

2025 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

HB 1572

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1572
1/29/2025

A bill relating to state reimbursement of repealed levy authority and a uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system; relating to removal of county extension service and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority, park district bonding authority without a vote, estimated taxing district budget and budget hearing notices, reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; and relating to Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Headland opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Vice Chairman Hagert, Representatives Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Porter, Steiner, Toman

Members Absent: None

Discussion Topics:

- Garrison Conservancy district
- Uniform property tax notices
- Tax statement delivery
- Parks and Recreation fund balance
- Park project funding

9:03 a.m. Vice Chairman Hagert introduced the bill.

9:16 a.m. Cole Higlin, Director of Mandan Park District and Public Policy Chairman with ND Parks and Recreation Association, testified in opposition #32293.

9 24 a.m. Jerry Rostad, Commissioner of Fargo Park Board, testified in neutral capacity #32539.

Additional written testimony:

Scott Wegner, Bond Counsel, Arntson Stewart Wegner PC, testimony in opposition #32127.

Lynette Flage, Associate Director, NDSU Extension, neutral testimony #32376.

9:30 a.m. Chairman closed the hearing.

Mary Brucker, Committee Clerk (for Janae Pinks)

HB 1572
House Finance and Taxation
January 29, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Scott Wegner. I am a member of the law firm of Arntson Stewart Wegner PC, Bismarck (701.255.1008 / swegner@aswbondlaw.com). I serve as bond counsel to political subdivisions.

I oppose the Section 5 Amendment. Section 5 amends N.D.C.C. Section 21-03-07(11) regarding park district general obligation bonds. Specifically, page 5 line 31 limits park district GO bonds to a maximum of one million dollars.

The legislature added Section 21-03-07(11) in 2019 to move park districts away from the use of special assessments while imposing significant limitations. Adding a small maximum dollar bond amount will push park districts back to using special assessments.

Section 21-03-07(11) already contains two substantial protections for taxpayers:

(a) Property owners have the right to protest against the proposed bonds. Protests by the owners of taxable property having an assessed valuation equal to 5% or more of the assessed valuation of the park district blocks issuance of bonds. The same protest provision applies to school district building fund bonds (21-03-07(7)). Protests have blocked school district bonds, so property owner protests do work.

(b) All political subdivisions are subject to a constitutional debt limit of 5% of assessed valuation (N.D. CONST. art. X, § 15). The legislature has imposed lower debt limits on certain political subdivisions. Park districts are limited by statute to a debt not exceeding 1% of assessed valuation (21-03-06(6) and 40-49-14). Accordingly, many park districts issuing bonds under 21-03-07(11) will quickly reach the 1% debt limit and be prohibited from issuing more GO bonds. In contrast, special assessment bonds are not considered debt and therefore park districts are not limited by the 1% debt limit.

For these reasons I oppose the Section 5 Amendment. Thank you.

**Testimony of Cole Higlin
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To House Finance & Taxation Committee
In Opposition to HB 1572
Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

Chairman Headland and members of the Committee, my name is Cole Higlin, and I am the public policy chair of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

We oppose the Section 5 amendment in this bill, which places a \$1 million cap on general obligation bonds for park districts. While the intent behind this provision may be to ensure fiscal responsibility, the \$1 million limit is excessively restrictive and fails to meet the diverse funding needs of park districts, particularly those in larger municipalities or communities with significant park demands. Many park systems require multi-phase projects that span several years and involve substantial financial commitments. The \$1 million cap would be detrimental to park districts' ability to address both immediate and future needs in a comprehensive manner. Consequently, park districts may be forced to rely on special assessments.

Regarding taxpayer protection, it's important to note that a 60-day protest period is already in place, which gives the public ample opportunity to file a formal protest. This ensures that the process is not solely driven by park boards without public input. The resolution is published, and the protest period is fully carried out before any bonds are issued, guaranteeing that constituents have a voice in the decision-making process.

Park districts should retain the flexibility to issue bonds that align with their specific needs and financial conditions. While other political subdivisions have a limit of five percent of assessed value, park districts currently have a much lower cap of one percent of assessed valuation. This distinction allows park districts to undertake large-scale, long-term projects that reflect their unique goals and priorities, rather than being constrained by an arbitrary and one-size-fits-all cap.

In conclusion, we respectfully urge the committee to remove the \$1 million cap on general obligation bonds for park districts as outlined in Section 5 of HB 1572. Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to address any questions you may have.

House Bill 1572 Testimony

January 29, 2025

Lynette Flage, Associate Director, NDSU Extension

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee,

For the record, my name is Lynette Flage, and I serve as the Associate Director for NDSU Extension. I am here today to provide neutral testimony on HB1572, offering additional context and information for your consideration specifically related to the portion of the bill related to the county extension mill levy.

First, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of NDSU Extension throughout North Dakota. NDSU Extension plays a critical role bringing the land grant university to the people and serving all 53 counties with research-based education in areas including agriculture and natural resources, family and community wellness and 4-H youth development. In the past year alone, NDSU Extension, along with our county partners, held 7,500 educational sessions totaling over 16,290 hours of educational programming, and reached over 40,000 youth—one in five youth in the state – with our programs.

The success of our work and network depends on the strong support we receive from both the legislature and our county partners. We collaborate closely with county commissioners, who recognize the value of NDSU Extension's local presence. The local citizens in these counties value the work NDSU Extension does as evidenced by 15 votes to support additional mills levied for extension funding passing at the local level over the past four years. This overwhelming local commitment reflects the support of Extension programs in our communities.

NDSU Extension addresses many vital issues affecting our state, such as:

- Promoting environmental sustainability and healthy crops, including pesticide safety training that reached 7,208 people statewide, reducing environmental risks and supporting food security.
- Enhancing childcare quality across the state which contributes to a more vibrant workforce. This past year, 692 childcare providers and school personnel received continuing education from extension personnel.
- Reaching over 40,000 youth annually through 4-H programs, helping them grow into healthy, productive, and engaged individuals. With the help of 1,540 volunteers, this commitment translates into a significant investment in North Dakota's youth.

Through these efforts and many, many more, we reach every corner of the state, from urban areas to rural communities. Our Extension programs are driven by local needs assessments. Some programs may cover the entire state, while other programs are designed and delivered to specific counties based on their needs and requests.

HB1572 proposes shifting funding for NDSU Extension from county-levied mills to state-appropriated general funds. This shift would relieve counties from levying mills for Extension services, with the state stepping in to cover a portion of the funding gap. The bill proposes allocating \$10.3 million in state funds for the 2025-27 biennium to reduce reliance on county funding and, potentially, lower local property taxes.

Currently, counties contribute \$8.43 million to the Extension budget annually, including \$5.34 million from mill levies and \$3.10 million from other county funding sources. While the state allocation would cover a significant portion of this funding, additional county funds would still be needed to maintain the same level of service. We currently work with each county individually and recognize that each county has unique funding needs and ways of utilizing their local funds for Extension programs. Should this bill pass, we will work closely with our county partners to ensure the best possible service given the available budget.

Another highlight of the collaborative partnership NDSU Extension maintains with the counties is reflected in what we refer to as our Base Policy. This policy/guidance was initially developed in partnership with the Association of Counties and ND County Commissioners Association in 1998 and reviewed biennially. It was recently reviewed with the ND County Commissioners Association and shared with all county commissions for their input and feedback in 2024. With no significant concerns raised, we continue to rely on this guidance as we work with county leadership when filling vacant extension positions. Under this guidance, NDSU provides half of the salary and benefits for county-based Extension positions, along with multiple support services such as human resource and IT support, access to NDSU specialists, access to the 4-H Clover, and multiple professional development opportunities. Counties have been responsible for providing the other half of the salary, as well as covering operating costs, including travel, administrative support, office space, and supplies, all of which we greatly appreciate.

In closing, we are grateful for your continued support of NDSU Extension and for considering the use of additional state funding to reduce the reliance on local funding. We understand the complexities of balancing state and local funding sources, and we appreciate your thoughtful approach to this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynette Flage
Associate Director, NDSU Extension

House Finance and Taxation Committee

January 29, 2025

Jerry Rostad, Vice Chancellor, NDUS
701.371.8871 | jerry.rostad@fargoparks.com

Chair Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Jerry Rostad and I serve as a commissioner for the Fargo Park District. I am submitting neutral testimony for HB 1572.

However, I would like to address the fifth amendment, subsection 11 of HB 1572. Specifically, the proposed language of this subsection limits park districts the ability to issue general obligation bonds in an amount no greater than one percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district up to a maximum of one million dollars. I would like to encourage the committee to reconsider that debt limit.

Current state statute is based on the assessed value of the park district. For a growing city like Fargo, the Park District, based on the assessment formula, has the ability to issue general obligation bonds of up to \$84 million without a vote of the people.

Admittedly, the Fargo Park District used this statute to leverage \$78 million in GO bonds during the past several years for the construction of the Fargo Sports Center and the remodeling of the Island Park Pool. I will tell you that these projects were highly desired and supported by the citizens of our community. Back about 2015, the District conducted surveys and focus groups asking the citizens what they wanted from the Park District. The Sports Center and Island Park Pool were top priorities from that research.

I also want to also emphasize that these projects were so desired by the community, 40% of the total costs of the two projects were provided by gifts and in-kind donations. Clearly, people believed in the need for these projects and the taxpayer significantly benefited from this public/private partnership.

Additionally, the Park District held 60-day protest periods for these bonds and we received a total of four calls.

I would agree that the current statute could be restructured to reduce the maximum debt limit. However comparatively, school districts can issue debt up to five percent of the assessed value of the taxable property in their district. The proposed subsection of this bill will provide a limit of one percent for park districts. I am respectfully requesting the committee consider an amendment limit from \$1 million to up to \$10 million and with that, I will stand for any questions.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1572
2/5/2025

Relating to Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

2:42 p.m. Chairman Headland opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Vice Chairman Hagert, Representatives Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Porter, Steiner, Toman

Discussion Topics:

- Proposed amendment

2:43 p.m. Vice Chairman Hagert discussed suggested amendment, testimony #35512.

2:57 p.m. Representative Dockter moved to adopt proposed amendment to strike sections seven and twenty-two.

2:57 p.m. Representative Porter seconded the motion.

2:58 p.m. Voice vote - motion carried.

2:58 p.m. Vice Chairman Hagert suggested to hold the bill until he can retrieve more information from legislative council.

2:58 p.m. Chairman Headland closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk
Bill further amended on 2/17/25.

From: Donnell Preskey <donnell.preskey@ndaco.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:17 PM
To: Hagert, Jared <jhagert@ndlegis.gov>
Cc: Linda Svihovec <Linda.Svihovec@ndaco.org>
Subject: HB 1572 suggestions

Rep. Hagert,

We appreciate you bringing forward HB 1572 and opening the discussion on what levies should be a responsibility of the counties and what can be removed. We have a couple recommendations for you if you want to move this bill forward.

In Section 7 –

We would suggest providing state appropriations directly to budgets associated with NDSU Extension and Garrison Diversion rather than have the state reimburse the counties. This will be easier to administer and appearance-wise won't give the impression the state is buying down levies. It's tax relief by eliminating a tax local taxpayers will be paying for and reform by eliminating it as a levy.

Many counties contribute additional funds through their general fund. Would this continue or would you want to include that dollar amount. Suggested to NDSU Extension for them to add that general fund dollar amount into their budget request.

In Section 8 -

Recommend amending this into a study. We also agree that many of these items should be accomplished but in order to have the best product - it would be beneficial to have a working group of legislators, auditors/treasurers, tax commissioner's office and other taxing district representatives to develop a plan, identify necessary software or technology improvements and costs associated to bring to forward to the 70th Legislative Assembly.

In Section 17 –

Recommend having the working group as suggested in Section 8 also work on changes to the tax statement and estimated tax notice. As changes to these documents should be thought out and vetted to address what Legislature wants to accomplish along with the workability of it with auditors/treasurers and the costs for programming. A thoughtful process on what these important documents should entail is necessary to avoid continuous changes.

If you were wanting to move on Section 8 & 17 instead of having it wait until next session we would have suggestions for you to improve these areas and would appreciate the opportunity to address those in more detail. A couple recommendations are:

- Section 8: recommend sticking with tax levies vs budgets. Taxes levied better reflects what impacts taxpayers.
- Section 17: Remove: 1 (d) name and phone number of a contact person for each taxing district that levied. (information not obtained/tracked by county)
- Section 17: Listing each individual voter approved levy may be difficult and consume the tax statement for a political subdivision like Cass County with a large number of taxing districts.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1572
2/17/2025

Relating to Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

11:06 a.m. Vice Chairman Hagert opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Vice Chair Hagert, Representatives Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Porter, Steiner, Toman

Members Absent: Representative D. Anderson

Discussion Topics:

- Uniform taxing districts
- Reporting requirements
- Legislative Tax Reform and Advising Committee

11:06 a.m. Vice Chairman Hagert proposed an amendment LC#25.0523.02004, testimony #37882.

11:11 a.m. Representative Dockter moved to adopt amendment LC#25.0523.02004.

11:11 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher seconded the motion.

11:11 a.m. Voice vote - motion failed.

roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Craig Headland	AB
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	AB
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Nathan Toman	Y

Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y

11:12 a.m. Motion passed 11-1-2.

11:12 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher proposed further amendment, LC#25.0523.02002, testimony #37884.

11:17 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher moved to further amend LC#25.0523.02002.

11:17 a.m. Representative Dockter seconded the motion.

11:18 a.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

11:18 a.m. Representative Porter moved a Do Pass as Amended.

11:18 a.m. Representative Dockter seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Craig Headland	AB
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	AB
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Nathan Toman	N
Representative Austin Foss	N
Representative Zachary Ista	N

11:20 a.m. Motion passed 8-4-2

11:20 a.m. Representative Motschenbacher will carry the bill.

11:20 a.m. Vice Chairman Hagert adjourned the meeting.

February 17, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1572

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Dockter, Grueneich, Headland, J. Olson

Senators Meyer, Patten, Thomas

2-17-25
JH 10823

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~a new section to chapter 54-11 and~~ a new section to
2 chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~state reimbursement of repealed~~
3 ~~levy authority and~~ a uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system; to
4 amend and reenact ~~sections 4-1-47-14, 11-38-01, 11-11-53, and 11-11.1-04, subsections 6~~
5 ~~and subsection~~ 11 of section 21-03-07, ~~subsection 1 of section 40-38-02, and~~ sections
6 ~~57-15-02.2 and 57-15-06.4, subsection 1 of section 57-15-06.6, sections 57-15-06.7, 57-15-28,~~
7 ~~and 57-15-50, subsection 1 of section 57-15-56, sections 57-20-04 and 57-20-07.1,~~
8 ~~subsection 9 of section 61-24-08, and section 61-24-09~~ of the North Dakota Century Code,
9 relating to ~~removal of county extension service and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District~~
10 ~~levy authority~~, park district bonding authority without a vote, ~~estimated taxing district budget and~~
11 ~~budget hearing notices~~, reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents
12 of the real estate tax statement; ~~to repeal section 57-15-26.8 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
13 ~~relating to Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority~~; to provide for a legislative
14 management study; and to provide for a legislative management report; ~~to provide an~~
15 ~~appropriation; and to provide an effective date.~~

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

17 ~~SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.~~ Section 4-1-47-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~4.1-47-14. County noxious weed control program -- Payment of expenses -- Financial report -- Tax levy authorization.~~

~~1. The board of county commissioners may pay the expenses of a county noxious weed control program authorized under this chapter from the county general fund, the noxious weed control fund, or both. In addition to the other program expenditures authorized in this chapter, the board of county commissioners may expend funds from the levy authorized under subsection 11-10 of section 57-15-06.7 to control noxious weeds or undesirable vegetation along county or township roads in the county.~~

~~2. a. The county weed board may annually request from the board of county commissioners the levy of a tax, not to exceed the levy limitation in subsection 11-10 of section 57-15-06.7, but any tax levied under this section does not apply to property that lies within the boundaries of a city having a noxious weed control program under this chapter. In the year for which the levy is sought, a county weed board seeking approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the county auditor, at a time and in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending balances of each fund held by the county weed board during that year.~~

~~b. The board of county commissioners may levy the taxes authorized by this subsection and shall place those moneys in a separate fund designated as the weed control fund, which may be used to pay the expenses authorized under this section.~~

~~3. For purposes of this section, the expenses of a county noxious weed control program include compensation for and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the county weed board, the county weed control officer and other employees of the board, and expenses incurred as authorized by this chapter.~~

~~SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 11-38-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~11-38-01. County extension agent -- Petition to authorize or discontinue levy -- Election -- Levy limitations~~
Use of funds.

