

MICROFILM DIVIDER

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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1345

2001 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

HB 1345

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1345

House Finance and Taxation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 29, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	450
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Janice Stein</i>			

Minutes:

REP. AL CARLSON, CHAIRMAN, Opened the hearing and read the fiscal note.

REP. MIKE BRANDENBURG, Introduced the bill as the prime sponsor. Related to harmonization issues and trade issues. Crop harmonization was formed last session which dealt with harmonization of different crop protection issues. I have learned that the chemical companies not only work with chemicals but also with drugs. Right now, currently, the Canadians are receiving refunds on the sales tax they pay, which comes to a half a million dollars, and I find this absolutely appalling. When you think about it, right now, we have a tariff on corn with the Canadians of \$1.58, and we are giving them a refund on their sales tax. These issues need to be resolved. When NAPTHA came about, we are trying to work together in the spirit of NAPTHA and the North American Free Trade Agreement, you find that that spirit has not been working on both sides of the border. The Canadian government is standing behind their provinces and allowing them to impose \$1.58 on their corn, and we sit down here and give them

a refund on their sales tax. I am asking that this money be put into the crop harmonization committee so that they can keep working on the harmonization issues, which could be millions of dollars to the farmers of North Dakota. This is basically, what the bill allows.

REP. HERBEL How much of a refund do the Canadians give back to us?

REP. BRANDENBURG Deferred to Rep. Froseth,

REP. GLEN FROSETH, DIST. 6, KENMORE, Testified in support of the bill. See attached written testimony. Replied to Rep. Herbel's question, stated we have an agreement with Canada, that if we apply for the taxes we spend there, we can have them refunded, that is the seven percent GSA tax they charge.

REP. SCHMIDT Do you know if that percentage is the same on anything you buy?

REP. FROSETH I believe it is, but I am not sure. I was hoping there would be someone here from the tax department to answer that. It is the amount of sales tax they pay in the United States, they can file an application and have that refunded.

REP. SCHMIDT I was thinking of the implement companies in Maddock, sixty percent of the equipment goes to Canada, does this effect the sales to Canada?

REP. FROSETH I believe that is handled differently. This sales tax revenue is only the amount of money that Canadian shoppers pay us in sales tax, and they have to file a refund application form and submit a copy of the sales slips to confirm this. We do the same if we go to Canada, we pay that seven percent GSA tax, and if we ask for the form, we can apply to have that refunded. I have done that on several occasions. Right now the incentive for Canadians to purchase in North Dakota, with the exchange rate and the Canadian dollar, and the tax the state has imposed on themselves, plus duties they pay, it makes it impractical for them to come to the

United States to shop. That is why the tax collections in North Dakota from the Canadian refunds have dropped from several million, I believe, two sessions ago, we visited this same issue, I think the amount we were talking about then was three or four million dollars of revenue that we would return back to Canada, now it is down to one half million.

REP. CARLSON Asked Rep. Schmidt to check with the Tax Department on how that is collected and if that would effect any of our ag manufacturing.

REP. DROYDAL I heard a number of comments, concerning the Canadian government putting a tax on purchases like Canadians going back across, why don't we do the same thing, instead of this, which in a way, penalizes our local merchants and makes it less attractive to North Dakota merchants to do business. Why don't we take the same philosophy as the Canadian government, and say, North Dakotans going to Canada, making a purchase, then coming back and charge the seven percent tax?

REP. FROSETH That is entirely possible, if North Dakota would choose to do that. I think our history with Canadian shopping over the past years, we have tried to encourage the Canadian dollar to come down. A few years back, I live on Highway 52, which is one of the main routes through Portal down to Minot and Bismarck, and bus load after bus load of shoppers would come down once a week to the malls. Those buses have stopped running, there is very few incentives any more, to come to the United States to shop with the value of the Canadian dollar being about sixty five cents and the new tax that they have imposed on themselves.

REP. CARLSON If you can get that by the majority leader Belter, you can get that introduced.

REP. KROEBER In your testimony, you talked about this would give the legislative council the authority to use this money to provide grants to agriculture commodity groups, do we have any other place where this is done?

