Mark Owens	AB				
Rep. Patrick Hatlestad	✓				
Rep. Wayne Trottier	✓				
Rep. Jason Dockter	✓				
Rep. Jim Schmidt	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 0

Absent 3

Floor Assignment Rep. Kelsh

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2162: Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Belter, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 19, after "of" insert "eighty-five percent of"

Renumber accordingly

2013 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2162

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162
4/10/13
21078

☒ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties; and to provide an effective date.

Minutes:

Senator Dever, Senator Larsen, Senator Axness are present.
Representative Drovdal, Representative Dockter, Representative Strinden are present.

Senator Dever opens the conference committee for SB 2162

Senator Dever asks for an explanation on amendments on SB 2162

Representative Strinden discusses going back to the 1 mill.

There is a discussion on the 1 million increases and the state match.

Senator Larson asks for clarification on the 1 mill and property tax.

There is a discussion on the House committee decision.

Senator Dever discusses changes to SB 2162

Senator Dever asks if there was a discussion on revenues on the motor vehicle excise tax.

Representative Strinden makes a statement about keeping property taxes down in the counties.

Senator Dever closes the conference committee for SB 2162

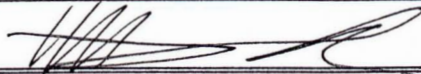
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162
4/11/2013
21110

☒ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

"Click here to type reason for introduction of bill/resolution"

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Sen. Dever, Sen. Larsen, Sen. Axness are present.
Rep. Drovdal, Rep. Dockter, Rep. Strinden are present.

Sen. Dever opens the conference committee #2 on SB 2162

Rep. Drovdal discusses funding to the program.

Rep. Drovdal asks if there are any other programs that offer meals.

Sen. Dever discusses that it's a match, and provide more services.

Senator Axness discusses the match, and the original promises to the state programs.

Rep. Strinden, Discusses meals on wheels and the savings to the state.

Sen. Larsen discusses the bill addressing the elderly population.

Sen. Dever discusses the FN and amendment.

That is discussion on funding and if it would pass.

There is a discussion on where the money is being spent.

Rep. Strinden asks how many seniors are renting vs. owning.

Rep. Dockter discusses property tax relief to seniors.

Sen. Axness states that this is not tax relief and programs for seniors.

There is a discussion about the program and tax relief.

Sen. Dever states that he would like the House give consideration to 90%.

There is a discussion on for programs for seniors.

Sen. Dever closes the conference Committee.

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

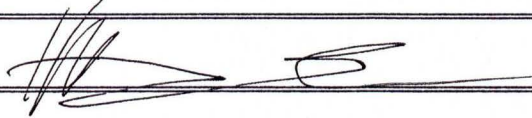
SB 2162

4/12/13

21145

☒ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund to counties; and to provide an effective date.

Minutes:

Sen. Dever, Sen. Larsen, Sen. Axness are present.
Rep. Drovdal, Rep. Dockter, Rep. Strinden are present.

Sen. Dever opens the conference committee on SB

Sen. Dever asks about conversation with leadership.

Sen. Drovdal asks if the precipitants that receive the programs if they pay and if so how much.

There is a discussion on services serviced under this program within SB 2162.

There is a discussion about not going over 85%.

There is discussion about how to move forward with SB 2162.

There is a discussion about proposed amendments.

Rep. Dorvdal motions for the House to recede from House amendments and amend as follows.

Sen. Larsen seconds.

4 yes

2 no

0 absent

The motion carries.

Senate Human Services Committee
SB 2162
4/12/13
Page 2

Senate carrier: Sen. Larsen

House carrier: Rep. Drovdal

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
03/15/2013

Amendment to: SB 2162

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Revenues			\$(480,000)	\$480,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

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Counties		\$480,000	
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

SB 2162 with House Amendments increases the amount of revenue available to counties for a matching grant from the senior citizen services and programs fund.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section 1 of SB 2162 with House Amendments increases the amount of the grant to each eligible county equal to the actual amount levied up to eight-five percent of one mill. Section 2 of SB 2162 allocates a larger portion of sales and motor vehicle excise tax revenues to the senior citizen services and programs fund.

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- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck

Agency: Office of Tax Commissioner

Telephone: 328-3402

Date Prepared: 03/18/2013

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/15/2013

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2162

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$(1,200,000)	\$1,200,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

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	2011-2013 Biennium	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium
Counties		\$1,200,000	
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

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- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section 1 of SB 2162 increases the amount of the grant to each eligible county equal to the actual amount levied up to one mill. Section 2 of SB 2162 allocates a larger portion of sales and motor vehicle excise tax revenues to the senior citizen services and programs fund.

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If enacted, SB 2162 is expected to reduce state general fund revenues by an estimated \$1.2 million in the 2013-15 biennium, and increase revenues in the senior citizen services and programs fund by the same amount. This additional revenue will be distributed to qualifying counties.