~~1. Upon the filing with the county auditor at least sixty-four days before the date of a general election of a petition to authorize or discontinue a tax levy for extension work,~~

1 ~~containing the names of twenty percent of the qualified electors of the county as determined by~~
2 ~~the votes cast for governor in the county in the most recent gubernatorial election, the board of~~
3 ~~county commissioners shall submit to the qualified electors at the next general election the~~
4 ~~question of authorizing or discontinuing a tax levy for extension work. Upon approval by a~~
5 ~~majority of qualified electors of the county voting on the question of authorizing a tax levy for~~
6 ~~extension work, the board of county commissioners may levy a tax of up to two mills as~~
7 ~~provided in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7. Upon approval by a majority of qualified electors~~
8 ~~of the county voting on the question of discontinuing a tax levy for extension work, the~~The~~board~~
9 ~~of county commissioners shall terminate any levy or additional levy previously authorized under~~
10 ~~this chapter and may terminate county expenditures for extension work.~~

11 ~~— 2. — The board of county commissioners may submit to the electors at a primary or general~~
12 ~~election the question of approval of voter approved additional levy authority for~~
13 ~~extension work for a period not exceeding ten years and if approved by a majority of~~
14 ~~the electors voting on the question, the board of county commissioners may levy an~~
15 ~~additional tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7.~~
16 ~~Voter approved additional levy authority authorized by electors of a county before~~
17 ~~January 1, 2015, remains in effect through taxable year 2024 or for the time period~~
18 ~~authorized by the electors, whichever expires first. After January 1, 2015, approval or~~
19 ~~reauthorization by electors of voter approved additional levy authority under this~~
20 ~~section may not be effective for more than ten taxable years.~~

21 ~~— 3. — The board of county commissioners may appropriate funds out of the county general~~
22 ~~fund to cover any unanticipated deficiency in funding for extension work. All funds~~
23 ~~raised by levies under this chapter~~received under section 7 of this Act ~~must be~~
24 ~~appropriated by the board of county commissioners for the purposes set forth in this~~
25 ~~chapter.~~

26 ~~— SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 11-11-53 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
27 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

28 ~~— 11-11-53. Appropriation for historical works — Authorization of tax levy — Approval of~~
29 ~~state historical society and attorney general.~~

30 ~~— 1. — The board of county commissioners of any county may appropriate out of the general~~
31 ~~fund of the county a sum, not exceeding five thousand dollars annually, to be paid to~~

1 ~~the historical society of the county and used for the promotion of historical work within~~
2 ~~the borders of the county, including the collection, preservation, and publication of~~
3 ~~historical material, and to disseminate historical information of the county, and in~~
4 ~~general to defray the expense of carrying on historical work in the county.~~

5 ~~2. The board of county commissioners may levy a tax, not exceeding the limitation in~~
6 ~~subsection 32 of section 57-15-06.7, for the promotion of historical works within the~~
7 ~~borders of the county and in general, defray the expense of carrying on historical work~~
8 ~~in the county, including the maintenance of any historical room or building, and~~
9 ~~furthering the work of the historical society of the county. The levy is in addition to any~~
10 ~~moneys appropriated from the general fund of the county for historical work as~~
11 ~~provided in subsection 1.~~

12 ~~— The board of county commissioners may, by resolution, submit the question of a~~
13 ~~voter-approved tax levy to the qualified electors of the county at the next countywide~~
14 ~~general, primary, or special election. If sixty percent of the qualified electors voting on~~
15 ~~the question approve, a tax may be levied not exceeding the limitation in subsection~~
16 ~~32 of section 57-15-06.7, which tax may be expended as provided in this section.~~
17 ~~Voter-approved levy authority under this section authorized by electors of a county~~
18 ~~before January 1, 2015, remains in effect through taxable year 2024 or for the time~~
19 ~~period authorized by the electors, whichever expires first. After January 1, 2015,~~
20 ~~approval or reauthorization by electors of voter-approved levy authority under this~~
21 ~~section may not be effective for more than ten taxable years.~~

22 ~~3. The appropriation and levy authorized by this section may not be used to defray any~~
23 ~~expenses of a county historical society until it is incorporated under the laws of this~~
24 ~~state as a nonprofit corporation, is affiliated with and has its articles of incorporation~~
25 ~~and bylaws approved by the state historical society and the attorney general, and has~~
26 ~~contracted with the board of county commissioners in regard to the manner in which~~
27 ~~the funds received will be expended and the services to be provided. Historical~~
28 ~~societies that qualified for county funds under subsection 1 before July 1, 1965, are~~
29 ~~not required to have articles of incorporation and bylaws approved by the attorney~~
30 ~~general to receive funds under subsection 1.~~

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1 ~~SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.~~ Section 11-11.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 ~~11-11.1-04. Tax levy for job development authorities -- Financial report.~~

4 ~~The board of county commissioners of a county which has a job development authority or~~
5 ~~joint job development authority shall establish a job development authority fund and may levy a~~
6 ~~tax not exceeding the limitations in subsection 1413 of section 57-15-06.7. In the year for which~~
7 ~~the levy is sought, a job development authority or joint job development authority seeking~~
8 ~~approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the county auditor, at a time and~~
9 ~~in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year~~
10 ~~showing the ending balances of each fund held by the job development authority or joint job~~
11 ~~development authority during that year. The county treasurer shall keep the job development~~
12 ~~authority fund separate from other money of the county. The county treasurer shall transmit all~~
13 ~~funds received pursuant to this section within thirty days to the board of directors of the~~
14 ~~authority. The funds when paid to the authority must be deposited in a special account, or~~
15 ~~special accounts if the authority chooses to maintain a separate account for promotion of~~
16 ~~tourism, in which other revenues of the authority are deposited. Moneys received by the job~~
17 ~~development authority from any other source must also be deposited in the special accounts.~~
18 ~~The moneys in the special accounts may be expended by the authority as provided in sections~~
19 ~~11-11.1-02 and 11-11.1-03.~~

20 ~~SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.~~ Subsections 6 and 11 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota
21 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22 ~~6. The governing body of any county may also by resolution adopted by a two-thirds~~
23 ~~vote dedicate the tax levies authorized by section 57-15-06.6 and subsection 54 of~~
24 ~~section 57-15-06.7 and may authorize and issue general obligation bonds to be paid~~
25 ~~by the dedicated levy for the purposes identified under section 57-15-06.6 and~~
26 ~~subsection 54 of section 57-15-06.7; provided, that the initial resolution authorizing the~~
27 ~~tax levy dedication and general obligation bonds must be published in the official~~
28 ~~newspaper, and any owner of taxable property within the county may, within sixty days~~
29 ~~after publication, file with the county auditor a protest against the adoption of the~~
30 ~~resolution. Protests must be in writing and must describe the property which is the~~
31 ~~subject of the protest. If the governing body finds such protests to have been signed~~

by the owners of taxable property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the county, as last finally equalized, all further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

~~11. The governing body of any park district that constitutes a distinct municipality may issue general obligation bonds of the park district in an amount no greater than one percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district up to a maximum of one million dollars for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, lay out, and improve parks, parkways, boulevards, and pleasure drives, and to acquire land for these purposes, but the. The indebtedness may not at any time exceed one percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district. The initial resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds under this subsection must be published in the official newspaper of the park district, and any owner of taxable property within the park district may, within sixty days after publication, file with the clerk of the park district a protest against the adoption of the resolution. Protests must be in writing and must describe the property that is the subject of the protest. If the governing body finds the protests have been signed by the owners of taxable property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the park district, as last finally equalized, all further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.~~

~~**SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 40-38-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~1. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining public library service, the governing body of a municipality or county authorizing the same shall establish a library fund. The library fund shall consist of annually levying and causing to be collected as other taxes are collected a municipal or county tax not exceeding the limitations in subsection 65 of section 57-15-06.7 and subsection 4 of section 57-15-10 and any other moneys received for library purposes from federal, state, county, municipal, or private sources. In the year for which the levy is sought, a library board seeking approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the auditor of each participating municipality or county, at a time and in a format prescribed by the~~

1 ~~auditors, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending~~
2 ~~balances of each fund held for the library board during that year.~~

3 ~~— **SECTION 7.** A new section to chapter 54-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
4 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

5 ~~— **State reimbursement of repealed levy authority.**~~

6 ~~— 1. Within the limits of legislative appropriations, the state treasurer shall distribute state~~
7 ~~reimbursements to counties in January of each year for the following repealed tax levy~~
8 ~~authority based on an amount equal to the tax levied in taxable year 2024 for:~~

9 ~~— a. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy under section 57-15-26.8,~~
10 ~~subsection 9 of section 61-24-08, and section 61-24-09, as the provisions existed~~
11 ~~on December 31, 2024.~~

12 ~~— b. The county extension service levy under sections 11-38-01 and 57-15-06.7, as~~
13 ~~the provisions existed on December 31, 2024.~~

14 ~~— 2. Upon receipt of the distribution, the county treasurer shall apportion the state~~
15 ~~reimbursement using the same basis as the property taxes were levied in taxable year~~
16 ~~2024.~~

17 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 11 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota Century
18 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

19 11. The governing body of any park district that constitutes a distinct municipality may
20 issue general obligation bonds of the park district in an amount no greater than
21 one percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district, up to
22 a maximum of fifteen million dollars, for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, lay
23 out, and improve parks, parkways, boulevards, and pleasure drives, and to acquire
24 land for these purposes, ~~but the~~ The indebtedness may not at any time exceed one
25 percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district. The initial
26 resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds under this subsection
27 must be published in the official newspaper of the park district, and any owner of
28 taxable property within the park district may, within sixty days after publication, file with
29 the clerk of the park district a protest against the adoption of the resolution. Protests
30 must be in writing and must describe the property that is the subject of the protest. If
31 the governing body finds the protests have been signed by the owners of taxable

property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the park district, as last finally equalized, all further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system - Report.

1. By January 1, 2026, the tax commissioner shall develop and implement a uniform reporting system for taxing district financial and property tax related data to provide a logical, consistent, and organized framework to record and report the data. At minimum, the tax commissioner shall include the following categories of taxing district data as part of the uniform reporting system:
 - ~~a. Annual budget information, including revenues and expenditures;~~
 - ~~b. Fund balances; and~~
 - ~~e.b. Property tax levy calculation information, including information regarding:~~
 - (1) The taxable status and property valuation of property situated in the taxing district; and
 - (2) The total dollar amount and number of mills levied, separated by levy authority.
2. The tax commissioner shall request the data in subsection 1 from each taxing district and specify the form and manner in which the data must be submitted. The tax commissioner may require a taxing district to report any other information deemed necessary by the tax commissioner to effectuate this section.
3. The taxing districts shall timely respond to the tax commissioner's request under subsection 2 and provide the requested data without delay.
4. By July first of each year beginning in 2026, the tax commissioner shall submit to the legislative management a written report, which must include:
 - a. An overview of the uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system developed and implemented under this section, including information regarding the form and manner in which the data is required to be submitted to the tax commissioner; and

- b. A summary of the taxing district financial and property tax related data submitted by the taxing districts to the tax commissioner under this section for the preceding taxable year.

~~SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~57-15-02.2. Estimated property tax and taxing district budget and budget hearing notice.~~

- ~~1. On or before August tenth of each year, the governing body of a taxing district shall provide to the county auditor in each county in which the taxing district has taxable property a preliminary budget statement and the date, time, and location of the taxing district's public hearing on its property tax levy, which may be no earlier than September seventh. A taxing district that fails to provide the information required under this subsection on or before August tenth may not impose a property tax levy in a greater amount of dollars than was imposed by the taxing district in the prior year.~~
- ~~2. By August thirty first of each year, the county treasurer shall provide a written notice to the owner of each parcel of taxable property with a total located in the county written notice of the estimated property tax of at least one hundred dollar taxing district budget increase or decrease for each of the taxing districts in which the property owner's parcel of taxable property is located. The text of the notice must contain:~~
- ~~a. The date, time, and location of the public budget hearing for each of the taxing districts in which the property owner's parcel is located, which anticipate levying in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in the current year, and the location at which the taxing district's budget is available for review;~~
- ~~b. The true and full value of the property based on the best information available;~~
- ~~c. A column showing the actual property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the taxing district that levied taxes against the parcel budget in the immediately preceding taxable year for each taxing district in which the property owner's parcel is located and a column showing the estimated property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the taxing district levying tax in budget for the taxable year for which the notice applies for each taxing district in which the property owner's~~

- 1 ~~parcel is located~~ based on the preliminary budget statements of all taxing
2 jurisdictions;
- 3 ~~d. A column indicating the difference between the taxing district's total levy~~
4 ~~from the previous year and the taxing district's estimated levy~~
5 ~~word;~~
- 6 ~~(1) "INCREASE" printed in boldface type if the proposed tax levy~~
7 ~~larger in dollars than the levy~~ in dollars in the previous year; ~~or~~
8 ~~(2) "DECREASE" printed in boldface type if the proposed budget is less in~~
9 ~~dollars than the budget in dollars in the previous year; and~~
- 10 ~~e. Information identifying the estimated property tax savings that will be provided~~
11 ~~pursuant to section 57-20-07.1 based on the best information available;~~
- 12 ~~f. A statement that there will be an opportunity for citizens to present oral or written~~
13 ~~comments regarding each taxing district's property tax levy; and~~
- 14 ~~g. The actual amount of the special assessment installment payable against the~~
15 ~~parcel in the immediately preceding taxable year~~ budget.
- 16 ~~3. Delivery of written notice under this section must be by personal delivery to the~~
17 ~~property owner, mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's~~
18 ~~last known address, or electronic mail~~ mail to the property owner directed with
19 ~~verification of receipt to an electronic mail~~ mail address at which the property owner
20 ~~has consented to receive notice. If a parcel of taxable property is owned by more than~~
21 ~~one owner, notice must be sent to only one owner of the property. Failure of an owner~~
22 ~~to receive a notice under this section will not relieve the owner of property tax liability~~
23 ~~or modify the qualifying date under section 57-20-09 for which an owner may receive a~~
24 ~~discount for early payment of tax.~~
- 25 ~~4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe suitable forms for written notices under this~~
26 ~~section.~~
- 27 ~~5. The direct cost of providing taxpayer notices under this section may be allocated in a~~
28 ~~manner proportionate to the number of notices mailed on behalf of each taxing district~~
29 ~~that intends to levy in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in property taxes in the~~
30 ~~current year.~~

1 ~~SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.~~ Section 57-15-06.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 ~~57-15-06.4. Levy authorized for county veterans' service officer's salary, traveling,~~
4 ~~and office expenses.~~

5 ~~The county commissioners of each county may levy annually a tax not exceeding the~~
6 ~~limitation in subsection 76 of section 57-15-06.7 to provide a fund for the payment of the salary,~~
7 ~~traveling, and office expenses of the county veterans' service officer authorized to be appointed~~
8 ~~by section 37-14-18.~~

9 ~~SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.~~ Subsection 1 of section 57-15-06.6 of the North Dakota
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows: ~~_____~~

11 ~~1. The board of county commissioners of each county may levy an annual tax not~~
12 ~~exceeding ten mills plus any voter approved additional levy as provided in~~
13 ~~subsection 87 of section 57-15-06.7 for the purpose of the following capital projects:~~

14 ~~a. Constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components~~
15 ~~of regional or county corrections centers or for the purpose of contracting for~~
16 ~~corrections center space capacity from another public or private entity.~~

17 ~~b. Acquiring real estate as a site for public parks and construction, equipping, and~~
18 ~~maintaining structural and mechanical components of recreational facilities under~~
19 ~~section 11-28-06.~~

20 ~~c. Acquiring real estate as a site for county buildings and operations and~~
21 ~~constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components~~
22 ~~of county buildings and property.~~

23 ~~d. Acquiring real estate as a site for county fair buildings and operations and~~
24 ~~constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components~~
25 ~~of county fair buildings and property as provided in section 4-02-26.~~

26 ~~e. Acquiring and developing real estate, capital improvements, buildings, pavement,~~
27 ~~equipment, and debt service associated with financing for county supported~~
28 ~~airports or airport authorities.~~

29 ~~f. Expenditures for the cost of leasing as an alternative means of financing for any~~
30 ~~of the purposes for which expenditures are authorized under subdivisions a~~
31 ~~through e.~~

1 ~~g. Improvement of the county road system, including the acquisition of land;~~
2 ~~construction of new paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places;~~
3 ~~replacement of existing paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places; and~~
4 ~~maintenance and repair of existing paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public~~
5 ~~places.~~

6 ~~**SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-06.7 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

8 ~~**57-15-06.7. Additional levies -- Exceptions to tax levy limitations in counties.**~~

9 ~~The tax levy limitations specified in section 57-15-06 do not apply to the following mill~~
10 ~~levies, which are expressed in mills per dollar of taxable valuation of property in the county:~~

11 ~~1. A county supporting an airport or airport authority may levy a tax not exceeding four~~
12 ~~mills in accordance with section 2-06-15.~~

13 ~~2. A county levying a tax for extension work as provided in section 11-38-01 may levy a~~
14 ~~tax not exceeding two mills and if a majority of the electors of the county have~~
15 ~~approved additional levy authority under section 11-38-01, the county may levy a~~
16 ~~voter-approved tax not exceeding an additional tax of two mills.~~

17 ~~3. A county levying a tax for historical works in accordance with section 11-11-53 may~~
18 ~~levy a tax not exceeding one-quarter of one mill, except that if sixty percent of the~~
19 ~~qualified electors voting on the question of a levy limit increase as provided in section~~
20 ~~11-11-53 shall approve, the tax levy limitation may be increased to not exceeding~~
21 ~~three-quarters of one mill.~~

22 ~~4.3. A county levying a tax for a county or community hospital association as provided in~~
23 ~~section 23-18-01 may levy a tax for not more than five years not exceeding eight mills~~
24 ~~in any one year or, in the alternative, for not more than ten years at a mill rate not~~
25 ~~exceeding five mills.~~

26 ~~5.4. A county levying a tax for county roads and bridges as provided in section 24-05-01~~
27 ~~may levy a tax at a tax rate not exceeding ten mills. When authorized by a majority of~~
28 ~~the qualified electors voting upon the question at a primary or general election in the~~
29 ~~county, the county commissioners may levy and collect an additional tax for road and~~
30 ~~bridge purposes as provided in section 24-05-01, not exceeding a combined additional~~
31 ~~tax rate of twenty mills.~~

- 1 ~~6.5.~~ A county levying a tax to establish and maintain a public library service as provided in
2 section ~~40-38-02~~ may levy a tax not exceeding four mills.
- 3 ~~7.6.~~ A county levying a tax for a county veterans' service officer's salary, traveling, and
4 office expenses in accordance with section ~~57-15-06.4~~ may levy a tax not exceeding
5 two mills.
- 6 ~~8.7.~~ A county levying a tax for capital projects under section ~~57-15-06.6~~ may levy a tax not
7 exceeding ten mills. When authorized by a majority of the qualified electors voting
8 upon the question of a specific capital project or projects at a primary or general
9 election in the county, the county commissioners may levy and collect an additional
10 voter-approved tax for capital projects under section ~~57-15-06.6~~ not exceeding a tax
11 rate of ten mills per dollar of the taxable valuation of property in the county. After
12 January 1, 2015, approval or reauthorization by electors of increased levy authority
13 under this subsection may not be effective for more than ten taxable years. Any
14 voter-approved levy in excess of ten mills for the purposes specified in section
15 ~~57-15-06.6~~ approved by the electors before January 1, 2015, remains effective
16 through ~~2024~~ or the period of time for which it was approved by the electors,
17 whichever is less, under the provisions of law in effect at the time it was approved.
- 18 ~~9.8.~~ A county levying a tax for emergency purposes as provided in section ~~57-15-28~~ may
19 levy a tax not exceeding two mills in a county with a population of thirty thousand or
20 more, four mills in a county with a population under thirty thousand but more than five
21 thousand, or six mills in a county with a population of five thousand or fewer.
- 22 ~~10.9.~~ A county levying a tax for county emergency medical service according to section
23 ~~57-15-50~~ may levy a tax not exceeding fifteen mills.
- 24 ~~11.10.~~ A county levying a tax for weed control as provided in section ~~4-1-47-14~~ may levy a tax
25 not exceeding four mills.
- 26 ~~12.11.~~ A county levying a tax for programs and activities for senior citizens according to
27 section ~~57-15-56~~ may levy a tax not exceeding two mills.
- 28 ~~13.12.~~ Tax levies made for paying the principal and interest on any obligations of the county
29 evidenced by the issuance of bonds.
- 30 ~~14.13.~~ A county levying a tax for a job development authority as provided in section
31 ~~11-11.1-04~~ may levy a tax not exceeding four mills on the taxable valuation of property

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1 within the county. However, if any city within the county is levying a tax for support of a
2 job development authority and the total of the county and city levies exceeds four
3 mills, the county tax levy within the city levying under subsection 12 of section
4 57-15-10 must be reduced so the total levy in the city does not exceed four mills.