REP. FROSETH I am not sure, that is the provision which is in this bill. Apparently, if this bill passes, it will give the legislative council the authority to do this.

REP. CARLSON I believe this is all new ground here. Usually the appropriating of money is not set aside to the council or to a particular committee like that.

He asked Rep. Brandenburg to research that for the committee.

This bill appears to do two separate things. I know you were seeking a revenue source to study this, and very conveniently, it is about the same amount of money as repealing that tax, but it is two totally philosophical issues. One of them being, do you tax the non-resident, or non-country member coming in, or do you not, and the second issue is, how do we deal with the harmonization of chemicals. We have taken two great big things and stuck them in one pot.

REP. BRANDENBURG That is probably a good way to look at it, but I want to tell you, the farmers that are out there and dealing along the border with this harmonization issue, they find they cannot believe it, that Canada is bringing grain into the United States, which is using chemicals we cannot use, which are cheaper, and their federal government is allowing the Canadians to impose a \$1.58 tariff on corn going into Canada. I know a number of farmers hauling corn into Canada, cannot haul corn in to Canada anymore on a profitable level.

REP. RENNERFELDT We can buy certain types of merchandise in Canada and get a refund on tax, especially farmers along the border. I would assume if we end that here, they would do the same thing.

REP. BRANDENBURG I agree with you completely. For every action, there is a reaction.

That is what we are doing, they put a tariff on us, so we are looking at taking away their refund.

It boils down to our federal government, we need to have attention brought to this. It will probably hurt somebody, but it will help somebody else by working through the harmonization issue.

BOB LAMP, NORTH DAKOTA IMPLEMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION, Testified in support of only one section of the bill, and that is the repeal of the Canadian sales tax refund.

This Canadian tax refund has a very long history in the state legislature. I have been representing the implement dealers on Capital hill since 1979, and I don't think there have many sessions, if any, where this bill has not been presented for consideration. In all of those cases, we stood in opposition to that type of legislation. I think it is fair to say that today's bill has much less impact on our dealers than it did in previous sessions and it only really affects certain number of our dealers and that is those along the Canadian border. It has less impact because of a couple of things, Rep. Froseth mentioned the exchange rate, certainly that has a big part to do with why we see this drop in trade from Canada, and the second one is, we just don't have very many dealers along the border anymore. We live in a global world and we face situations in Canada where those provinces do not impose a tax on their farm machinery repair parts. In North Dakota, we do impose a one and a half percent. If a dealer delivers that product into the province, they don't have to collect the sales tax. If that product is picked up in North Dakota, then they must impose that sales tax, and the Canadian customer would have to request a refund. The problem comes, when you talk about repair work. If you bring a Canadian unit in and repair it, you have to

charge that sales tax. He stated that if the committee passes HB 1052, this bill will become a moot point for the dealers.

GARY ANDERSON, STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, Testified in a neutral position. He responded to a few questions relating to the tax. Regarding the Canadian refund program, if Canadians come in at the present time, as long as they make a purchase of at least twenty five dollars of taxable goods, they can ask for a refund of tax, once they have a total tax refund amount of fifteen dollars. They have one year in which to claim that refund. We are certainly not experts on how Canada enforces their rebate program, but the goods and services tax, my understanding is, seven percent. My understanding, the way it works up there, is that United States residents would have to purchase at least two hundred dollars of taxable goods in that country, and the minimum purchase would have to be fifty dollars, and they have one year in which to request a refund of that. It is my understanding that in Manitoba, for example, they used to apply a visit or rebate program for the provincial sales taxes, but I believe, Manitoba, effective March 31, last year, discontinued that program. Many of the other provinces have discontinued that as well.

With no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE ACTION 1-30-01, tape #2, Side B, Meter #3400

Discussion was held regarding the Canadian refunds and exemptions.

REP. RENNERFELDT Stated he would like to check with his community regarding the exemptions. He felt the exemptions and refunds to Canadians brought business to his community. The bill will be acted on at a later date.

COMMITTEE ACTION 2-5-01, Tape #2, Side B, Meter #800

REP. BRANDENBURG Presented some amendments which were prepared by the legislative council. The amendments were not adopted.

REP. RENNERFELDT Stated taking away the Canadian refund would definitely take business away from people in Williston. The businesses in his area feel the refund brings the Canadians to their area.