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Name: Kathryn L. Strombeck
Agency: Office of Tax Commissioner
Telephone: 328-3402
Date Prepared: 01/19/2013

4/12/13
TV

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2162

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 878 of the Senate Journal and page 940 of the House Journal and that Senate Bill No. 2162 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 19, after "of" insert "eighty-five percent of"

Page 2, line 5, after "of" insert "eighty-five percent of"

Renumber accordingly

Date 4-12-13Roll Call Vote # 1

2013 SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2162 as (re) engrossed

Senate Human Services Committee

- Action Taken**
- ☐ SENATE accede to House Amendments
- ☐ SENATE accede to House Amendments and further amend
- ☐ HOUSE recede from House amendments
- ☒ HOUSE recede from House amendments and amend as follows
- ☐ **Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: Rep Drovda Seconded by: Sen. Larsen

Senators	4/10	4/11	4/12	Yes	No	Representatives	4/10	4/11	4/12	Yes	No
Sen. Dever	✓	✓	✓	✓		Rep. Drovda	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sen. Larsen	✓	✓	✓	✓		Rep. Dockter	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Sen. Axness	✓	✓	✓		✓	Rep. Strinden	✓	✓	✓		✓
Total Senate Vote				2	1	Total Rep. Vote				2	1

Vote Count Yes: 4 No: 2 Absent: 0Senate Carrier Sen. Larsen House Carrier Rep. DrovdaLC Number 13.0571 . 01002 of amendment

LC Number _____ of engrossment

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2162: Your conference committee (Sens. Dever, Larsen, Axness and Reps. Drovdal, Dockter, Strinden) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments as printed on SJ page 878, adopt amendments as follows, and place SB 2162 on the Seventh order:

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 878 of the Senate Journal and page 940 of the House Journal and that Senate Bill No. 2162 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 19, after "of" insert "eighty-five percent of"

Page 2, line 5, after "of" insert "eighty-five percent of"

Renumber accordingly

SB 2162 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

SB 2162

Attachment #1
Senator
Grindberg

SB 2162

Senior Mill Levy Match

Testimony, Senator Tony Grindberg

January 21, 2013

Senate Human Services Committee

10:30 a.m., Mon. January 21, 2013

The Senior Mill Levy Match was established by the ND Legislature in 1971 to provide funding for services for senior citizens. The 1991 Legislative Assembly amended the program and directed the types of expenses for which mill levy funds could be spent to services designed to assist seniors in maintaining their independence. These services include home delivered meals, congregate dining, transportation, outreach assistance, and health related services.

The original appropriation for the Senior Mill Levy Match program was sufficient to provide dollar-for-dollar match of what was being generated at the county or city level. The appropriation for the current biennium provides for a match of .75 cents for every dollar levied locally up to one mill. SB 2162 seeks to restore the Senior Mill Levy program to the original dollar for dollar match.

SB 2162 is necessary to address the significant increase in the demand for services for ND citizens age 85 and older and the growing recognition for the need for more in-home services. Increasing funding for this continuum of care results in more efficient use of taxpayer dollars for the delivery of this needed care for our seniors.

**Testimony
Senate Bill 2162
Senate Human Services Committee
January 21, 2013**

Chairwoman Lee and members of the committee, my name is Brian Arett. I am the Executive Director of Valley Senior Services and a representative of the 26 agencies that are members of the North Dakota Senior Service Providers (NDSSP) that provide Older American Act Services to the senior population of this state. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2162.

The Senior Mill Levy Match was established by the North Dakota Legislature in 1971 to provide funding for services for senior citizens. The 1991 Legislative Assembly amended the Senior Mill Levy Match program restricting the types of expenses that mill levy funds can be spent on to services designed to assist senior citizens in maintaining their independence. These services include home delivered meals, congregate dining, transportation, outreach assistance, health related services and the maintenance of senior citizens centers where services are provided.

The original appropriation for the Senior Mill Levy Match program was sufficient to provide dollar for dollar match of what was being generated at the county or city level. The appropriation for the current biennium provides for a match of .75 cents for every dollar levied locally up to one mill.

SB 2162 restores the Senior Mill Levy Match program to the original dollar for dollar match of what is levied at the local level up to one mill. This increase in funding will provide resources

for service providers to meet the growing needs of an increasingly aging population. And it will allow these services to be provided in an in-home setting expanding the continuum of care for the senior population. More importantly, it will provide additional funding in support of the many senior centers throughout the state to make sure that they are able to be adequately maintained so that they are available for the provision of services for the elderly.

For example, the senior center in Lisbon (Ransom County) is in need of a new stove to replace the commercial stove installed when the building was opened more than 30 years ago. The current stove was used when installed and should be replaced. The cost of a new stove with updates to their hood and fire suppression system will be more than \$12,000. They currently receive \$6,000/year in mill levy funds which they also spend on utilities, maintenance and repairs.