5 ~~15.14.~~ A levy for an extraordinary expenditure under section 11-11-24 approved by the
6 electors of the county before January 1, 2015, may continue to be levied and collected
7 under provisions of law in effect when the levy was approved and for the term it was
8 approved by the electors. When the levy authority for an extraordinary expenditure
9 ends under this subsection, the fund must be closed out and any unobligated balance
10 in the fund must be transferred to the county general fund.

11 ~~16.15.~~ Levies dedicated under section 57-15-59 before January 1, 2015, for lease payments
12 may be continued to be levied and collected for the duration of the lease. When the
13 levy authority for lease payments ends under this subsection, the fund must be closed
14 out and any unobligated balance in the fund must be transferred to the county general
15 fund. A lease for county facilities effective after December 31, 2014, is subject to the
16 capital projects levy limitations of section 57-15-06.6.

17 Tax levy or mill levy limitations do not apply to any statute which expressly provides that taxes
18 authorized to be levied therein are not subject to mill levy limitations provided by law.

19 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **~~57-15-28. Emergency fund - County.~~**

22 ~~— The governing body of any county may levy a tax for emergency purposes not exceeding~~
23 ~~the limitation in subsection 98 of section 57-15-06.7. The emergency fund may not be~~
24 ~~considered in determining the budget or the amount to be levied for each fiscal year for normal~~
25 ~~tax purposes but must be shown in the budget as an "emergency fund" and may not be~~
26 ~~deducted from the budget as otherwise provided by law. Each county may create an emergency~~
27 ~~fund, and all taxes levied for emergency purposes by any county, when collected, must be~~
28 ~~deposited in the emergency fund, and must be used only for emergency purposes caused by~~
29 ~~the destruction or impairment of any county property necessary for the conduct of the affairs of~~
30 ~~the county or emergencies caused by nature. The emergency fund may not be used for the~~
31 ~~purchase of road equipment. The emergency fund may not be used for any road construction or~~

1 ~~maintenance, except for repair of roads damaged by nature within sixty days preceding the~~
2 ~~determination to expend emergency funds; however, the emergency fund may be used to~~
3 ~~match federal funds appropriated to mitigate damage to roads related to a federally declared~~
4 ~~disaster that occurred more than sixty days preceding the determination. Any unexpended~~
5 ~~balance remaining in the emergency fund at the end of any fiscal year must be kept in the fund.~~
6 ~~When the amount of money in the emergency fund, plus the amount of money due the fund~~
7 ~~from outstanding taxes, equals the amount produced by a levy of five mills on the taxable~~
8 ~~valuation of property in a county with a population of thirty thousand or more, ten mills on the~~
9 ~~taxable valuation of property in a county with a population of less than thirty thousand but more~~
10 ~~than five thousand, or fifteen mills on the taxable valuation of property in a county with a~~
11 ~~population of five thousand or fewer, the levy authorized by this section must be discontinued,~~
12 ~~and no further levy may be made until required to replenish the emergency fund.~~

13 ~~— **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-50 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
14 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

15 ~~— **57-15-50. County emergency medical service levy.**~~

16 ~~— Upon petition of ten percent of the number of qualified electors of the county voting in the~~
17 ~~last election for governor or upon its own motion, the board of county commissioners of each~~
18 ~~county shall levy annually a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 109 of section~~
19 ~~57-15-06.7, for the purpose of subsidizing county emergency medical services; provided, that~~
20 ~~this tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the county voting on the~~
21 ~~question at a regular or special countywide election. The county may budget, in addition to its~~
22 ~~annual operating budget for subsidizing emergency medical service, no more than ten percent~~
23 ~~of its annual operating budget as a depreciation expense to be set aside in a dedicated~~
24 ~~emergency medical services sinking fund deposited with the treasurer for the replacement of~~
25 ~~equipment and ambulances. The ten percent emergency medical services sinking fund must be~~
26 ~~in addition to the annual operating budget for subsidization, but the total of the annual operating~~
27 ~~budget and the annual ten percent emergency medical services sinking fund may not exceed~~
28 ~~the approved mill levy. If the county contains a rural ambulance service district or rural fire~~
29 ~~protection district that levies for and provides emergency medical service, the property within~~
30 ~~that district is exempt from the county tax levy under this section upon notice from the governing~~
31 ~~body of the district to the board of county commissioners of the existence of the district. After~~

~~December 31, 2025, if a political subdivision having ownership of the licensed ambulance service or a political subdivision responsible for the emergency medical service program for the service area exists, special taxes levied under this section and distributed pursuant to section 23-27-04.7 must be distributed to the political subdivision.~~

~~SECTION 15. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 57-15-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~1. The board of county commissioners of any county is hereby authorized to levy a tax, or if no levy is made by the board of county commissioners, the governing body of any city in the county is authorized to levy a tax, in addition to all levies now authorized by law, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining services and programs for senior citizens including the maintenance of existing senior citizen centers which will provide informational, health, welfare, counseling, and referral services for senior citizens, and assisting such persons in providing volunteer community or civic services. If the tax authorized by this section is levied by the board of county commissioners, any existing levy under this section by a city in the county becomes void for subsequent taxable years. The removal of the levy is not subject to the requirements of subsection 3. This tax may not exceed the limitation in subsection 12 of section 57-15-06.7 or subsection 1110 of section 57-15-10. The proceeds of the tax must be kept in a separate fund and used exclusively for the public purposes provided for in this section. This levy must be in addition to any moneys expended by the board of county commissioners pursuant to section 11-11-58 or by the governing body of any city pursuant to section 40-05-16.~~

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 57-20-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-20-04. Abstract of tax list and legislative tax relief information to be sent to tax commissioner - Reports.

1. The county auditor, on or before December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes, shall prepare and transmit to the tax commissioner a complete abstract of the tax list of the auditor's county.

- 1 2. a. In addition to the tax list required in subsection 1, the county auditor, on or before
2 December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes, shall prepare and transmit to
3 the tax commissioner a:
4 (1) A report providing each taxing district's property valuation and property tax
5 levy and any other information the tax commissioner deems necessary to
6 prepare the report required in subsection 3.
7 (2) A report providing information identifying the property tax savings provided
8 by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in the
9 county as legislative tax relief under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before
10 2019, chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27. For
11 purposes of this subdivision:
12 (a) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative
13 tax relief under chapter 15.1-27 is determined by multiplying the
14 taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county
15 by the lesser of one hundred twenty-five mills or the sum of:
16 [1] The number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under chapter
17 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year; and
18 [2] The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district excluding
19 sixty mills.
20 (b) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative
21 tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the taxable
22 value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county by the
23 number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount calculated
24 in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by the
25 taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year.
26 b. For taxing districts with property in more than one county, information required
27 under this subsection must be collected and transmitted by the county auditor of
28 the county in which the main office of that taxing district is located.
29 3. The tax commissioner shall compile information received from the county auditors in
30 subsection 2 and, prepare a statewide report of property tax increase and legislative

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tax relief, and submit the report to the legislative management by April first of each year. The report must include the:

- a. The annual increase in property taxes levied by each taxing district of the state after adjusting for property that was not taxable in the preceding year and property that is no longer taxable which was taxable in the preceding year. The report must be provided to the legislative management by April first of each year;
- b. The total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in each county; and
- c. The statewide total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers.

4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner of providing the reports and certifications required under this section.

5. ~~On or before December 31, 2017, the county auditor shall provide a report to the tax commissioner providing the information identified in subsection 2 for the 2015 and 2016 tax years.~~

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-20-07.1. County treasurer to maildeliver real estate tax statement - Contents of statement.

1. On or before December twenty-sixth of each year, the county treasurer shall maildeliver a real estate tax statement to the owner of each parcel of real property ~~at~~ by mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's last-known address or by email to the property owner directed with verification of receipt to an email address at which the property owner has consented to receive the real estate tax statement. The form of the real estate tax statement to be used in every county must be prescribed and approved for use by the tax commissioner. The statement must be displayed in color and provided in a manner that allows the taxpayer to retain a printed record, or electronic record if the taxpayer consents to receive the statement by email, of the obligation for payment of taxes and special assessments as provided in the statement. If a parcel of real property is owned by more than one individual, the county treasurer shall send only one statement to one of the owners of that property.

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Additional copies of the tax statement will be sent to the other owners upon their request and the furnishing of their names and addresses or email addresses to the county treasurer. ~~The~~After the information identifying the property owner and parcel, the tax statement must contain information displayed in the following order:

- a. ~~Include a~~Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the dollar valuation of the true and full value, taxable value, and net taxable value of the parcel as defined by law of the property and the total mill levy applicable.
- b. ~~Include, or be accompanied by a separate sheet, with three~~Information identifying the property tax levy against the parcel by each taxing district followed by the consolidated tax levied against the parcel. The information must be displayed in a textual and graphical depiction of taxes levied against each parcel and listed in:
 - (1) Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the county and school district and any city or township that levied taxes against the parcel each taxing district, excluding any amounts levied as a result of voter-approved levy authority, which must be separately stated for each taxing district with voter-approved levy authority.
 - (2) A pie chart for the taxable year to which the statement applies, which shows the percentage of the total tax levied against the parcel by each of the taxing districts that levied taxes against the parcel, excluding any amounts levied as a result of voter-approved levy authority, which must be combined and represented as a single item in the pie chart.
 - (3) A separate color to represent each taxing district and the separately stated voter-approved levy authority, which must correspond to the color used to identify the tax levied against the parcel in the pie chart required under paragraph 2.
- c. ~~Provide information identifying the property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota. The tax statement must include a line item that is entitled "legislative tax relief" and identifies the dollar amount of property tax savings~~

realized by the taxpayer under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before 2019,
chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27.

- (1) For purposes of this subdivision, legislative tax relief under chapter 15.1-27 is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel shown on the tax statement by the number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under chapter 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year plus the number of mills determined by subtracting from the 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district in which the parcel is located the lesser of:
- (a) Fifty mills; or
- (b) The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district minus sixty mills.
- (2) Legislative tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel shown on the tax statement by the number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount calculated in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by the taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year. Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the net effective tax rate applied to the parcel.

~~d. The name and phone number of a contact person for each taxing district that levied taxes against the parcel.~~

2. Failure of an owner to receive a statement will not relieve that owner of liability, nor extend the discount privilege past the February fifteenth deadline.

~~**SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 9 of section 61-24-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

- ~~9. In 1961 and each year thereafter to levy a tax of not to exceed one mill annually on each dollar of taxable valuation in the district for To expend funds received under section 7 of this Act for the payment of the expenses of the district, including, but not limited to, per diem, mileage and other expenses of directors, technical, administrative, clerical, operating and other expenses of the district office, and for the cumulation of a continuing fund through such levy for the performance of obligations entered into with the United States of America in connection with the construction, operation, and~~

~~maintenance of works of the said Garrison diversion unit of the Missouri River basin project. All moneys collected pursuant to such levy received under section 7 of this Act shall be deposited in the Bank of North Dakota to the credit of the district and shall be disbursed only as herein provided. The board may invest any funds on hand, not needed for immediate disbursement or which are held in reserve for future payments, in bonds of the United States, bonds and mortgages or other securities the payment of which is guaranteed by the United States or an instrumentality or agency thereof, or bonds or certificates of indebtedness of the state of North Dakota or any of its political subdivisions. The amount which may be levied in any one year for operating the district prior to authorization by Congress of the Garrison diversion project shall not exceed ten percent of the maximum permissible.~~

~~— **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-24-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~— **61-24-09. District budget – Determination of amount to be levied – Adoption of levy – Limitation.**~~

~~— In July of each year, the board of directors shall estimate and itemize all the expenses and obligations of the district, including expenses of directors, expenses of operating the office, debt service and retirement, and obligations and liabilities to the United States for which provision must be made. The board of directors may include in such budget funds deemed necessary to create reserve funds to meet future payments under district contracts. Upon the completion and adoption of such budget, the board of directors shall make a tax levy in an amount sufficient to meet such budget. Such levy shall be in the form of a resolution, adopted by a majority vote of the members of the board of directors of the district. Such resolution shall levy in mills, but not exceeding one mill, sufficient to meet all the expenses, obligations, and liabilities of the district as provided in the budget.~~

~~— **SECTION 20. REPEAL.** Section 57-15-26.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.~~

SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE TAX REFORM AND RELIEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TAX REFORM AND RELIEF STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall appoint a legislative tax reform and relief advisory committee.

- 1 2. The committee must consist of three members of the finance and taxation standing
2 committee of the house of representatives and three members of the finance and
3 taxation standing committee of the senate, appointed by the respective majority
4 leaders of the house of representatives and senate. The legislative management shall
5 designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to
6 the statutes and procedures governing the operation of other legislative management
7 interim committees.
- 8 3. The committee shall study tax reform and relief, including income and property tax
9 reform and relief. Based on information provided by the tax department and input from
10 local taxing districts, the committee shall:
 - 11 a. Review historical income and property tax relief provided by the legislative
12 assembly.
 - 13 b. Receive information regarding tax reform and relief legislation enacted by the
14 sixty-ninth legislative assembly, including:
 - 15 (1) Analysis of the tax reform and relief legislation, including data regarding the
16 estimated and actual fiscal impact of the legislation;
 - 17 (2) Information from the tax department, local taxing district representatives,
18 and other interested persons regarding the progress of implementing the tax
19 reform and relief legislation.
- 20 4. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
21 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative
22 assembly.

23 ~~SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - STATE TREASURER - STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF~~
24 ~~REPEALED LEVY AUTHORITY. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in~~
25 ~~the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$19,800,000, or so much of the sum~~
26 ~~as may be necessary, to the state treasurer for state reimbursement of repealed levy authority~~
27 ~~pursuant to section 7 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,~~
28 ~~2027. Of the \$19,800,000, \$9,500,000 is for the reimbursement of the repealed Garrison~~
29 ~~Diversion Conservancy District levy authority and \$10,300,000 is for the reimbursement of the~~
30 ~~repealed county extension service levy authority.~~

~~**SECTION 23. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 2, 12, 18, 19, and 20 of this Act are effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.~~

SECTION 6. TAX COMMISSIONER STUDY - TAX EXEMPT PROPERTY - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall, in consultation with the county directors of tax equalization and city, county, and township assessors, compile the following data for each parcel of tax exempt property located in the state:
 - a. The true and full valuation.
 - b. The county in which the parcel is located.
 - c. The property classification.
 - d. The property tax exemption under which the parcel is considered tax exempt.
2. The tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall establish the procedure by which the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments will compile the data.
3. If necessary to meet the deadline to submit the report required under subsection 4, the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments may develop a uniform method to be used by the county directors of tax equalization and city, county, and township assessors to estimate the true and full value per square foot or acre of corresponding property classification in the county in which the property is situated for the most recent taxable year.
4. Before July 1, 2026, the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall submit to the legislative management a written report summarizing the information received under this section. The report must include the total true and full valuation of exempt property in each county, separated by property tax exemption and property classification, a description of the uniform method to estimate the true and full value of parcels of tax exempt property, and the number of parcels of tax exempt property in each county for which the uniform method was applied to estimate true and full value.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1572**

Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Headland, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0523.02005](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1572 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.0523.02004
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Hagert
February 14, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1572

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Dockter, Grueneich, Headland, J. Olson

Senators Meyer, Patten, Thomas

A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~a new section to chapter 54-11 and~~ a new section to chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~state reimbursement of repealed levy authority and~~ a uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system; to amend and reenact ~~sections 4.1-47-14, 11-38-01, 11-11-53, and 11-11.1-04, subsections 6- and subsection~~ 11 of section 21-03-07, ~~subsection 1 of section 40-38-02, and~~ sections ~~57-15-02.2 and 57-15-06.4, subsection 1 of section 57-15-06.6, sections 57-15-06.7, 57-15-28, and 57-15-50, subsection 1 of section 57-15-56, sections 57-20-04 and 57-20-07.1, subsection 9 of section 61-24-08, and section 61-24-09~~ of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~removal of county extension service and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority,~~ park district bonding authority without a vote, ~~estimated taxing district budget and budget hearing notices,~~ reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; ~~to repeal section 57-15-26.8 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority;~~ to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report; ~~to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.~~

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

~~—~~ **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** ~~Section 4.1-47-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~4.1-47-14. County noxious weed control program -- Payment of expenses -- Financial report -- Tax levy authorization.~~

~~1. The board of county commissioners may pay the expenses of a county noxious weed control program authorized under this chapter from the county general fund, the noxious weed control fund, or both. In addition to the other program expenditures authorized in this chapter, the board of county commissioners may expend funds from the levy authorized under subsection 1110 of section 57-15-06.7 to control noxious weeds or undesirable vegetation along county or township roads in the county.~~

~~2. a. The county weed board may annually request from the board of county commissioners the levy of a tax, not to exceed the levy limitation in subsection 1110 of section 57-15-06.7, but any tax levied under this section does not apply to property that lies within the boundaries of a city having a noxious weed control program under this chapter. In the year for which the levy is sought, a county weed board seeking approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the county auditor, at a time and in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending balances of each fund held by the county weed board during that year.~~

~~b. The board of county commissioners may levy the taxes authorized by this subsection and shall place those moneys in a separate fund designated as the weed control fund, which may be used to pay the expenses authorized under this section.~~

~~3. For purposes of this section, the expenses of a county noxious weed control program include compensation for and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the county weed board, the county weed control officer and other employees of the board, and expenses incurred as authorized by this chapter.~~

~~SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 11-38-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~11-38-01. County extension agent -- Petition to authorize or discontinue levy -- Election -- Levy limitations~~Use of funds.