REP. DROVDAL Made a motion for a **do not pass**.

REP. RENNERFELDT Second the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8 YES 6 NO 1 ABSENT

REP. DROVDAL Was given the floor assignment.

COMMITTEE ACTION 2-12-01 TAPE #2, SIDE A, METER #2320

The bill was rereferred back to the committee for amendments to be added.

Prepared amendments were presented to committee members, the amendments change the fifty dollar exemption to Canadians, to, they will have to purchase one hundred fifty dollars in order to qualify for an exemption.

REP. NICHOLAS Made a motion to adopt the amendments has presented.

REP. BRANDENBURG Second the motion. **MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL**

VOTE. 8 YES 6 NO 1 ABSENT

REP. NICHOLAS Made a motion for a **DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

REP. RENNER Second the motion. **MOTION FAILED**

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House Finance and Taxation Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB 1345
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REP. CARLSON Decided to hold the bill for action at a later date.

COMMITTEE ACTION 2-13-01, TAPE #1, SIDE A, METER #4843

REP. BRANDENBURG Made a motion for a **DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

REP. RENNER Second the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

8 yes 7 no 0 absent

REP. BRANDENBURG Was given the floor assignment.

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council

02/15/2001

Bill/Resolution No.:

Amendment to: HB 1345

1A. 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.*

	1999-2001 Biennium		2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$1,509,000	\$131,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

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

1999-2001 Biennium			2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

HB 1345 First Engrossment removes the sales tax refund provisions for Canadian residents and changes the purchase amount required for the sales tax exemption for Montana residents.

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.*

HB 1345 First Engrossment is expected to increase state general fund and state aid distribution fund revenues by \$1,640,000 during the 01-03 biennium.

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, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name:	Kathryn L. Strombeck	Agency:	Tax Department
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Phone Number: 328-3402

Date Prepared: 02/16/2001

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council
01/18/2001

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1345

Amendment to:

1A. 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.*

	1999-2001 Biennium		2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$460,000	\$40,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations			\$460,000			

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

1999-2001 Biennium			2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. Narrative: *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

Section 1 of HB 1345 removes the sales tax refund provisions for Canadian residents.

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, HB 1345 would increase state general fund and state aid distribution fund revenues by \$500,000 for the 01-03 biennium.

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, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Section 2 of HB 1345 appropriates \$460,000 for the purpose of providing grants to agriculture commodity groups to address issues related to registration of crop protection products.

Name:	Kathryn L. Strombeck	Agency:	Tax Department
Phone Number:	328-3402	Date Prepared:	01/24/2001

Date: 2-5-01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1345

House FINANCE & TAXATION

Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____

or

☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken

Do Not Pass

Motion Made By

Rep. Drovdal

Seconded By

Rep. Rennerfeldt

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN	✓		NICHOLAS, EUGENE	A	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR	✓		RENNER, DENNIS		✓
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL		✓	RENNERFELDT, EARL	✓	
CLARK, BYRON	✓		SCHMIDT, ARLO	✓	
GROSZ, MICHAEL	✓		WIKENHEISER, RAY		✓
HERBEL, GIL		✓	WINRICH, LONNY	✓	
KELSH, SCOT	✓				
KROEBER, JOE		✓			
LLOYD, EDWARD		✓			

Total (Yes)

8

No

6

Absent

1

Floor Assignment

Rep. Drovdal

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

Date. 2-22-01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1347

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken adopt amend Roll call vote

Motion Made By Rep Nicholas Seconded By Rep Renner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN	✓		NICHOLAS, EUGENE	✓	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR		✓	RENNER, DENNIS	✓	
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL	✓		RENNERFELDT, EARL		✓
CLARK, BYRON	✓		SCHMIDT, ARLO		✓
GROSZ, MICHAEL	✓		WIKENHEISER, RAY	✓	
HERBEL, GIL		✓	WINRICH, LONNY		✓
KELSH, SCOT	✓				
KROEBER, JOE	A				
LLOYD, EDWARD		✓			

Total (Yes) 8 No 6

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep

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

Date: 2-13-01
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1345

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Failed

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken D P as amended

Motion Made By Rep Seconded By Rep

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN	✓		NICHOLAS, EUGENE	✓	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR		✓	RENNER, DENNIS	✓	
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL	✓		RENNERFELDT, EARL		✓
CLARK, BYRON	✓		SCHMIDT, ARLO		✓
GROSZ, MICHAEL		✓	WIKENHEISER, RAY	✓	
HERBEL, GIL		✓	WINRICH, LONNY		✓
KELSH, SCOT		✓			
KROEBER, JOE	A				
LLOYD, EDWARD		✓			

Total (Yes) 6 No 8

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep.

