

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2402

Introduced by

Senators Hogue, Horne, J. Lee

Representatives Bellew, Berg

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 57-02-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the homestead credit; and to provide an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-02-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **57-02-08.1. Homestead credit.**

- 7 1. a. Any person sixty-five years of age or older or permanently and totally  
8 disabled, in the year in which the tax was levied, with an income that does not  
9 exceed the limitations of subdivision c is entitled to receive a reduction in the  
10 assessment on the taxable valuation on the person's homestead. An  
11 exemption under this subsection applies regardless of whether the person is  
12 the head of a family.
- 13 b. The exemption under this subsection continues to apply if the person does  
14 not reside in the homestead and the person's absence is due to confinement  
15 in a nursing home, hospital, or other care facility, for as long as the portion of  
16 the homestead previously occupied by the person is not rented to another  
17 person.
- 18 c. The exemption must be determined according to the following schedule:
- 19 (1) If the person's income is not in excess of ~~ten~~ eighteen thousand  
20 dollars, a reduction of one hundred percent of the taxable valuation of  
21 the person's homestead up to a maximum reduction of ~~three~~ four  
22 thousand ~~three~~ five hundred ~~seventy-five~~ dollars of taxable valuation.
- 23 (2) If the person's income is in excess of ~~ten~~ eighteen thousand dollars  
24 and not in excess of ~~twelve~~ twenty thousand dollars, a reduction of

- 1 eighty percent of the taxable valuation of the person's homestead up to  
2 a maximum reduction of ~~two~~ three thousand ~~seven~~ six hundred dollars  
3 of taxable valuation.
- 4 (3) If the person's income is in excess of ~~twelve~~ twenty thousand dollars  
5 and not in excess of ~~fourteen~~ twenty-two thousand dollars, a reduction  
6 of sixty percent of the taxable valuation of the person's homestead up  
7 to a maximum reduction of two thousand ~~twenty-five~~ seven hundred  
8 dollars of taxable valuation.
- 9 (4) If the person's income is in excess of ~~fourteen~~ twenty-two thousand  
10 dollars and not in excess of ~~sixteen~~ twenty-four thousand dollars, a  
11 reduction of forty percent of the taxable valuation of the person's  
12 homestead up to a maximum reduction of one thousand ~~three~~ eight  
13 hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars of taxable valuation.
- 14 (5) If the person's income is in excess of ~~sixteen~~ twenty-four thousand  
15 dollars and not in excess of ~~seventeen~~ twenty-six thousand ~~five~~  
16 ~~hundred~~ dollars, a reduction of twenty percent of the taxable valuation  
17 of the person's homestead up to a maximum reduction of ~~six~~ nine  
18 hundred ~~seventy-five~~ dollars of taxable valuation.
- 19 d. Persons residing together, as spouses or when one or more is a dependent of  
20 another, are entitled to only one exemption between or among them under  
21 this subsection. Persons residing together, who are not spouses or  
22 dependents, who are coowners of the property are each entitled to a  
23 percentage of a full exemption under this subsection equal to their ownership  
24 interests in the property.
- 25 e. This subsection does not reduce the liability of any person for special  
26 assessments levied upon any property.
- 27 f. Any person claiming the exemption under this subsection shall sign a verified  
28 statement of facts establishing the person's eligibility.
- 29 g. A person is ineligible for the exemption under this subsection if the value of  
30 the assets of the person and any dependent residing with the person,  
31 excluding the unencumbered value of the person's residence that the person

claims as a homestead, exceeds ~~five~~ seventy-five thousand dollars, including the value of any assets divested within the last three years. For purposes of this subdivision, the unencumbered valuation of the homestead is limited to one hundred thousand dollars.

h. The assessor shall attach the statement filed under subdivision f to the assessment sheet and shall show the reduction on the assessment sheet.

i. An exemption under this subsection terminates at the end of the taxable year of the death of the applicant.

2. a. Any person who would qualify for an exemption under subdivisions a and c of subsection 1 except for the fact that the person rents living quarters is eligible for refund of a portion of the person's annual rent deemed by this subsection to constitute the payment of property tax.

b. For the purpose of this subsection, twenty percent of the annual rent, exclusive of any federal rent subsidy and of charges for any utilities, services, furniture, furnishings, or personal property appliances furnished by the landlord as part of the rental agreement, whether expressly set out in the rental agreement, must be considered as payment made for property tax. When any part of the twenty percent of the annual rent exceeds four percent of the annual income of a qualified applicant, the applicant is entitled to receive a refund from the state general fund for that amount in excess of four percent of the person's annual income, but the refund may not be in excess of ~~two~~ four hundred ~~forty~~ dollars. If the calculation for the refund is less than five dollars, a minimum of five dollars must be sent to the qualifying applicant.

c. Persons who reside together, as spouses or when one or more is a dependent of another, are entitled to only one refund between or among them under this subsection. Persons who reside together in a rental unit, who are not spouses or dependents, are each entitled to apply for a refund based on the rent paid by that person.

d. Each application for refund under this subsection must be made to the tax commissioner before the first day of June of each year by the person claiming the refund. The tax commissioner may grant an extension of time to file an

1 application for good cause. The tax commissioner shall issue refunds to  
2 applicants.

3 e. This subsection does not apply to rents or fees paid by a person for any living  
4 quarters, including a nursing home licensed pursuant to section 23-16-01, if  
5 those living quarters are exempt from property taxation and the owner is not  
6 making a payment in lieu of property taxes.

7 f. A person may not receive a refund under this section for a taxable year in  
8 which that person received an exemption under subsection 1.

9 3. All forms necessary to effectuate this section must be prescribed, designed, and  
10 made available by the tax commissioner. The county directors of tax equalization  
11 shall make these forms available upon request.

12 4. A person whose homestead is a farm structure exempt from taxation under  
13 subsection 15 of section 57-02-08 may not receive any property tax credit under  
14 this section.

15 5. For the purposes of this section:

16 a. "Dependent" has the same meaning it has for federal income tax purposes.

17 b. "Homestead" has the same meaning as provided in section 47-18-01.

18 c. "Income" means income for the most recent complete taxable year from all  
19 sources, including the income of any dependent of the applicant, and  
20 including any county, state, or federal public assistance benefits, social  
21 security, or other retirement benefits, but excluding any federal rent subsidy,  
22 any amount excluded from income by federal or state law, and medical  
23 expenses paid during the year by the applicant or the applicant's dependent  
24 which is not compensated by insurance or other means.

25 d. "Medical expenses" has the same meaning as it has for state income tax  
26 purposes, except that for transportation for medical care the person may use  
27 the standard mileage rate allowed for state officer and employee use of a  
28 motor vehicle under section 54-06-09.

29 e. "Permanently and totally disabled" means the inability to engage in any  
30 substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical  
31 or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or has lasted

1                           or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve  
2                           months as established by a certificate from a licensed physician or a written  
3                           determination of disability from the social security administration.

4                   **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after  
5   December 31, 2008.