~~1. Upon the filing with the county auditor at least sixty-four days before the date of a general election of a petition to authorize or discontinue a tax levy for extension work,~~

1 containing the names of twenty percent of the qualified electors of the county as determined by
2 the votes cast for governor in the county in the most recent gubernatorial election, the board of
3 county commissioners shall submit to the qualified electors at the next general election the
4 question of authorizing or discontinuing a tax levy for extension work. Upon approval by a
5 majority of qualified electors of the county voting on the question of authorizing a tax levy for
6 extension work, the board of county commissioners may levy a tax of up to two mills as
7 provided in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7. Upon approval by a majority of qualified electors
8 of the county voting on the question of discontinuing a tax levy for extension work, ~~the~~The board
9 of county commissioners shall terminate any levy or additional levy previously authorized under
10 this chapter and may terminate county expenditures for extension work.

11 ~~2.~~ The board of county commissioners may submit to the electors at a primary or general
12 election the question of approval of voter-approved additional levy authority for
13 extension work for a period not exceeding ten years and if approved by a majority of
14 the electors voting on the question, the board of county commissioners may levy an
15 additional tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7.
16 Voter-approved additional levy authority authorized by electors of a county before
17 January 1, 2015, remains in effect through taxable year 2024 or for the time period
18 authorized by the electors, whichever expires first. After January 1, 2015, approval or
19 reauthorization by electors of voter-approved additional levy authority under this
20 section may not be effective for more than ten taxable years.

21 ~~3.~~ The board of county commissioners may appropriate funds out of the county general
22 fund to cover any unanticipated deficiency in funding for extension work. All funds
23 raised by levies under this chapter received under section 7 of this Act must be
24 appropriated by the board of county commissioners for the purposes set forth in this
25 chapter.

26 ~~**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.**~~ Section 11-11-53 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 ~~**11-11-53. Appropriation for historical works -- Authorization of tax levy -- Approval of**~~
29 ~~**state historical society and attorney general.**~~

30 ~~1.~~ The board of county commissioners of any county may appropriate out of the general
31 fund of the county a sum, not exceeding five thousand dollars annually, to be paid to

1 the historical society of the county and used for the promotion of historical work within
2 the borders of the county, including the collection, preservation, and publication of
3 historical material, and to disseminate historical information of the county, and in-
4 general to defray the expense of carrying on historical work in the county.

5 ~~—2.—The board of county commissioners may levy a tax, not exceeding the limitation in~~
6 ~~subsection 32 of section 57-15-06.7, for the promotion of historical works within the~~
7 ~~borders of the county and in general, defray the expense of carrying on historical work~~
8 ~~in the county, including the maintenance of any historical room or building, and~~
9 ~~furthering the work of the historical society of the county. The levy is in addition to any~~
10 ~~moneys appropriated from the general fund of the county for historical work as~~
11 ~~provided in subsection 1.~~

12 ~~—The board of county commissioners may, by resolution, submit the question of a~~
13 ~~voter-approved tax levy to the qualified electors of the county at the next countywide~~
14 ~~general, primary, or special election. If sixty percent of the qualified electors voting on~~
15 ~~the question approve, a tax may be levied not exceeding the limitation in subsection~~
16 ~~32 of section 57-15-06.7, which tax may be expended as provided in this section.~~
17 ~~Voter-approved levy authority under this section authorized by electors of a county~~
18 ~~before January 1, 2015, remains in effect through taxable year 2024 or for the time~~
19 ~~period authorized by the electors, whichever expires first. After January 1, 2015,~~
20 ~~approval or reauthorization by electors of voter-approved levy authority under this~~
21 ~~section may not be effective for more than ten taxable years.~~

22 ~~—3.—The appropriation and levy authorized by this section may not be used to defray any~~
23 ~~expenses of a county historical society until it is incorporated under the laws of this~~
24 ~~state as a nonprofit corporation, is affiliated with and has its articles of incorporation~~
25 ~~and bylaws approved by the state historical society and the attorney general, and has~~
26 ~~contracted with the board of county commissioners in regard to the manner in which~~
27 ~~the funds received will be expended and the services to be provided. Historical~~
28 ~~societies that qualified for county funds under subsection 1 before July 1, 1965, are~~
29 ~~not required to have articles of incorporation and bylaws approved by the attorney~~
30 ~~general to receive funds under subsection 1.~~

1 ~~— **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-11.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is-~~
2 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

3 ~~— **11-11.1-04. Tax levy for job development authorities -- Financial report.**~~

4 ~~— The board of county commissioners of a county which has a job development authority or-~~
5 ~~joint job development authority shall establish a job development authority fund and may levy a-~~
6 ~~tax not exceeding the limitations in subsection 1413 of section 57-15-06.7. In the year for which-~~
7 ~~the levy is sought, a job development authority or joint job development authority seeking-~~
8 ~~approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the county auditor, at a time and-~~
9 ~~in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year-~~
10 ~~showing the ending balances of each fund held by the job development authority or joint job-~~
11 ~~development authority during that year. The county treasurer shall keep the job development-~~
12 ~~authority fund separate from other money of the county. The county treasurer shall transmit all-~~
13 ~~funds received pursuant to this section within thirty days to the board of directors of the-~~
14 ~~authority. The funds when paid to the authority must be deposited in a special account, or-~~
15 ~~special accounts if the authority chooses to maintain a separate account for promotion of-~~
16 ~~tourism, in which other revenues of the authority are deposited. Moneys received by the job-~~
17 ~~development authority from any other source must also be deposited in the special accounts.-~~
18 ~~The moneys in the special accounts may be expended by the authority as provided in sections-~~
19 ~~11-11.1-02 and 11-11.1-03.~~

20 ~~— **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 6 and 11 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota-~~
21 ~~Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

22 ~~——— 6. The governing body of any county may also by resolution adopted by a two-thirds-~~
23 ~~vote dedicate the tax levies authorized by section 57-15-06.6 and subsection 54 of-~~
24 ~~section 57-15-06.7 and may authorize and issue general obligation bonds to be paid-~~
25 ~~by the dedicated levy for the purposes identified under section 57-15-06.6 and-~~
26 ~~subsection 54 of section 57-15-06.7; provided, that the initial resolution authorizing the-~~
27 ~~tax levy dedication and general obligation bonds must be published in the official-~~
28 ~~newspaper, and any owner of taxable property within the county may, within sixty days-~~
29 ~~after publication, file with the county auditor a protest against the adoption of the-~~
30 ~~resolution. Protests must be in writing and must describe the property which is the-~~
31 ~~subject of the protest. If the governing body finds such protests to have been signed-~~

1 by the owners of taxable property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent
2 or more of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the county, as last
3 finally equalized, all further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

4 ~~11. The governing body of any park district that constitutes a distinct municipality may~~
5 ~~issue general obligation bonds of the park district in an amount no greater than one~~
6 ~~percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district up to a~~
7 ~~maximum of one million dollars for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, lay out,~~
8 ~~and improve parks, parkways, boulevards, and pleasure drives, and to acquire land for~~
9 ~~these purposes, but the. The indebtedness may not at any time exceed one percent of~~
10 ~~the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district. The initial resolution~~
11 ~~authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds under this subsection must be~~
12 ~~published in the official newspaper of the park district, and any owner of taxable~~
13 ~~property within the park district may, within sixty days after publication, file with the~~
14 ~~clerk of the park district a protest against the adoption of the resolution. Protests must~~
15 ~~be in writing and must describe the property that is the subject of the protest. If the~~
16 ~~governing body finds the protests have been signed by the owners of taxable property~~
17 ~~having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed valuation~~
18 ~~of all taxable property within the park district, as last finally equalized, all further~~
19 ~~proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.~~

20 ~~SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.~~ Subsection 1 of section 40-38-02 of the North Dakota Century
21 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22 ~~1. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining public library service, the governing~~
23 ~~body of a municipality or county authorizing the same shall establish a library fund.~~
24 ~~The library fund shall consist of annually levying and causing to be collected as other~~
25 ~~taxes are collected a municipal or county tax not exceeding the limitations in~~
26 ~~subsection 65 of section 57-15-06.7 and subsection 4 of section 57-15-10 and any~~
27 ~~other moneys received for library purposes from federal, state, county, municipal, or~~
28 ~~private sources. In the year for which the levy is sought, a library board seeking~~
29 ~~approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the auditor of each~~
30 ~~participating municipality or county, at a time and in a format prescribed by the~~

auditors, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending
balances of each fund held for the library board during that year.

SECTION 7. A new section to chapter 54-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
and enacted as follows:

State reimbursement of repealed levy authority.

1. Within the limits of legislative appropriations, the state treasurer shall distribute state
reimbursements to counties in January of each year for the following repealed tax levy
authority based on an amount equal to the tax levied in taxable year 2024 for:

a. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy under section 57-15-26.8,
subsection 9 of section 61-24-08, and section 61-24-09, as the provisions existed
on December 31, 2024.

b. The county extension service levy under sections 11-38-01 and 57-15-06.7, as
the provisions existed on December 31, 2024.

2. Upon receipt of the distribution, the county treasurer shall apportion the state
reimbursement using the same basis as the property taxes were levied in taxable year
2024.

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 11 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota Century
Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11. The governing body of any park district that constitutes a distinct municipality may
issue general obligation bonds of the park district in an amount no greater than
one percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district, up to
a maximum of fifteen million dollars, for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, lay
out, and improve parks, parkways, boulevards, and pleasure drives, and to acquire
land for these purposes, ~~but the~~ The indebtedness may not at any time exceed one
percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district. The initial
resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds under this subsection
must be published in the official newspaper of the park district, and any owner of
taxable property within the park district may, within sixty days after publication, file with
the clerk of the park district a protest against the adoption of the resolution. Protests
must be in writing and must describe the property that is the subject of the protest. If
the governing body finds the protests have been signed by the owners of taxable

property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the park district, as last finally equalized, all further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system - Report.

1. By January 1, 2026, the tax commissioner shall develop and implement a uniform reporting system for taxing district financial and property tax related data to provide a logical, consistent, and organized framework to record and report the data. At minimum, the tax commissioner shall include the following categories of taxing district data as part of the uniform reporting system:

a. ~~Annual budget information, including revenues and expenditures;~~

~~b.~~ Fund balances; and

~~e.b.~~ Property tax levy calculation information, including information regarding:

(1) The taxable status and property valuation of property situated in the taxing district; and

(2) The total dollar amount and number of mills levied, separated by levy authority.

2. The tax commissioner shall request the data in subsection 1 from each taxing district and specify the form and manner in which the data must be submitted. The tax commissioner may require a taxing district to report any other information deemed necessary by the tax commissioner to effectuate this section.

3. The taxing districts shall timely respond to the tax commissioner's request under subsection 2 and provide the requested data without delay.

4. By July first of each year beginning in 2026, the tax commissioner shall submit to the legislative management a written report, which must include:

a. An overview of the uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system developed and implemented under this section, including information regarding the form and manner in which the data is required to be submitted to the tax commissioner; and

- 1 b. A summary of the taxing district financial and property tax related data submitted
2 by the taxing districts to the tax commissioner under this section for the
3 preceding taxable year.

4 ~~— **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
5 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

6 ~~— **57-15-02.2. Estimated property tax and taxing district budget and budget hearing**~~
7 ~~**notice.**~~

8 ~~— 1. On or before August tenth of each year, the governing body of a taxing district shall~~
9 ~~provide to the county auditor in each county in which the taxing district has taxable~~
10 ~~property a preliminary budget statement and the date, time, and location of the taxing~~
11 ~~district's public hearing on its property tax levy, which may be no earlier than~~
12 ~~September seventh. A taxing district that fails to provide the information required under~~
13 ~~this subsection on or before August tenth may not impose a property tax levy in a~~
14 ~~greater amount of dollars than was imposed by the taxing district in the prior year.~~

15 ~~— 2. By August thirty-first of each year, the county treasurer shall provide a written notice to~~
16 ~~the owner of each parcel of taxable property with a total located in the county written~~
17 ~~notice of the estimated property tax of at least one hundred dollar taxing district~~
18 ~~budget increase or decrease for each of the taxing districts in which the property~~
19 ~~owner's parcel of taxable property is located. The text of the notice must contain:~~

20 ~~— a. The date, time, and location of the public budget hearing for each of the taxing~~
21 ~~districts in which the property owner's parcel is located, which anticipate levying~~
22 ~~in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in the current year, and the location at~~
23 ~~which the taxing district's budget is available for review;~~

24 ~~— b. The true and full value of the property based on the best information available;~~

25 ~~— c. A column showing the actual property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the~~
26 ~~taxing district that levied taxes against the parcel budget in the immediately~~
27 ~~preceding taxable year for each taxing district in which the property owner's~~
28 ~~parcel is located and a column showing the estimated property tax levy in dollars~~
29 ~~against the parcel by the taxing district levying tax in budget for the taxable year~~
30 ~~for which the notice applies for each taxing district in which the property owner's~~

- 1 ~~parcel is located~~ based on the preliminary budget statements of all taxing-
- 2 jurisdictions;
- 3 ~~d. A column indicating the difference between the taxing district's total levybudget~~
- 4 ~~from the previous year and the taxing district's estimated levybudget with the~~
- 5 ~~word:~~
- 6 ~~(1) "INCREASE" printed in boldface type if the proposed tax levybudget is~~
- 7 ~~larger in dollars than the levybudget in dollars in the previous year; or~~
- 8 ~~(2) "DECREASE" printed in boldface type if the proposed budget is less in~~
- 9 ~~dollars than the budget in dollars in the previous year; and~~
- 10 ~~e. Information identifying the estimated property tax savings that will be provided~~
- 11 ~~pursuant to section 57-20-07.1 based on the best information available;~~
- 12 ~~f. A statement that there will be an opportunity for citizens to present oral or written~~
- 13 ~~comments regarding each taxing district's property tax levy; and~~
- 14 ~~g. The actual amount of the special assessment installment payable against the~~
- 15 ~~parcel in the immediately preceding taxable yearbudget.~~
- 16 ~~3. Delivery of written notice under this section must be by personal delivery to the~~
- 17 ~~property owner, mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's~~
- 18 ~~last-known address, or electronic mail~~email~~ to the property owner directed with~~
- 19 ~~verification of receipt to an electronic mail~~email~~ address at which the property owner~~
- 20 ~~has consented to receive notice. If a parcel of taxable property is owned by more than~~
- 21 ~~one owner, notice must be sent to only one owner of the property. Failure of an owner~~
- 22 ~~to receive a notice under this section will not relieve the owner of property tax liability~~
- 23 ~~or modify the qualifying date under section 57-20-09 for which an owner may receive a~~
- 24 ~~discount for early payment of tax.~~
- 25 ~~4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe suitable forms for written notices under this~~
- 26 ~~section.~~
- 27 ~~5. The direct cost of providing taxpayer notices under this section may be allocated in a~~
- 28 ~~manner proportionate to the number of notices mailed on behalf of each taxing district~~
- 29 ~~that intends to levy in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in property taxes in the~~
- 30 ~~current year.~~

1 ~~— **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-06.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
2 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

3 ~~— **57-15-06.4. Levy authorized for county veterans' service officer's salary, traveling,**~~
4 ~~**and office expenses.**~~

5 ~~— The county commissioners of each county may levy annually a tax not exceeding the~~
6 ~~limitation in subsection 76 of section 57-15-06.7 to provide a fund for the payment of the salary,~~
7 ~~traveling, and office expenses of the county veterans' service officer authorized to be appointed~~
8 ~~by section 37-14-18.~~

9 ~~— **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-15-06.6 of the North Dakota~~
10 ~~Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows: —~~

11 ~~— 1. — The board of county commissioners of each county may levy an annual tax not~~
12 ~~exceeding ten mills plus any voter-approved additional levy as provided in~~
13 ~~subsection 87 of section 57-15-06.7 for the purpose of the following capital projects:~~

14 ~~— a. — Constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components~~
15 ~~of regional or county corrections centers or for the purpose of contracting for~~
16 ~~corrections center space capacity from another public or private entity.~~

17 ~~— b. — Acquiring real estate as a site for public parks and construction, equipping, and~~
18 ~~maintaining structural and mechanical components of recreational facilities under~~
19 ~~section 11-28-06.~~

20 ~~— c. — Acquiring real estate as a site for county buildings and operations and~~
21 ~~constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components~~
22 ~~of county buildings and property.~~

23 ~~— d. — Acquiring real estate as a site for county fair buildings and operations and~~
24 ~~constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components~~
25 ~~of county fair buildings and property as provided in section 4-02-26.~~

26 ~~— e. — Acquiring and developing real estate, capital improvements, buildings, pavement,~~
27 ~~equipment, and debt service associated with financing for county supported~~
28 ~~airports or airport authorities.~~

29 ~~— f. — Expenditures for the cost of leasing as an alternative means of financing for any~~
30 ~~of the purposes for which expenditures are authorized under subdivisions a-~~
31 ~~through e.~~

1 ~~g. Improvement of the county road system, including the acquisition of land;~~
2 ~~construction of new paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places;~~
3 ~~replacement of existing paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places; and~~
4 ~~maintenance and repair of existing paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public~~
5 ~~places.~~

6 ~~**SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-06.7 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

8 ~~**57-15-06.7. Additional levies -- Exceptions to tax levy limitations in counties.**~~

9 ~~The tax levy limitations specified in section 57-15-06 do not apply to the following mill~~
10 ~~levies, which are expressed in mills per dollar of taxable valuation of property in the county:~~

11 ~~1. A county supporting an airport or airport authority may levy a tax not exceeding four~~
12 ~~mills in accordance with section 2-06-15.~~

13 ~~2. A county levying a tax for extension work as provided in section 11-38-01 may levy a~~
14 ~~tax not exceeding two mills and if a majority of the electors of the county have~~
15 ~~approved additional levy authority under section 11-38-01, the county may levy a~~
16 ~~voter-approved tax not exceeding an additional tax of two mills.~~

17 ~~3. A county levying a tax for historical works in accordance with section 11-11-53 may~~
18 ~~levy a tax not exceeding one-quarter of one mill, except that if sixty percent of the~~
19 ~~qualified electors voting on the question of a levy limit increase as provided in section~~
20 ~~11-11-53 shall approve, the tax levy limitation may be increased to not exceeding~~
21 ~~three-quarters of one mill.~~

22 ~~4.3. A county levying a tax for a county or community hospital association as provided in~~
23 ~~section 23-18-01 may levy a tax for not more than five years not exceeding eight mills~~
24 ~~in any one year or, in the alternative, for not more than ten years at a mill rate not~~
25 ~~exceeding five mills.~~

26 ~~5.4. A county levying a tax for county roads and bridges as provided in section 24-05-01~~
27 ~~may levy a tax at a tax rate not exceeding ten mills. When authorized by a majority of~~
28 ~~the qualified electors voting upon the question at a primary or general election in the~~
29 ~~county, the county commissioners may levy and collect an additional tax for road and~~
30 ~~bridge purposes as provided in section 24-05-01, not exceeding a combined additional~~
31 ~~tax rate of twenty mills.~~

~~6.5. A county levying a tax to establish and maintain a public library service as provided in section 40-38-02 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills.~~

~~7.6. A county levying a tax for a county veterans' service officer's salary, traveling, and office expenses in accordance with section 57-15-06.4 may levy a tax not exceeding two mills.~~

~~8.7. A county levying a tax for capital projects under section 57-15-06.6 may levy a tax not exceeding ten mills. When authorized by a majority of the qualified electors voting upon the question of a specific capital project or projects at a primary or general election in the county, the county commissioners may levy and collect an additional voter-approved tax for capital projects under section 57-15-06.6 not exceeding a tax rate of ten mills per dollar of the taxable valuation of property in the county. After January 1, 2015, approval or reauthorization by electors of increased levy authority under this subsection may not be effective for more than ten taxable years. Any voter-approved levy in excess of ten mills for the purposes specified in section 57-15-06.6 approved by the electors before January 1, 2015, remains effective through 2024 or the period of time for which it was approved by the electors, whichever is less, under the provisions of law in effect at the time it was approved.~~

~~9.8. A county levying a tax for emergency purposes as provided in section 57-15-28 may levy a tax not exceeding two mills in a county with a population of thirty thousand or more, four mills in a county with a population under thirty thousand but more than five thousand, or six mills in a county with a population of five thousand or fewer.~~

~~10.9. A county levying a tax for county emergency medical service according to section 57-15-50 may levy a tax not exceeding fifteen mills.~~

~~11.10. A county levying a tax for weed control as provided in section 4-1-47-14 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills.~~

~~12.11. A county levying a tax for programs and activities for senior citizens according to section 57-15-56 may levy a tax not exceeding two mills.~~

~~13.12. Tax levies made for paying the principal and interest on any obligations of the county evidenced by the issuance of bonds.~~

~~14.13. A county levying a tax for a job development authority as provided in section 11-11.1-04 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills on the taxable valuation of property~~

1 within the county. However, if any city within the county is levying a tax for support of a
2 job development authority and the total of the county and city levies exceeds four
3 mills, the county tax levy within the city levying under subsection 12 of section
4 57-15-10 must be reduced so the total levy in the city does not exceed four mills.