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

Date: 2-13-01
Roll Call Vote #: 3

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1345

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as amended

Motion Made By Rep. Brandenburg Seconded By Rep. Renner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN	✓		NICHOLAS, EUGENE	✓	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR		✓	RENNER, DENNIS	✓	
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL	✓		RENNERFELDT, EARL		✓
CLARK, BYRON	✓		SCHMIDT, ARLO		✓
GROSZ, MICHAEL	✓		WIKENHEISER, RAY	✓	
HERBEL, GIL	✓		WINRICH, LONNY		✓
KELSH, SCOT		✓			
KROEBER, JOE		✓			
LLOYD, EDWARD		✓			

Total (Yes) 8 No 7

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Brandenburg

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1345: Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Carlson, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (8 YEAS, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1345 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after the first "to" Insert "amend and reenact subsection 12 of section 57-39.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to sales tax exemptions for residents of adjoining states; to"

Page 1, line 2, remove "; to provide an appropriation"

Page 1, after line 4, insert:

"SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 12 of section 57-39.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12. Gross receipts from a sale otherwise taxable under this chapter made to a person who is a resident of an adjoining state which does not impose or levy a retail sales tax under the following conditions:
 - a. The nonresident is in the state of North Dakota for the express purpose of making a purchase and not as a tourist.
 - b. The nonresident furnishes to the North Dakota retailer a certificate signed by the nonresident in a form as the commissioner may prescribe reciting sufficient facts establishing the exempt status of the sale. Unless the certificate is furnished it must be presumed, until the contrary is shown, that the nonresident was not in the state of North Dakota for the express purpose of making a purchase.
 - c. The sale is one hundred fifty dollars or more."

Page 1, remove lines 7 through 12

Page 1, line 13, replace "Section 1 of this" with "This"

Renumber accordingly

2001 TESTIMONY

HB 1345

Testimony on HB 1345
By Rep. Glen Froseth

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Rep. Glen Froseth, District 6, representing Bottineau, Renville and a portion of Ward Counties.

I appear before you today in support of HB 1345 and ask for your favorable recommendation.

As a resident of Kenmare, which is about 30 miles from the Canadian border, I at first was hesitant to sign on to this bill as I feared the business community in my District would be opposed to repealing the reimbursement of sales tax money to Canadians on their purchases in North Dakota.

For many years, our border towns depended heavily on the Canadian customer as they were a large part of our regular shoppers. But, in recent years, the Canadian dollar is only worth about 65 cents in the U.S., and the Canadian government has taken several measures to curb Canadian spending in North Dakota. A few years back, the Canadian government imposed a 7 percent Government Services Tax on merchandise purchase here with that tax collected at the border. Just as recent as a couple months ago, the Province of Saskatchewan imposed a 6 percent sales tax on Canadian purchases made here and brought back to Canada.

This, along with the normal duty fees charged at the border, has almost made Canadian shopping in the U.S., non-existent.

In past bi-enniums, North Dakota returned several million dollars of sales tax revenue on Canadian purchases. This past bi-ennium, that amount has dwindled to around half a million. This is further proof that Canadian buying in North Dakota has dropped significantly in the past several years.

In place of returning sales tax revenue collected on Canadian purchases, HB 1345 will give legislative council the authority to use this money to provide grants by the crop harmonization committee to agriculture commodity groups to address issues related to registration of crop protection products.

I believe using the sales tax funds that have been returned to Canada, for this purpose will be of greater value to the State of North Dakota than the incentive offered to entice Canadian shopping in the state.

I urge your "Do Pass" on HB 1345.

Thank you.