The Lidgerwood Senior Center (Richland County) is in need of extensive repairs due to the age of the building including new windows, flooring and a new roof. The estimated cost for these repairs is between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Richland County received a total of \$108,626 in mill levy funds in 2012. These funds were spent maintaining six senior centers and providing meals, transportation and outreach services throughout the county.

I could list several more similar examples for senior centers in each of the six counties we manage or throughout the state. The bottom line is these facilities serve as a major focal point for seniors in their respective communities. They are a place where seniors congregate and where services are provided that assist them in maintaining an active and independent lifestyle. In many towns the senior center is one of the last few active facilities in town.

Our request is based on the growing demand for services for people age 85 and older and the increasing recognition of the need for more in-home services. We feel that increasing funding for the continuum of care results in better government at less cost to the taxpayer. It also promotes independence throughout the rural communities of our state. Finally, it results in economic development through the employment we are able to provide throughout the state and through contracts we have with small restaurants in the most rural parts of our state.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before your committee today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

/

Testimony
Senate Bill 2162
Senate Appropriations Committee
January 28, 2013

Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee, my name is Brian Arett. I am the Executive Director of Valley Senior Services and a representative of the 26 agencies that are members of the North Dakota Senior Service Providers (NDSSP) that provide Older American Act Services to the senior population of this state. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2162.

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I appreciate the opportunity to testify before your committee today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

**Testimony
Senate Bill 2162
House Finance & Taxation Committee
March 11, 2013**

Chairman Belter and members of the committee, my name is Brian Arett. I am the Executive Director of Valley Senior Services and a representative of the 26 agencies that are members of the North Dakota Senior Service Providers (NDSSP) that provide Older American Act Services to the senior population of this state. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2162.

The Senior Mill Levy Match was established by the North Dakota Legislature in 1971 to provide funding for services for senior citizens. The 1991 Legislative Assembly amended the Senior Mill Levy Match program restricting the types of expenses that mill levy funds can be spent on to services designed to assist senior citizens in maintaining their independence. These services include home delivered meals, congregate dining, transportation, outreach assistance, health related services and the maintenance of senior citizens centers where services are provided.

The original appropriation for the Senior Mill Levy Match program was sufficient to provide dollar for dollar match of what was being generated at the county or city level. The appropriation for the current biennium provides for a match of .75 cents for every dollar levied locally up to one mill.

SB 2162 restores the Senior Mill Levy Match program to the original dollar for dollar match of what is levied at the local level up to one mill. This increase in funding will

provide resources for service providers to meet the growing needs of an increasingly aging population. And it will allow these services to be provided in an in-home setting expanding the continuum of care for the senior population. Ninety-one percent of home delivered meals clients report that meals allow them to remain in their homes.

These preventive services are crucial for saving valuable health and long-term care dollars. The more successful we are at providing nutritious food to older adults in their homes, where they prefer to be, the less money we will spend overall. In 2011, 345 of the 5,030 home delivered meals clients in North Dakota scored as nursing home and Medicaid eligible. The average cost of a year of North Dakota nursing home care is \$71,000. Consider the tremendous savings by keeping these seniors at home where they want to be.

More importantly, it will provide additional funding in support of the many senior centers throughout the state to make sure that they are able to be adequately maintained so that they are available for the provision of services for the elderly. For example, the senior center in Lisbon (Ransom County) is in need of a new stove to replace the commercial stove installed when the building was opened more than 30 years ago. The current stove was used when installed and should be replaced. The cost of a new stove with updates to their hood and fire suppression system will be more than \$12,000. They currently receive \$6,000/year in mill levy funds which they also spend on utilities, maintenance and repairs.

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The Lidgerwood Senior Center (Richland County) is in need of extensive repairs due to the age of the building including new windows, flooring and a new roof. The estimated cost for these repairs is between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Richland County received a total of \$108,626 in mill levy funds in 2012. These funds were spent maintaining six senior centers and providing meals, transportation and outreach services throughout the county.

I could list several more similar examples for senior centers in each of the six counties we manage or throughout the state. The bottom line is these facilities serve as a major focal point for seniors in their respective communities. They are a place where seniors congregate and where services are provided that assist them in maintaining an active and independent lifestyle. In many towns the senior center is one of the last few active facilities in town.

Our request is based on the growing demand for services for people age 85 and older and the increasing recognition of the need for more in-home services. We feel that increasing funding for the continuum of care results in better government at less cost to the taxpayer. It also promotes independence in the rural communities of our state. Finally, it results in economic development from the employment we are able to provide throughout the state and through contracts we have with small restaurants in the most rural parts of our state.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before your committee today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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