5 ~~15.14.~~ A levy for an extraordinary expenditure under section 11-11-24 approved by the
6 electors of the county before January 1, 2015, may continue to be levied and collected
7 under provisions of law in effect when the levy was approved and for the term it was
8 approved by the electors. When the levy authority for an extraordinary expenditure
9 ends under this subsection, the fund must be closed out and any unobligated balance
10 in the fund must be transferred to the county general fund.

11 ~~16.15.~~ Levies dedicated under section 57-15-59 before January 1, 2015, for lease payments
12 may be continued to be levied and collected for the duration of the lease. When the
13 levy authority for lease payments ends under this subsection, the fund must be closed
14 out and any unobligated balance in the fund must be transferred to the county general
15 fund. A lease for county facilities effective after December 31, 2014, is subject to the
16 capital projects levy limitations of section 57-15-06.6.

17 Tax levy or mill levy limitations do not apply to any statute which expressly provides that taxes
18 authorized to be levied therein are not subject to mill levy limitations provided by law.

19 ~~—~~ **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 ~~—~~ **57-15-28. Emergency fund – County.**

22 ~~—~~ The governing body of any county may levy a tax for emergency purposes not exceeding
23 the limitation in subsection 98 of section 57-15-06.7. The emergency fund may not be
24 considered in determining the budget or the amount to be levied for each fiscal year for normal
25 tax purposes but must be shown in the budget as an "emergency fund" and may not be
26 deducted from the budget as otherwise provided by law. Each county may create an emergency
27 fund, and all taxes levied for emergency purposes by any county, when collected, must be
28 deposited in the emergency fund, and must be used only for emergency purposes caused by
29 the destruction or impairment of any county property necessary for the conduct of the affairs of
30 the county or emergencies caused by nature. The emergency fund may not be used for the
31 purchase of road equipment. The emergency fund may not be used for any road construction or

1 maintenance, except for repair of roads damaged by nature within sixty days preceding the
2 determination to expend emergency funds; however, the emergency fund may be used to
3 match federal funds appropriated to mitigate damage to roads related to a federally declared
4 disaster that occurred more than sixty days preceding the determination. Any unexpended
5 balance remaining in the emergency fund at the end of any fiscal year must be kept in the fund.
6 When the amount of money in the emergency fund, plus the amount of money due the fund
7 from outstanding taxes, equals the amount produced by a levy of five mills on the taxable
8 valuation of property in a county with a population of thirty thousand or more, ten mills on the
9 taxable valuation of property in a county with a population of less than thirty thousand but more
10 than five thousand, or fifteen mills on the taxable valuation of property in a county with a
11 population of five thousand or fewer, the levy authorized by this section must be discontinued,
12 and no further levy may be made until required to replenish the emergency fund.

13 ~~—~~ **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-50 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 ~~—~~ **57-15-50. County emergency medical service levy.**

16 ~~—~~ Upon petition of ten percent of the number of qualified electors of the county voting in the
17 last election for governor or upon its own motion, the board of county commissioners of each
18 county shall levy annually a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 109 of section
19 57-15-06.7, for the purpose of subsidizing county emergency medical services; provided, that
20 this tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the county voting on the
21 question at a regular or special countywide election. The county may budget, in addition to its
22 annual operating budget for subsidizing emergency medical service, no more than ten percent
23 of its annual operating budget as a depreciation expense to be set aside in a dedicated
24 emergency medical services sinking fund deposited with the treasurer for the replacement of
25 equipment and ambulances. The ten percent emergency medical services sinking fund must be
26 in addition to the annual operating budget for subsidization, but the total of the annual operating
27 budget and the annual ten percent emergency medical services sinking fund may not exceed
28 the approved mill levy. If the county contains a rural ambulance service district or rural fire
29 protection district that levies for and provides emergency medical service, the property within
30 that district is exempt from the county tax levy under this section upon notice from the governing
31 body of the district to the board of county commissioners of the existence of the district. After

~~December 31, 2025, if a political subdivision having ownership of the licensed ambulance service or a political subdivision responsible for the emergency medical service program for the service area exists, special taxes levied under this section and distributed pursuant to section 23-27-04.7 must be distributed to the political subdivision.~~

~~— **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-15-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows: —~~

~~1. The board of county commissioners of any county is hereby authorized to levy a tax, or if no levy is made by the board of county commissioners, the governing body of any city in the county is authorized to levy a tax, in addition to all levies now authorized by law, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining services and programs for senior citizens including the maintenance of existing senior citizen centers which will provide informational, health, welfare, counseling, and referral services for senior citizens, and assisting such persons in providing volunteer community or civic services. If the tax authorized by this section is levied by the board of county commissioners, any existing levy under this section by a city in the county becomes void for subsequent taxable years. The removal of the levy is not subject to the requirements of subsection 3. This tax may not exceed the limitation in subsection 12 of section 57-15-06.7 or subsection 1110 of section 57-15-10. The proceeds of the tax must be kept in a separate fund and used exclusively for the public purposes provided for in this section. This levy must be in addition to any moneys expended by the board of county commissioners pursuant to section 11-11-58 or by the governing body of any city pursuant to section 40-05-16.~~

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 57-20-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-20-04. Abstract of tax list and legislative tax relief information to be sent to tax commissioner - Reports.

1. The county auditor, on or before December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes, shall prepare and transmit to the tax commissioner a complete abstract of the tax list of the auditor's county.

- 1 2. a. In addition to the tax list required in subsection 1, the county auditor, on or before
2 December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes, shall prepare and transmit to
3 the tax commissioner a:
- 4 (1) A report providing each taxing district's property valuation and property tax
5 levy and any other information the tax commissioner deems necessary to
6 prepare the report required in subsection 3.
- 7 (2) A report providing information identifying the property tax savings provided
8 by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in the
9 county as legislative tax relief under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before
10 2019, chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27. For
11 purposes of this subdivision:
- 12 (a) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative
13 tax relief under chapter 15.1-27 is determined by multiplying the
14 taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county
15 by the lesser of one hundred twenty-five mills or the sum of:
- 16 [1] The number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under chapter
17 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year; and
- 18 [2] The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district excluding
19 sixty mills.
- 20 (b) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative
21 tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the taxable
22 value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county by the
23 number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount calculated
24 in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by the
25 taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year.
- 26 b. For taxing districts with property in more than one county, information required
27 under this subsection must be collected and transmitted by the county auditor of
28 the county in which the main office of that taxing district is located.
- 29 3. The tax commissioner shall compile information received from the county auditors in
30 subsection 2 and, prepare a statewide report of property tax increase and legislative

tax relief, and submit the report to the legislative management by April first of each year. The report must include the:

- a. The annual increase in property taxes levied by each taxing district of the state after adjusting for property that was not taxable in the preceding year and property that is no longer taxable which was taxable in the preceding year. The report must be provided to the legislative management by April first of each year;
- b. The total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in each county; and
- c. The statewide total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers.

4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner of providing the reports and certifications required under this section.

5. ~~On or before December 31, 2017, the county auditor shall provide a report to the tax commissioner providing the information identified in subsection 2 for the 2015 and 2016 tax years.~~

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-20-07.1. County treasurer to ~~mail~~deliver real estate tax statement - Contents of statement.

1. On or before December twenty-sixth of each year, the county treasurer shall ~~mail~~deliver a real estate tax statement to the owner of each parcel of real property ~~at~~by mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's last-known address or by email to the property owner directed with verification of receipt to an email address at which the property owner has consented to receive the real estate tax statement. The form of the real estate tax statement to be used in every county must be prescribed and approved for use by the tax commissioner. The statement must be ~~displayed in color and~~ provided in a manner that allows the taxpayer to retain a printed record, or electronic record if the taxpayer consents to receive the statement by email, of the obligation for payment of taxes and special assessments as provided in the statement. If a parcel of real property is owned by more than one individual, the county treasurer shall send only one statement to one of the owners of that property.

1 Additional copies of the tax statement will be sent to the other owners upon their
2 request and the furnishing of their names and addresses or email addresses to the
3 county treasurer. ~~The~~After the information identifying the property owner and parcel,
4 the tax statement must contain information displayed in the following order:

- 5 a. ~~Include a~~Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement
6 applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the dollar valuation of
7 the true and full value, taxable value, and net taxable value of the parcel as
8 defined by law ~~of the property~~ and the total mill levy applicable.
- 9 b. ~~Include, or be accompanied by a separate sheet, with three~~Information identifying
10 the property tax levy against the parcel by each taxing district followed by the
11 consolidated tax levied against the parcel. The information must be displayed in a
12 textual and graphical depiction of taxes levied against each parcel and listed in:
- 13 (1) Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement
14 applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the property tax
15 levy in dollars against the parcel by the county and school district and any
16 city or township that levied taxes against the parcel each taxing district,
17 excluding any amounts levied as a result of voter-approved levy authority,
18 which must be separately stated for each taxing district with voter-approved
19 levy authority.
- 20 (2) A pie chart for the taxable year to which the statement applies, which shows
21 the percentage of the total tax levied against the parcel by each of the
22 taxing districts that levied taxes against the parcel, excluding any amounts
23 levied as a result of voter-approved levy authority, which must be combined
24 and represented as a single item in the pie chart.
- 25 (3) A separate color to represent each taxing district and the separately stated
26 voter-approved levy authority, which must correspond to the color used to
27 identify the tax levied against the parcel in the pie chart required under
28 paragraph 2.
- 29 c. ~~Provide information identifying the property tax savings provided by the state of~~
30 ~~North Dakota. The tax statement must include a line item that is entitled~~
31 ~~"legislative tax relief" and identifies the dollar amount of property tax savings~~

realized by the taxpayer under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before 2019,
chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27.

- (1) For purposes of this subdivision, legislative tax relief under chapter 15.1-27
is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the taxable year for each
parcel shown on the tax statement by the number of mills of mill levy
reduction grant under chapter 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year plus the
number of mills determined by subtracting from the 2012 taxable year mill
rate of the school district in which the parcel is located the lesser of:
- (a) Fifty mills; or
- (b) The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district minus sixty mills.
- (2) Legislative tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the
taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel shown on the tax
statement by the number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount
calculated in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by
the taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year. Three
columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies
and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the net effective tax rate
applied to the parcel.

~~d. The name and phone number of a contact person for each taxing district that
levied taxes against the parcel.~~

2. Failure of an owner to receive a statement will not relieve that owner of liability, nor
extend the discount privilege past the February fifteenth deadline.

~~**SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 9 of section 61-24-08 of the North Dakota
Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:—~~

~~9. In 1961 and each year thereafter to levy a tax of not to exceed one mill annually on
each dollar of taxable valuation in the district for To expend funds received under
section 7 of this Act for the payment of the expenses of the district, including, but not
limited to, per diem, mileage and other expenses of directors, technical, administrative,
clerical, operating and other expenses of the district office, and for the cumulation of a
continuing fund through such levy for the performance of obligations entered into with
the United States of America in connection with the construction, operation, and~~

1 maintenance of works of the said Garrison diversion unit of the Missouri River basin
2 project. All moneys collected pursuant to such levy received under section 7 of this Act
3 shall be deposited in the Bank of North Dakota to the credit of the district and shall be
4 disbursed only as herein provided. The board may invest any funds on hand, not
5 needed for immediate disbursement or which are held in reserve for future payments,
6 in bonds of the United States, bonds and mortgages or other securities the payment of
7 which is guaranteed by the United States or an instrumentality or agency thereof, or
8 bonds or certificates of indebtedness of the state of North Dakota or any of its political
9 subdivisions. The amount which may be levied in any one year for operating the
10 district prior to authorization by Congress of the Garrison diversion project shall not
11 exceed ten percent of the maximum permissible.

12 **—SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-24-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **—61-24-09. District budget – Determination of amount to be levied – Adoption of levy –**
15 **Limitation.**

16 **—**In July of each year, the board of directors shall estimate and itemize all the expenses and
17 obligations of the district, including expenses of directors, expenses of operating the office, debt
18 service and retirement, and obligations and liabilities to the United States for which provision
19 must be made. The board of directors may include in such budget funds deemed necessary to
20 create reserve funds to meet future payments under district contracts. Upon the completion and
21 adoption of such budget, the board of directors shall make a tax levy in an amount sufficient to
22 meet such budget. Such levy shall be in the form of a resolution, adopted by a majority vote of
23 the members of the board of directors of the district. Such resolution shall levy in mills, but not
24 exceeding one mill, sufficient to meet all the expenses, obligations, and liabilities of the district
25 as provided in the budget.

26 **—SECTION 20. REPEAL.** Section 57-15-26.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

27 **SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE TAX REFORM AND RELIEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TAX**
28 **REFORM AND RELIEF STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 29 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall appoint a legislative tax
30 reform and relief advisory committee.

2. The committee must consist of three members of the finance and taxation standing committee of the house of representatives and three members of the finance and taxation standing committee of the senate, appointed by the respective majority leaders of the house of representatives and senate. The legislative management shall designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to the statutes and procedures governing the operation of other legislative management interim committees.
3. The committee shall study tax reform and relief, including income and property tax reform and relief. Based on information provided by the tax department and input from local taxing districts, the committee shall:
 - a. Review historical income and property tax relief provided by the legislative assembly.
 - b. Receive information regarding tax reform and relief legislation enacted by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, including:
 - (1) Analysis of the tax reform and relief legislation, including data regarding the estimated and actual fiscal impact of the legislation;
 - (2) Information from the tax department, local taxing district representatives, and other interested persons regarding the progress of implementing the tax reform and relief legislation.
4. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

~~SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION – STATE TREASURER – STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF REPEALED LEVY AUTHORITY. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$19,800,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state treasurer for state reimbursement of repealed levy authority pursuant to section 7 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the \$19,800,000, \$9,500,000 is for the reimbursement of the repealed Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority and \$10,300,000 is for the reimbursement of the repealed county extension service levy authority.~~

- 1 | ~~— **SECTION 23. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 2, 12, 18, 19, and 20 of this Act are effective for~~
- 2 | ~~taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.~~

25.0523.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative
Motschenbacher
February 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1572

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Dockter, Grueneich, Headland, J. Olson

Senators Meyer, Patten, Thomas

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-11 and a new section to
2 chapter 57-01, relating to state reimbursement of repealed levy authority and a uniform taxing
3 district financial and property tax data reporting system; to amend and reenact sections
4 4.1-47-14, 11-38-01, 11-11-53, and 11-11.1-04, subsections 6 and 11 of section 21-03-07,
5 subsection 1 of section 40-38-02, sections 57-15-02.2 and 57-15-06.4, subsection 1 of section
6 57-15-06.6, sections 57-15-06.7, 57-15-28, and 57-15-50, subsection 1 of section 57-15-56,
7 sections 57-20-04 and 57-20-07.1, subsection 9 of section 61-24-08, and section 61-24-09 of
8 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to removal of county extension service and Garrison
9 Diversion Conservancy District levy authority, park district bonding authority without a vote,
10 estimated taxing district budget and budget hearing notices, reporting of legislative tax relief
11 information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; to repeal section
12 57-15-26.8 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to Garrison Diversion Conservancy
13 District levy authority; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative
14 management report; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

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

16 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-47-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

4.1-47-14. County noxious weed control program - Payment of expenses - Financial report - Tax levy authorization.

1. The board of county commissioners may pay the expenses of a county noxious weed control program authorized under this chapter from the county general fund, the noxious weed control fund, or both. In addition to the other program expenditures authorized in this chapter, the board of county commissioners may expend funds from the levy authorized under subsection 4410 of section 57-15-06.7 to control noxious weeds or undesirable vegetation along county or township roads in the county.
2. a. The county weed board may annually request from the board of county commissioners the levy of a tax, not to exceed the levy limitation in subsection 4410 of section 57-15-06.7, but any tax levied under this section does not apply to property that lies within the boundaries of a city having a noxious weed control program under this chapter. In the year for which the levy is sought, a county weed board seeking approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the county auditor, at a time and in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending balances of each fund held by the county weed board during that year.
- b. The board of county commissioners may levy the taxes authorized by this subsection and shall place those moneys in a separate fund designated as the weed control fund, which may be used to pay the expenses authorized under this section.
3. For purposes of this section, the expenses of a county noxious weed control program include compensation for and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the county weed board, the county weed control officer and other employees of the board, and expenses incurred as authorized by this chapter.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 11-38-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11-38-01. County extension agent - ~~Petition to authorize or discontinue levy~~ - Election - ~~Levy limitations~~ Use of funds.

1. ~~Upon the filing with the county auditor at least sixty-four days before the date of a general election of a petition to authorize or discontinue a tax levy for extension work,~~

1 containing the names of twenty percent of the qualified electors of the county as determined by
2 the votes cast for governor in the county in the most recent gubernatorial election, the board of
3 county commissioners shall submit to the qualified electors at the next general election the
4 question of authorizing or discontinuing a tax levy for extension work. Upon approval by a
5 majority of qualified electors of the county voting on the question of authorizing a tax levy for
6 extension work, the board of county commissioners may levy a tax of up to two mills as
7 provided in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7. Upon approval by a majority of qualified electors
8 of the county voting on the question of discontinuing a tax levy for extension work, ~~the~~The board
9 of county commissioners shall terminate any levy or additional levy previously authorized under
10 this chapter and may terminate county expenditures for extension work.

11 2. ~~The board of county commissioners may submit to the electors at a primary or general~~
12 ~~election the question of approval of voter-approved additional levy authority for~~
13 ~~extension work for a period not exceeding ten years and if approved by a majority of~~
14 ~~the electors voting on the question, the board of county commissioners may levy an~~
15 ~~additional tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection 2 of section 57-15-06.7.~~
16 ~~Voter-approved additional levy authority authorized by electors of a county before~~
17 ~~January 1, 2015, remains in effect through taxable year 2024 or for the time period~~
18 ~~authorized by the electors, whichever expires first. After January 1, 2015, approval or~~
19 ~~reauthorization by electors of voter-approved additional levy authority under this~~
20 ~~section may not be effective for more than ten taxable years.~~

21 3. The board of county commissioners may appropriate funds out of the county general
22 fund to cover any unanticipated deficiency in funding for extension work. All funds
23 raised by levies under this chapter received under section 7 of this Act must be
24 appropriated by the board of county commissioners for the purposes set forth in this
25 chapter.

26 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-11-53 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **11-11-53. Appropriation for historical works - Authorization of tax levy - Approval of**
29 **state historical society and attorney general.**

30 1. The board of county commissioners of any county may appropriate out of the general
31 fund of the county a sum, not exceeding five thousand dollars annually, to be paid to

1 the historical society of the county and used for the promotion of historical work within
2 the borders of the county, including the collection, preservation, and publication of
3 historical material, and to disseminate historical information of the county, and in
4 general to defray the expense of carrying on historical work in the county.

- 5 2. The board of county commissioners may levy a tax, not exceeding the limitation in
6 subsection 32 of section 57-15-06.7, for the promotion of historical works within the
7 borders of the county and in general, defray the expense of carrying on historical work
8 in the county, including the maintenance of any historical room or building, and
9 furthering the work of the historical society of the county. The levy is in addition to any
10 moneys appropriated from the general fund of the county for historical work as
11 provided in subsection 1.

12 The board of county commissioners may, by resolution, submit the question of a
13 voter-approved tax levy to the qualified electors of the county at the next countywide
14 general, primary, or special election. If sixty percent of the qualified electors voting on
15 the question approve, a tax may be levied not exceeding the limitation in subsection
16 32 of section 57-15-06.7, which tax may be expended as provided in this section.
17 Voter-approved levy authority under this section authorized by electors of a county
18 before January 1, 2015, remains in effect through taxable year 2024 or for the time
19 period authorized by the electors, whichever expires first. After January 1, 2015,
20 approval or reauthorization by electors of voter-approved levy authority under this
21 section may not be effective for more than ten taxable years.

- 22 3. The appropriation and levy authorized by this section may not be used to defray any
23 expenses of a county historical society until it is incorporated under the laws of this
24 state as a nonprofit corporation, is affiliated with and has its articles of incorporation
25 and bylaws approved by the state historical society and the attorney general, and has
26 contracted with the board of county commissioners in regard to the manner in which
27 the funds received will be expended and the services to be provided. Historical
28 societies that qualified for county funds under subsection 1 before July 1, 1965, are
29 not required to have articles of incorporation and bylaws approved by the attorney
30 general to receive funds under subsection 1.

1 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-11.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **11-11.1-04. Tax levy for job development authorities - Financial report.**

4 The board of county commissioners of a county which has a job development authority or
5 joint job development authority shall establish a job development authority fund and may levy a
6 tax not exceeding the limitations in subsection ~~44~~13 of section 57-15-06.7. In the year for which
7 the levy is sought, a job development authority or joint job development authority seeking
8 approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the county auditor, at a time and
9 in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year
10 showing the ending balances of each fund held by the job development authority or joint job
11 development authority during that year. The county treasurer shall keep the job development
12 authority fund separate from other money of the county. The county treasurer shall transmit all
13 funds received pursuant to this section within thirty days to the board of directors of the
14 authority. The funds when paid to the authority must be deposited in a special account, or
15 special accounts if the authority chooses to maintain a separate account for promotion of
16 tourism, in which other revenues of the authority are deposited. Moneys received by the job
17 development authority from any other source must also be deposited in the special accounts.
18 The moneys in the special accounts may be expended by the authority as provided in sections
19 11-11.1-02 and 11-11.1-03.

20 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 6 and 11 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota
21 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22 6. The governing body of any county may also by resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote
23 dedicate the tax levies authorized by section 57-15-06.6 and subsection ~~54~~ of section
24 57-15-06.7 and may authorize and issue general obligation bonds to be paid by the
25 dedicated levy for the purposes identified under section 57-15-06.6 and subsection ~~54~~
26 of section 57-15-06.7; provided, that the initial resolution authorizing the tax levy
27 dedication and general obligation bonds must be published in the official newspaper,
28 and any owner of taxable property within the county may, within sixty days after
29 publication, file with the county auditor a protest against the adoption of the resolution.
30 Protests must be in writing and must describe the property which is the subject of the
31 protest. If the governing body finds such protests to have been signed by the owners

1 of taxable property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the
2 assessed valuation of all taxable property within the county, as last finally equalized,
3 all further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

4 11. The governing body of any park district that constitutes a distinct municipality may
5 issue general obligation bonds of the park district in an amount no greater than one
6 percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district up to a
7 maximum of one million dollars for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, lay out,
8 and improve parks, parkways, boulevards, and pleasure drives, and to acquire land for
9 these purposes, ~~but the~~ The indebtedness may not at any time exceed one percent of
10 the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district. The initial resolution
11 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds under this subsection must be
12 published in the official newspaper of the park district, and any owner of taxable
13 property within the park district may, within sixty days after publication, file with the
14 clerk of the park district a protest against the adoption of the resolution. Protests must
15 be in writing and must describe the property that is the subject of the protest. If the
16 governing body finds the protests have been signed by the owners of taxable property
17 having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed valuation
18 of all taxable property within the park district, as last finally equalized, all further
19 proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

20 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 40-38-02 of the North Dakota Century
21 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22 1. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining public library service, the governing
23 body of a municipality or county authorizing the same shall establish a library fund.
24 The library fund shall consist of annually levying and causing to be collected as other
25 taxes are collected a municipal or county tax not exceeding the limitations in
26 subsection 65 of section 57-15-06.7 and subsection 4 of section 57-15-10 and any
27 other moneys received for library purposes from federal, state, county, municipal, or
28 private sources. In the year for which the levy is sought, a library board seeking
29 approval of a property tax levy under this chapter must file with the auditor of each
30 participating municipality or county, at a time and in a format prescribed by the

auditors, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending
balances of each fund held for the library board during that year.

SECTION 7. A new section to chapter 54-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
and enacted as follows:

State reimbursement of repealed levy authority.

1. Within the limits of legislative appropriations, the state treasurer shall distribute state reimbursements to counties in January of each year for the following repealed tax levy authority based on an amount equal to the tax levied in taxable year 2024 for:
 - a. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy under section 57-15-26.8, subsection 9 of section 61-24-08, and section 61-24-09, as the provisions existed on December 31, 2024.
 - b. The county extension service levy under sections 11-38-01 and 57-15-06.7, as the provisions existed on December 31, 2024.
2. Upon receipt of the distribution, the county treasurer shall apportion the state reimbursement using the same basis as the property taxes were levied in taxable year 2024.

SECTION 8. A new section to chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
and enacted as follows:

Uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system - Report.

1. By January 1, 2026, the tax commissioner shall develop and implement a uniform reporting system for taxing district financial and property tax related data to provide a logical, consistent, and organized framework to record and report the data. At minimum, the tax commissioner shall include the following categories of taxing district data as part of the uniform reporting system:
 - a. Annual budget information, including revenues and expenditures;
 - b. Fund balances; and
 - c. Property tax levy calculation information, including information regarding:
 - (1) The taxable status and property valuation of property situated in the taxing district; and
 - (2) The total dollar amount and number of mills levied, separated by levy authority.

2. The tax commissioner shall request the data in subsection 1 from each taxing district and specify the form and manner in which the data must be submitted. The tax commissioner may require a taxing district to report any other information deemed necessary by the tax commissioner to effectuate this section.
3. The taxing districts shall timely respond to the tax commissioner's request under subsection 2 and provide the requested data without delay.
4. By July first of each year beginning in 2026, the tax commissioner shall submit to the legislative management a written report, which must include:
 - a. An overview of the uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system developed and implemented under this section, including information regarding the form and manner in which the data is required to be submitted to the tax commissioner; and
 - b. A summary of the taxing district financial and property tax related data submitted by the taxing districts to the tax commissioner under this section for the preceding taxable year.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-02.2. ~~Estimated property tax and~~taxing district budget and budget hearing notice.

1. On or before August tenth of each year, the governing body of a taxing district shall provide to the county auditor in each county in which the taxing district has taxable property a preliminary budget statement and the date, time, and location of the taxing district's public hearing on its property tax levy, which may be no earlier than September seventh. A taxing district that fails to provide the information required under this subsection on or before August tenth may not impose a property tax levy in a greater amount of dollars than was imposed by the taxing district in the prior year.
2. By August thirty-first of each year, the county treasurer shall provide ~~a written notice to the owner of each parcel of taxable property with a total~~located in the county written notice of the estimated property tax of at least one hundred dollar~~taxing district~~budget increase or decrease for each of the taxing districts in which the property owner's parcel of taxable property is located. The text of the notice must contain:

- 1 a. The date, time, and location of the public budget hearing for each of the taxing
2 districts in which the property owner's parcel is located, ~~which anticipate levying~~
3 ~~in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in the current year~~, and the location at
4 which the taxing district's budget is available for review;
- 5 b. The true and full value of the property based on the best information available;
- 6 c. A column showing the actual ~~property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the~~
7 ~~taxing district that levied taxes against the parcel~~budget in the immediately
8 preceding taxable year for each taxing district in which the property owner's
9 parcel is located and a column showing the estimated ~~property tax levy in dollars~~
10 ~~against the parcel by the taxing district levying tax in~~ budget for the taxable year
11 for which the notice applies for each taxing district in which the property owner's
12 parcel is located based on the preliminary budget statements of all taxing
13 jurisdictions;
- 14 d. A column indicating the difference between the taxing district's total ~~levy~~budget
15 from the previous year and the taxing district's estimated ~~levy~~budget with the
16 word:
17 (1) "INCREASE" printed in boldface type if the proposed ~~tax levy~~budget is
18 larger in dollars than the ~~levy~~budget in dollars in the previous year; or
19 (2) "DECREASE" printed in boldface type if the proposed ~~budget~~ is less in
20 dollars than the budget in dollars in the previous year; and
- 21 e. ~~Information identifying the estimated property tax savings that will be provided~~
22 ~~pursuant to section 57-20-07.1 based on the best information available;~~
- 23 f. A statement that there will be an opportunity for citizens to present oral or written
24 comments regarding each taxing district's ~~property tax levy~~; and
- 25 g. ~~The actual amount of the special assessment installment payable against the~~
26 ~~parcel in the immediately preceding taxable year~~budget.
- 27 3. Delivery of written notice under this section must be by personal delivery to the
28 property owner, mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's
29 last-known address, or ~~electronic mail~~email to the property owner directed with
30 verification of receipt to an ~~electronic mail~~email address at which the property owner
31 has consented to receive notice. If a parcel of taxable property is owned by more than

one owner, notice must be sent to only one owner of the property. Failure of an owner to receive a notice under this section will not relieve the owner of property tax liability or modify the qualifying date under section 57-20-09 for which an owner may receive a discount for early payment of tax.

4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe suitable forms for written notices under this section.

5. The direct cost of providing taxpayer notices under this section may be allocated in a manner proportionate to the number of notices mailed on behalf of each taxing district ~~that intends to levy in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in property taxes in the~~ current year.

SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-06.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-06.4. Levy authorized for county veterans' service officer's salary, traveling, and office expenses.

The county commissioners of each county may levy annually a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection ~~76~~ of section 57-15-06.7 to provide a fund for the payment of the salary, traveling, and office expenses of the county veterans' service officer authorized to be appointed by section 37-14-18.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 57-15-06.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The board of county commissioners of each county may levy an annual tax not exceeding ten mills plus any voter-approved additional levy as provided in subsection ~~87~~ of section 57-15-06.7 for the purpose of the following capital projects:
 - a. Constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components of regional or county corrections centers or for the purpose of contracting for corrections center space capacity from another public or private entity.
 - b. Acquiring real estate as a site for public parks and construction, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components of recreational facilities under section 11-28-06.

- c. Acquiring real estate as a site for county buildings and operations and constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components of county buildings and property.
- d. Acquiring real estate as a site for county fair buildings and operations and constructing, equipping, and maintaining structural and mechanical components of county fair buildings and property as provided in section 4-02-26.
- e. Acquiring and developing real estate, capital improvements, buildings, pavement, equipment, and debt service associated with financing for county supported airports or airport authorities.
- f. Expenditures for the cost of leasing as an alternative means of financing for any of the purposes for which expenditures are authorized under subdivisions a through e.
- g. Improvement of the county road system, including the acquisition of land; construction of new paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places; replacement of existing paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places; and maintenance and repair of existing paved and unpaved roads, bridges, or public places.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-06.7 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-06.7. Additional levies - Exceptions to tax levy limitations in counties.

The tax levy limitations specified in section 57-15-06 do not apply to the following mill levies, which are expressed in mills per dollar of taxable valuation of property in the county:

1. A county supporting an airport or airport authority may levy a tax not exceeding four mills in accordance with section 2-06-15.
2. ~~A county levying a tax for extension work as provided in section 11-38-01 may levy a tax not exceeding two mills and if a majority of the electors of the county have approved additional levy authority under section 11-38-01, the county may levy a voter-approved tax not exceeding an additional tax of two mills.~~
3. A county levying a tax for historical works in accordance with section 11-11-53 may levy a tax not exceeding one-quarter of one mill, except that if sixty percent of the qualified electors voting on the question of a levy limit increase as provided in section

1 11-11-53 shall approve, the tax levy limitation may be increased to not exceeding
2 three-quarters of one mill.

3 ~~4.3.~~ A county levying a tax for a county or community hospital association as provided in
4 section 23-18-01 may levy a tax for not more than five years not exceeding eight mills
5 in any one year or, in the alternative, for not more than ten years at a mill rate not
6 exceeding five mills.

7 ~~5.4.~~ A county levying a tax for county roads and bridges as provided in section 24-05-01
8 may levy a tax at a tax rate not exceeding ten mills. When authorized by a majority of
9 the qualified electors voting upon the question at a primary or general election in the
10 county, the county commissioners may levy and collect an additional tax for road and
11 bridge purposes as provided in section 24-05-01, not exceeding a combined additional
12 tax rate of twenty mills.

13 ~~6.5.~~ A county levying a tax to establish and maintain a public library service as provided in
14 section 40-38-02 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills.

15 ~~7.6.~~ A county levying a tax for a county veterans' service officer's salary, traveling, and
16 office expenses in accordance with section 57-15-06.4 may levy a tax not exceeding
17 two mills.

18 ~~8.7.~~ A county levying a tax for capital projects under section 57-15-06.6 may levy a tax not
19 exceeding ten mills. When authorized by a majority of the qualified electors voting
20 upon the question of a specific capital project or projects at a primary or general
21 election in the county, the county commissioners may levy and collect an additional
22 voter-approved tax for capital projects under section 57-15-06.6 not exceeding a tax
23 rate of ten mills per dollar of the taxable valuation of property in the county. After
24 January 1, 2015, approval or reauthorization by electors of increased levy authority
25 under this subsection may not be effective for more than ten taxable years. Any
26 voter-approved levy in excess of ten mills for the purposes specified in section
27 57-15-06.6 approved by the electors before January 1, 2015, remains effective
28 through 2024 or the period of time for which it was approved by the electors,
29 whichever is less, under the provisions of law in effect at the time it was approved.

30 ~~9.8.~~ A county levying a tax for emergency purposes as provided in section 57-15-28 may
31 levy a tax not exceeding two mills in a county with a population of thirty thousand or

1 more, four mills in a county with a population under thirty thousand but more than five
2 thousand, or six mills in a county with a population of five thousand or fewer.

3 ~~40.9.~~ A county levying a tax for county emergency medical service according to section
4 57-15-50 may levy a tax not exceeding fifteen mills.

5 ~~41.10.~~ A county levying a tax for weed control as provided in section 4.1-47-14 may levy a tax
6 not exceeding four mills.

7 ~~42.11.~~ A county levying a tax for programs and activities for senior citizens according to
8 section 57-15-56 may levy a tax not exceeding two mills.

9 ~~43.12.~~ Tax levies made for paying the principal and interest on any obligations of the county
10 evidenced by the issuance of bonds.

11 ~~44.13.~~ A county levying a tax for a job development authority as provided in section
12 11-11.1-04 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills on the taxable valuation of property
13 within the county. However, if any city within the county is levying a tax for support of a
14 job development authority and the total of the county and city levies exceeds four
15 mills, the county tax levy within the city levying under subsection 12 of section
16 57-15-10 must be reduced so the total levy in the city does not exceed four mills.

17 ~~45.14.~~ A levy for an extraordinary expenditure under section 11-11-24 approved by the
18 electors of the county before January 1, 2015, may continue to be levied and collected
19 under provisions of law in effect when the levy was approved and for the term it was
20 approved by the electors. When the levy authority for an extraordinary expenditure
21 ends under this subsection, the fund must be closed out and any unobligated balance
22 in the fund must be transferred to the county general fund.

23 ~~46.15.~~ Levies dedicated under section 57-15-59 before January 1, 2015, for lease payments
24 may be continued to be levied and collected for the duration of the lease. When the
25 levy authority for lease payments ends under this subsection, the fund must be closed
26 out and any unobligated balance in the fund must be transferred to the county general
27 fund. A lease for county facilities effective after December 31, 2014, is subject to the
28 capital projects levy limitations of section 57-15-06.6.

29 Tax levy or mill levy limitations do not apply to any statute which expressly provides that taxes
30 authorized to be levied therein are not subject to mill levy limitations provided by law.

1 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **57-15-28. Emergency fund - County.**

4 The governing body of any county may levy a tax for emergency purposes not exceeding
5 the limitation in subsection ~~98~~ of section 57-15-06.7. The emergency fund may not be
6 considered in determining the budget or the amount to be levied for each fiscal year for normal
7 tax purposes but must be shown in the budget as an "emergency fund" and may not be
8 deducted from the budget as otherwise provided by law. Each county may create an emergency
9 fund, and all taxes levied for emergency purposes by any county, when collected, must be
10 deposited in the emergency fund, and must be used only for emergency purposes caused by
11 the destruction or impairment of any county property necessary for the conduct of the affairs of
12 the county or emergencies caused by nature. The emergency fund may not be used for the
13 purchase of road equipment. The emergency fund may not be used for any road construction or
14 maintenance, except for repair of roads damaged by nature within sixty days preceding the
15 determination to expend emergency funds; however, the emergency fund may be used to
16 match federal funds appropriated to mitigate damage to roads related to a federally declared
17 disaster that occurred more than sixty days preceding the determination. Any unexpended
18 balance remaining in the emergency fund at the end of any fiscal year must be kept in the fund.
19 When the amount of money in the emergency fund, plus the amount of money due the fund
20 from outstanding taxes, equals the amount produced by a levy of five mills on the taxable
21 valuation of property in a county with a population of thirty thousand or more, ten mills on the
22 taxable valuation of property in a county with a population of less than thirty thousand but more
23 than five thousand, or fifteen mills on the taxable valuation of property in a county with a
24 population of five thousand or fewer, the levy authorized by this section must be discontinued,
25 and no further levy may be made until required to replenish the emergency fund.

26 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-50 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **57-15-50. County emergency medical service levy.**

29 Upon petition of ten percent of the number of qualified electors of the county voting in the
30 last election for governor or upon its own motion, the board of county commissioners of each
31 county shall levy annually a tax not exceeding the limitation in subsection ~~409~~ of section

57-15-06.7, for the purpose of subsidizing county emergency medical services; provided, that this tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the county voting on the question at a regular or special countywide election. The county may budget, in addition to its annual operating budget for subsidizing emergency medical service, no more than ten percent of its annual operating budget as a depreciation expense to be set aside in a dedicated emergency medical services sinking fund deposited with the treasurer for the replacement of equipment and ambulances. The ten percent emergency medical services sinking fund must be in addition to the annual operating budget for subsidization, but the total of the annual operating budget and the annual ten percent emergency medical services sinking fund may not exceed the approved mill levy. If the county contains a rural ambulance service district or rural fire protection district that levies for and provides emergency medical service, the property within that district is exempt from the county tax levy under this section upon notice from the governing body of the district to the board of county commissioners of the existence of the district. After December 31, 2025, if a political subdivision having ownership of the licensed ambulance service or a political subdivision responsible for the emergency medical service program for the service area exists, special taxes levied under this section and distributed pursuant to section 23-27-04.7 must be distributed to the political subdivision.

SECTION 15. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 57-15-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The board of county commissioners of any county is hereby authorized to levy a tax, or if no levy is made by the board of county commissioners, the governing body of any city in the county is authorized to levy a tax, in addition to all levies now authorized by law, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining services and programs for senior citizens including the maintenance of existing senior citizen centers which will provide informational, health, welfare, counseling, and referral services for senior citizens, and assisting such persons in providing volunteer community or civic services. If the tax authorized by this section is levied by the board of county commissioners, any existing levy under this section by a city in the county becomes void for subsequent taxable years. The removal of the levy is not subject to the requirements of subsection 3. This tax may not exceed the limitation in subsection 12 of section 57-15-06.7 or subsection ~~44~~10 of section 57-15-10. The proceeds of the tax must be kept in a

1 separate fund and used exclusively for the public purposes provided for in this section.

2 This levy must be in addition to any moneys expended by the board of county
3 commissioners pursuant to section 11-11-58 or by the governing body of any city
4 pursuant to section 40-05-16.

5 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-20-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **57-20-04. Abstract of tax list and legislative tax relief information to be sent to tax**
8 **commissioner - Reports.**

9 1. The county auditor, on or before December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes,
10 shall prepare and transmit to the tax commissioner a complete abstract of the tax list
11 of the auditor's county.

12 2. a. In addition to the tax list required in subsection 1, the county auditor, on or before
13 December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes, shall prepare and transmit to
14 the tax commissioner a:

15 (1) A report providing each taxing district's property valuation and property tax
16 levy and any other information the tax commissioner deems necessary to
17 prepare the report required in subsection 3.

18 (2) A report providing information identifying the property tax savings provided
19 by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in the
20 county as legislative tax relief under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before
21 2019, chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27. For
22 purposes of this subdivision:

23 (a) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative
24 tax relief under chapter 15.1-27 is determined by multiplying the
25 taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county
26 by the lesser of one hundred twenty-five mills or the sum of:

27 [1] The number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under chapter
28 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year; and

29 [2] The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district excluding
30 sixty mills.

(b) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county by the number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount calculated in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by the taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year.

b. For taxing districts with property in more than one county, information required under this subsection must be collected and transmitted by the county auditor of the county in which the main office of that taxing district is located.

3. The tax commissioner shall compile information received from the county auditors in subsection 2 and, prepare a statewide report of property tax increase and legislative tax relief, and submit the report to the legislative management by April first of each year. The report must include the:

a. The annual increase in property taxes levied by each taxing district of the state after adjusting for property that was not taxable in the preceding year and property that is no longer taxable which was taxable in the preceding year. ~~The report must be provided to the legislative management by April first of each year;~~

b. The total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in each county; and

c. The statewide total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers.

4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner of providing the reports and certifications required under this section.

~~5. On or before December 31, 2017, the county auditor shall provide a report to the tax commissioner providing the information identified in subsection 2 for the 2015 and 2016 tax years.~~

SECTION 17. AMENDMENT. Section 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-20-07.1. County treasurer to ~~mail~~deliver real estate tax statement - Contents of statement.

1. On or before December twenty-sixth of each year, the county treasurer shall ~~mail~~deliver a real estate tax statement to the owner of each parcel of real property ~~at by mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's last-known address or by email to the property owner directed with verification of receipt to an email address at which the property owner has consented to receive the real estate tax statement.~~ The form of the real estate tax statement to be used in every county must be prescribed and approved for use by the tax commissioner. The statement must be ~~displayed in color and~~ provided in a manner that allows the taxpayer to retain a printed record, ~~or electronic record if the taxpayer consents to receive the statement by email,~~ of the obligation for payment of taxes and special assessments as provided in the statement. If a parcel of real property is owned by more than one individual, the county treasurer shall send only one statement to one of the owners of that property. Additional copies of the tax statement will be sent to the other owners upon their request and the furnishing of their names and addresses ~~or email addresses~~ to the county treasurer. ~~The~~After the information identifying the property owner and parcel, ~~the~~ tax statement must contain information displayed in the following order:
 - a. ~~Include a~~Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the dollar valuation of the true and full value, taxable value, and net taxable value of the parcel as defined by law of the property and the total mill levy applicable.
 - b. ~~Include, or be accompanied by a separate sheet, with three~~Information identifying the property tax levy against the parcel by each taxing district followed by the consolidated tax levied against the parcel. The information must be displayed in a textual and graphical depiction of taxes levied against each parcel and listed in:
 - (1) Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the county and school district and any city or township that levied taxes against the parcel each taxing district, excluding any amounts levied as a result of voter-approved levy authority.

1 which must be separately stated for each taxing district with voter-approved
2 levy authority.

3 (2) A pie chart for the taxable year to which the statement applies, which shows
4 the percentage of the total tax levied against the parcel by each of the
5 taxing districts that levied taxes against the parcel, excluding any amounts
6 levied as a result of voter-approved levy authority, which must be combined
7 and represented as a single item in the pie chart.

8 (3) A separate color to represent each taxing district and the separately stated
9 voter-approved levy authority, which must correspond to the color used to
10 identify the tax levied against the parcel in the pie chart required under
11 paragraph 2.

12 c. ~~Provide information identifying the property tax savings provided by the state of~~
13 ~~North Dakota. The tax statement must include a line item that is entitled~~
14 ~~"legislative tax relief" and identifies the dollar amount of property tax savings~~
15 ~~realized by the taxpayer under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before 2019,~~
16 ~~chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27.~~

17 (1) ~~For purposes of this subdivision, legislative tax relief under chapter 15.1-27~~
18 ~~is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the taxable year for each~~
19 ~~parcel shown on the tax statement by the number of mills of mill levy~~
20 ~~reduction grant under chapter 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year plus the~~
21 ~~number of mills determined by subtracting from the 2012 taxable year mill~~
22 ~~rate of the school district in which the parcel is located the lesser of:~~

23 (a) ~~Fifty mills; or~~

24 (b) ~~The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district minus sixty mills.~~

25 (2) ~~Legislative tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the~~
26 ~~taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel shown on the tax~~
27 ~~statement by the number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount~~
28 ~~calculated in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by~~
29 ~~the taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year. Three~~
30 ~~columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies~~

1 and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the net effective tax rate
2 applied to the parcel.

3 d. The name and phone number of a contact person for each taxing district that
4 levied taxes against the parcel.

- 5 2. Failure of an owner to receive a statement will not relieve that owner of liability, nor
6 extend the discount privilege past the February fifteenth deadline.

7 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 9 of section 61-24-08 of the North Dakota
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 9 9. ~~In 1961 and each year thereafter to levy a tax of not to exceed one mill annually on~~
10 ~~each dollar of taxable valuation in the district for~~To expend funds received under
11 section 7 of this Act for the payment of the expenses of the district, including, but not
12 limited to, per diem, mileage and other expenses of directors, technical, administrative,
13 clerical, operating and other expenses of the district office, and for the cumulation of a
14 continuing fund ~~through such levy~~ for the performance of obligations entered into with
15 the United States of America in connection with the construction, operation, and
16 maintenance of works of the said Garrison diversion unit of the Missouri River basin
17 project. All moneys ~~collected pursuant to such levy~~received under section 7 of this Act
18 shall be deposited in the Bank of North Dakota to the credit of the district and shall be
19 disbursed only as herein provided. The board may invest any funds on hand, not
20 needed for immediate disbursement or which are held in reserve for future payments,
21 in bonds of the United States, bonds and mortgages or other securities the payment of
22 which is guaranteed by the United States or an instrumentality or agency thereof, or
23 bonds or certificates of indebtedness of the state of North Dakota or any of its political
24 subdivisions. ~~The amount which may be levied in any one year for operating the~~
25 ~~district prior to authorization by Congress of the Garrison diversion project shall not~~
26 ~~exceed ten percent of the maximum permissible.~~

27 **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-24-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **61-24-09. District budget --~~Determination of amount to be levied -- Adoption of levy --~~**
2 **Limitation.**

3 In July of each year, the board of directors shall estimate and itemize all the expenses and
4 obligations of the district, including expenses of directors, expenses of operating the office, debt
5 service and retirement, and obligations and liabilities to the United States for which provision
6 must be made. The board of directors may include in such budget funds deemed necessary to
7 create reserve funds to meet future payments under district contracts. ~~Upon the completion and~~
8 ~~adoption of such budget, the board of directors shall make a tax levy in an amount sufficient to~~
9 ~~meet such budget. Such levy shall be in the form of a resolution, adopted by a majority vote of~~
10 ~~the members of the board of directors of the district. Such resolution shall levy in mills, but not~~
11 ~~exceeding one mill, sufficient to meet all the expenses, obligations, and liabilities of the district~~
12 ~~as provided in the budget.~~

13 **SECTION 20. REPEAL.** Section 57-15-26.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

14 **SECTION 21. LEGISLATIVE TAX REFORM AND RELIEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TAX**
15 **REFORM AND RELIEF STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 16 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall appoint a legislative tax
17 reform and relief advisory committee.
- 18 2. The committee must consist of three members of the finance and taxation standing
19 committee of the house of representatives and three members of the finance and
20 taxation standing committee of the senate, appointed by the respective majority
21 leaders of the house of representatives and senate. The legislative management shall
22 designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to
23 the statutes and procedures governing the operation of other legislative management
24 interim committees.
- 25 3. The committee shall study tax reform and relief, including income and property tax
26 reform and relief. Based on information provided by the tax department and input from
27 local taxing districts, the committee shall:
- 28 a. Review historical income and property tax relief provided by the legislative
29 assembly.
- 30 b. Receive information regarding tax reform and relief legislation enacted by the
31 sixty-ninth legislative assembly, including:

- 1 (1) Analysis of the tax reform and relief legislation, including data regarding the
- 2 estimated and actual fiscal impact of the legislation;
- 3 (2) Information from the tax department, local taxing district representatives,
- 4 and other interested persons regarding the progress of implementing the tax
- 5 reform and relief legislation.
- 6 4. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
- 7 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative
- 8 assembly.

9 **SECTION 22. TAX COMMISSIONER STUDY - TAX EXEMPT PROPERTY - LEGISLATIVE**
10 **MANAGEMENT REPORT.**

- 11 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the tax commissioner and state supervisor of
- 12 assessments shall, in consultation with the county directors of tax equalization and
- 13 city, county, and township assessors, compile the following data for each parcel of tax
- 14 exempt property located in the state:
- 15 a. The true and full valuation.
- 16 b. The county in which the parcel is located.
- 17 c. The property classification.
- 18 d. The property tax exemption under which the parcel is considered tax exempt.
- 19 2. The tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall establish the
- 20 procedure by which the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments will
- 21 compile the data.
- 22 3. If necessary to meet the deadline to submit the report required under subsection 4, the
- 23 tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments may develop a uniform method
- 24 to be used by the county directors of tax equalization and city, county, and township
- 25 assessors to estimate the true and full value of a parcel of tax exempt property based
- 26 on the average true and full value per square foot or acre of the corresponding
- 27 property classification in the county in which the property is situated for the most
- 28 recent taxable year.

1 exempt property in each county, separated by property tax exemption and property
2 classification, a description of the uniform method to estimate the true and full value of
3 parcels of tax exempt property, and the number of parcels of tax exempt property in
4 each county for which the uniform method was applied to estimate true and full value.

5 **SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - STATE TREASURER - STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF**
6 **REPEALED LEVY AUTHORITY.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
7 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$19,800,000, or so much of the sum
8 as may be necessary, to the state treasurer for state reimbursement of repealed levy authority
9 pursuant to section 7 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,
10 2027. Of the \$19,800,000, \$9,500,000 is for the reimbursement of the repealed Garrison
11 Diversion Conservancy District levy authority and \$10,300,000 is for the reimbursement of the
12 repealed county extension service levy authority.

13 **SECTION 24. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 2, 12, 18, 19, and 20 of this Act are effective for
14 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

2025 SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION

HB 1572

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1572
3/18/2025

Relating to park district bonding authority without a vote, reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Weber called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Weber, Vice Chairman Rummel, Senator Marcellais, Senator Patten, Senator Powers, Senator Walen

Discussion Topics:

- Information compiled in property tax report
- General obligation bond issuance amount
- Protest period for debt issuance from park districts
- Park facility public utilization

9:01 a.m. Representative Hagert, District 20, introduced HB 1572, testified in favor and submitted testimony #42791.

9:13 a.m. Linda Svihovec, Research Analyst, NDACo, testified in favor.

9:15 a.m. Stephanie Engebretson, Deputy Director, ND League of Cities, testified in favor.

9:17 a.m. Shannon Schutt, Executive Director, North Dakota Recreation and Park Association, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #42530.

9:20 a.m. Broc Lietz, Director of Finance, Fargo Park District, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #42793.

Additional written testimony:

George Hellyer, Executive Director, Grand Forks Park District, submitted written testimony in opposition #42253.

Dawn Grannis, Treasurer, Mercer County, submitted written testimony in neutral #42504.

Bob Henderson, Director of Information Technology, Cass County Government, submitted written testimony in opposition #42515.

Erica Johnsrud, Auditor/Treasurer, McKenzie County, submitted written testimony in favor #42589.

Elicia DesLauriers, Executive Director, Minot Park District, submitted written testimony in opposition #42626.

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

HB 1572

March 18, 2025

Page 2

Kevin Klipfel, Executive Director, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, submitted written testimony in opposition #42572.

9:41 a.m. Chairman Weber closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk



Testimony of George Hellyer, Executive Director

Grand Forks Park District

To Senate Finance & Taxation Committee

In Opposition to HB 1572

March 17, 2025

Chair Weber and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Grand Forks Park District, I am in opposition to HB 1572, specifically the proposed Section 1 Amendment, which proposes to change park district bonding authority, without a public vote, to \$15 million.

I felt it was pertinent to communicate the concerns of our park district and the potential impact on our community if HB 1572 is passed at it is currently written. The following are key factors that I believe should be considered with this bill:

1. Significantly reduces current General Obligation (GO) bonding authority without a vote by approximately \$15 million for the Grand Forks Park District. The Grand Forks Park District current bonding capacity is just over \$30 million which is 1% of assessed valuation. The impact of such a reduced limit could lead to unnecessary complexity, delays, and added costs to the project.
2. The Grand Forks Park District currently has just over \$6 million in GO debt. This would leave less than \$9 million available to bond even though the debt service payments may be covered through our regular operating budgets or through fundraising for the project.
3. The project buying power of park districts will continue to decrease, due to a preset \$15 million limit, over the years due to inflation which will have a direct negative impact on the amenities and services we are able to offer in our community. The current 1% of assessed valuation grows as the community grows and as inflation grows.
4. Current North Dakota Century Code already exists, a 60-day protest period, as an avenue for citizens to reject a proposed GO bond.

I understand that there are reasons for wanting to limit the size of GO bond issues without a vote. However, I feel that there is already a mechanism for citizens to defeat a proposed GO bond issue and that HB 1572 greatly reduces the bonding authority of the Grand Forks Park District (50% reduction). **I would ask that you vote no for HB 1572 or amend the bill to raise the \$15 million bonding authority to \$30 million.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Written Testimony for the
SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
March 17, 2025
Dawn Grannis, Mercer County Treasurer

RE: HB 1572

Good morning, Chairman Weber and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Dawn Grannis and I serve as the Mercer County Treasurer. I would support studying changes to the tax statement in the interim. If drastic changes to the tax statements are desired, it is critical to clearly understand the legislature's desire on what should be included on this statement and balance the ability of counties to meet those desires and associated costs.

This bill requires the tax statement sent in December to be in color and adds a pie chart to the statement. I believe the statement already has the information needed to tell the tax payers where their taxes are going. Amounts going to the state, county, cities, townships, parks, ambulance districts, schools, roads, and fire districts are all distinctly listed on the statement already. I believe that adding more information to the statement will only make it harder to read. We are limited in space on the statement as mandated and to add more to the statement may require a larger statement or two pages which will cost more to print and mail. Also, the color copy aspect of this requirement will boost our cost per copy from .745 cents to 6.65 cents. In a situation where there are caps being discussed for budget increases, I believe this to be an unnecessary expense to the counties.

For the reasons stated above, I urge this be looked at further in a study to see the impact on budgets of the increased costs.



Cass County Information Technology

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Fargo, North Dakota 58108

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1572

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

Chairman Weber and members of the Committee,

My Name is Bob Henderson, Director of Information Technology for Cass County. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1572. I am here to oppose the bill as proposed, specifically regarding the language that requires "verification of receipt to an email address." While providing taxpayers with the option to receive notices via email is a fantastic modernization effort, the expectation of verifying receipt is neither practical nor technically reliable.

Concerns with "Verification of Receipt" via Email (Section 4, Page 5 line 1-3)

1. **Email Does Not Guarantee Delivery or Receipt**

Unlike certified mail, email lacks a standardized, legally recognized mechanism to confirm that a recipient has actually seen or acknowledged a message. Even if an email is successfully sent, it can be filtered as spam, blocked by security settings, or ignored without a way to verify that the taxpayer received or read it.

2. **Read Receipts and Delivery Confirmations Are Unreliable**

Many email platforms either do not support read receipts or allow recipients to disable them. Additionally, delivery confirmation only indicates that an email was accepted by a email server—it does not prove that it reached the intended inbox, let alone that the taxpayer saw it.

3. **Legal and Practical Ambiguities**

If "verification of receipt" is required, what constitutes sufficient proof? Must taxpayers actively acknowledge receipt for it to be valid? What happens if a taxpayer claims they never saw the email despite it being sent? This ambiguity could lead to disputes, unnecessary administrative burdens, and potential legal challenges.

Recommendation

Rather than requiring verification of receipt, the legislation should be revised to reflect the practical limitations of email communication. The requirement for verified receipt is neither technically feasible nor legally reliable, creating unnecessary ambiguity and potential disputes. To address this, the words **"to the property owner directed with verification of receipt"** should be struck from **Page 5, line 1**. This revision maintains the intent of the section while ensuring a reasonable and enforceable standard for Counties.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Henderson
Director of Information Technology
Cass County Government

**Testimony of Shannon Schutt
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To Senate Finance & Taxation Committee
In Opposition to HB 1572
Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Chairman Weber and members of the Committee, my name is Shannon Schutt, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

We are in opposition to HB 1572, specifically Section 1, which limits general obligation bonding authority for park districts from 1% of assessed valuation to 1% up to \$15 million. We appreciate the House's amended version of the bill which increased the proposed cap from up to \$1 million to up to \$15 million, but we believe this is still insufficient, especially for larger park districts facing significant, multi-phase projects spanning several years and rising construction costs. This cap would limit the ability of park districts to meet the needs of their communities, potentially creating a need to rely on special assessments.

We propose amending the bill to raise the cap to \$30 million, which would better reflect the financial realities faced by larger park districts while still ensuring fiscal oversight.

Regarding taxpayer protection, the existing 60-day protest period already provides ample opportunity for public input, ensuring transparency and accountability. With this process in place, further restrictions on park districts' bonding capacity are unnecessary.

Park districts are currently subject to a much lower cap of 1% of assessed valuation, compared to other political subdivisions, which are allowed 5%. Imposing a \$15 million cap would unnecessarily restrict their ability to plan for long-term projects.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the committee either amend Section 1 to include a \$30 million cap to account for rising construction costs or remove the section entirely. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony of Kevin Klipfel
Bismarck Parks and Recreation District
To Senate Finance and Taxation Committee
In Opposition to HB 1572
March 18, 2025

Chairman Weber and Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, I am writing in opposition to HB 1572, specifically the changes in Section 1 related to park district use of General Obligation (GO) bonds. This change will negatively impact the constituents of Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, especially when it comes to completing small to mid-size projects in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Under existing law, park districts may issue GO bonds up to one percent of a district's assessed property value, which for Bismarck translates to a \$55.3 million debt limit. In addition, the Bismarck Board of Park Commissioners has adopted a policy that further limits our total debt to half of the district's assessed property value, which is \$27.7 million for 2025.

Currently, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District has \$10.3 million in general obligation debt. Prior to the issuance of the GO bond for this debt, local taxpayers had the ability to protest the bond through a 60-day protest period and no comments were received.

HB 1572 limits GO bonds to only \$15 million without a public vote. For a large community like Bismarck, \$15 million is a low threshold to require a vote for many essential park projects. This is especially true of projects when debt payments are covered through our annual budget without raising the mill levy, as was the case with the GO bonds noted above.

This low threshold of \$15 million will lead to delays and added costs for park district projects. Additionally, if the \$15 million ceiling remains unchanged, inflation will reduce the purchasing power of such bonds over time, making it more difficult to fund important community projects.

Instead of applying a one-size-fits-all approach, the current debt limit on a percentage of the assessed valuation of the park district's taxable property allows for flexibility while still maintaining local oversight through the protest period. This is the right approach for communities of all sizes throughout North Dakota.

Should Section 1 of HB 1572 move forward, we strongly recommend adjusting the \$15 million limit to at least \$30 million to reflect the diversity of community sizes and the capacity and needs of all park districts in North Dakota.

Please consider the significant limits this legislation will place on Bismarck Parks and Recreation District in meeting the needs of our growing community of Bismarck.

I strongly urge a do not pass recommendation on HB 1572. At a minimum, please amend the bill from \$15 million to \$30 million under Section 1. Thank you for your consideration.

Written Testimony for the
Senate Finance and Tax

March 18, 2025

Erica Johnsrud, McKenzie County Auditor/Treasurer

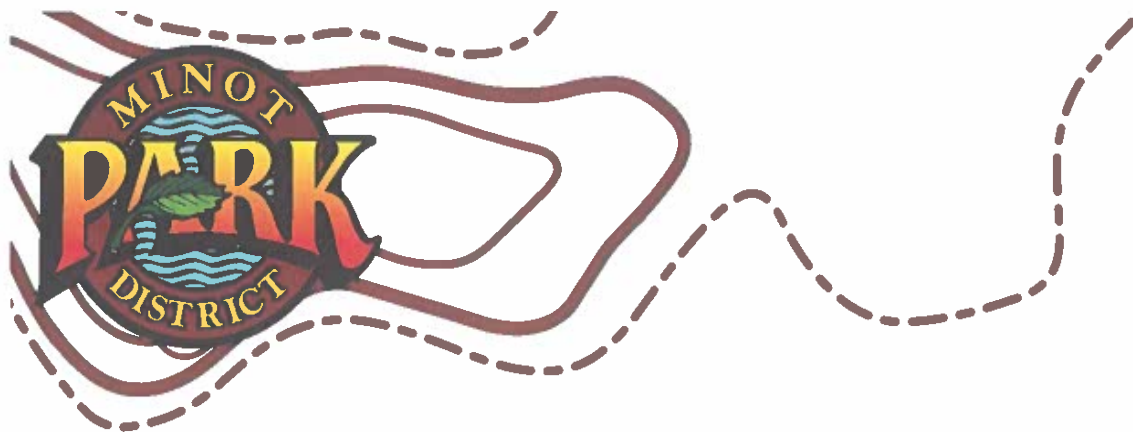


RE: SUPPORT for HB 1572

Good morning, Chairman Weber, and members of the Senate Finance and Tax Committee. My name is Erica Johnsrud and I have the honor of serving as the Auditor/Treasurer for McKenzie County. I stand in support of HB 1572 with the proposed amendment 25.0523.03001 that creates an interim group to determine a new property tax statement for North Dakota taxpayers.

Property tax statements – what’s on them, color vs black/white, relief information, etc. – have been topics of discussion in many legislative sessions. Invariably everyone has different opinions on what should or should not be included. Most important to me, as County Auditor/Treasurer, is that the changes being made are doable by the programmers utilized by counties, are not cost-prohibitive, and add value and clarity to the information being given to taxpayers. More information for the sake of more information isn’t always the best. A group of stakeholders, organized by the committee chairman, sitting down to discuss these topics to find workable solutions for everyone will be key to getting everyone on the same page and resulting in actual and sustainable changes to the tax statement. This was last done in 2013-2014, resulting in the current uniform tax statement, and should be done again.

Property tax reform is a difficult topic in which to please everyone and the tax statement contents are no different. I want to express my gratitude to the Legislative Assembly for all their hard work on property tax reform. I urge a **DO PASS** recommendation on HB 1572 with the proposed amendment which includes property tax statement stakeholders meeting to discuss and create a new uniform property tax statement.



**Testimony of Elly DesLauriers
Minot Park District
To Senate Finance & Taxation Committee
In Opposition to HB 1572
Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Chairman Weber and members of the Committee, my name is Elly DesLauriers, and I am the Executive Director of the Minot Park District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1572. We appreciate the House's amended version of the bill which includes an increase in Section 1 of the proposed park district general obligation bonding cap from 1% or up to \$1 million to up to \$15 million, but we believe this is still insufficient, especially for larger park districts facing significant, multi-phase projects spanning several years and rising construction costs. This cap would limit the ability of park districts to meet both current and future needs comprehensively, forcing them to rely on special assessments.

In conjunction with NDRPA we propose amending the bill to raise the cap to \$30 million, which would better reflect the financial realities faced by park districts while still ensuring fiscal oversight.

Regarding taxpayer protection, the existing 60-day protest period already provides ample opportunity for public input, ensuring transparency and accountability. With this process in place, further restrictions on park districts' bonding capacity are unnecessary.

Park Districts are currently limited to indebtedness of 1% of the assessed value of all taxable property imposed by NDCC-21-03-06(6) and 40-49.14. As of 2024 the Minot Park District was capped at 24.6 million and our remaining debt capacity of 10.9 million. The 15-million-dollar cap in the bill would have little effect on the Minot Park District plans. However, it could hinder larger cities from considering project that they otherwise would have the ability to complete due to significantly higher debt caps.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the committee either remove the \$15 million cap or amend Section 1 to include a \$30 million cap to account for rising construction costs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

25.0523.03002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Hagert
March 17, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1572

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Dockter, Grueneich, Headland, J. Olson

Senators Meyer, Patten, Thomas

1 A BILL for an Act to ~~create and enact a new section to chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota~~
2 ~~Century Code, relating to a uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting~~
3 ~~system;~~ to amend and reenact subsection 11 of section 21-03-07 and ~~sections 57-20-04-~~
4 ~~and section~~ 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to park district bonding
5 authority without a vote, ~~reporting of legislative tax relief information;~~ and delivery and contents
6 of the real estate tax statement; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide
7 for a legislative management report.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 11 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota Century
10 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 11. The governing body of any park district that constitutes a distinct municipality may
12 issue general obligation bonds of the park district in an amount no greater than
13 one percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district, up to
14 a maximum of fifteen million dollars. for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, lay
15 out, and improve parks, parkways, boulevards, and pleasure drives, and to acquire
16 land for these purposes, ~~but the~~ The indebtedness may not at any time exceed one
17 percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the park district. The initial
18 resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds under this subsection
19 must be published in the official newspaper of the park district, and any owner of
20 taxable property within the park district may, within sixty days after publication, file with

1 the clerk of the park district a protest against the adoption of the resolution. Protests
2 must be in writing and must describe the property that is the subject of the protest. If
3 the governing body finds the protests have been signed by the owners of taxable
4 property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or more of the assessed
5 valuation of all taxable property within the park district, as last finally equalized, all
6 further proceedings under the initial resolution are barred.

7 ~~SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 57-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
8 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

9 ~~**Uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system – Report.**~~

10 ~~1. By January 1, 2026, the tax commissioner shall develop and implement a uniform~~
11 ~~reporting system for taxing district financial and property tax related data to provide a~~
12 ~~logical, consistent, and organized framework to record and report the data. At~~
13 ~~minimum, the tax commissioner shall include the following categories of taxing district~~
14 ~~data as part of the uniform reporting system:~~

15 ~~a. Fund balances; and~~

16 ~~b. Property tax levy calculation information, including information regarding:~~

17 ~~(1) The taxable status and property valuation of property situated in the taxing~~
18 ~~district; and~~

19 ~~(2) The total dollar amount and number of mills levied, separated by levy~~
20 ~~authority.~~

21 ~~2. The tax commissioner shall request the data in subsection 1 from each taxing district~~
22 ~~and specify the form and manner in which the data must be submitted. The tax~~
23 ~~commissioner may require a taxing district to report any other information deemed~~
24 ~~necessary by the tax commissioner to effectuate this section.~~

25 ~~3. The taxing districts shall timely respond to the tax commissioner's request under~~
26 ~~subsection 2 and provide the requested data without delay.~~

27 ~~4. By July first of each year beginning in 2026, the tax commissioner shall submit to the~~
28 ~~legislative management a written report, which must include:~~

29 ~~a. An overview of the uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting~~
30 ~~system developed and implemented under this section, including information~~

1 regarding the form and manner in which the data is required to be submitted to
2 the tax commissioner; and

3 b. A summary of the taxing district financial and property tax related data submitted
4 by the taxing districts to the tax commissioner under this section for the
5 preceding taxable year.

6 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-20-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **57-20-04. Abstract of tax list and legislative tax relief information to be sent to tax**
9 **commissioner - Reports.**

10 1. The county auditor, on or before December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes,
11 shall prepare and transmit to the tax commissioner a complete abstract of the tax list
12 of the auditor's county.

13 2. a. In addition to the tax list required in subsection 1, the county auditor, on or before
14 December thirty-first following the levy of the taxes, shall prepare and transmit to
15 the tax commissioner a:

16 (1) A report providing each taxing district's property valuation and property tax
17 levy and any other information the tax commissioner deems necessary to
18 prepare the report required in subsection 3.

19 (2) A report providing information identifying the property tax savings provided
20 by the state of North Dakota which have been realized by taxpayers in the
21 county as legislative tax relief under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before
22 2019, chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27. For
23 purposes of this subdivision:

24 (a) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative
25 tax relief under chapter 15.1-27 is determined by multiplying the
26 taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county
27 by the lesser of one hundred twenty-five mills or the sum of:

28 [1] The number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under chapter
29 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year; and

30 [2] The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district excluding
31 sixty mills.

1 ~~(b) Property tax savings realized by taxpayers in the county as legislative~~
2 ~~tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the taxable~~
3 ~~value for the taxable year for each parcel located in the county by the~~
4 ~~number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount calculated~~
5 ~~in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by the~~
6 ~~taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable year.~~

7 ~~b. For taxing districts with property in more than one county, information required~~
8 ~~under this subsection must be collected and transmitted by the county auditor of~~
9 ~~the county in which the main office of that taxing district is located.~~

10 ~~3. The tax commissioner shall compile information received from the county auditors in~~
11 ~~subsection 2 and, prepare a statewide report of property tax increase and legislative~~
12 ~~tax relief, and submit the report to the legislative management by April first of each~~
13 ~~year. The report must include the:~~

14 ~~a. The annual increase in property taxes levied by each taxing district of the state~~
15 ~~after adjusting for property that was not taxable in the preceding year and~~
16 ~~property that is no longer taxable which was taxable in the preceding year. The~~
17 ~~report must be provided to the legislative management by April first of each year;~~

18 ~~b. The total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota which have~~
19 ~~been realized by taxpayers in each county; and~~

20 ~~c. The statewide total property tax savings provided by the state of North Dakota~~
21 ~~which have been realized by taxpayers.~~

22 ~~4. The tax commissioner shall prescribe the form and manner of providing the reports~~
23 ~~and certifications required under this section.~~

24 ~~5. On or before December 31, 2017, the county auditor shall provide a report to the tax~~
25 ~~commissioner providing the information identified in subsection 2 for the 2015 and~~
26 ~~2016 tax years.~~

27 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **57-20-07.1. County treasurer to ~~mail~~deliver real estate tax statement - Contents of**
2 **statement.**

- 3 1. On or before December twenty-sixth of each year, the county treasurer shall
4 ~~mail~~deliver a real estate tax statement to the owner of each parcel of real property
5 ~~at by mail addressed to the property owner at the property owner's last-known address~~
6 ~~or by email to the property owner directed with verification of receipt to an email~~
7 ~~address at which the property owner has consented to receive the real estate tax~~
8 ~~statement.~~ The form of the real estate tax statement to be used in every county must
9 be prescribed and approved for use by the tax commissioner. The statement must be
10 ~~displayed in color and~~ provided in a manner that allows the taxpayer to retain a printed
11 ~~record, or electronic record if the taxpayer consents to receive the statement by email,~~
12 of the obligation for payment of taxes and special assessments as provided in the
13 statement. If a parcel of real property is owned by more than one individual, the county
14 treasurer shall send only one statement to one of the owners of that property.
15 Additional copies of the tax statement will be sent to the other owners upon their
16 request and the furnishing of their names and addresses ~~or email addresses~~ to the
17 county treasurer. ~~The~~ After the information identifying the property owner and parcel,
18 the tax statement must ~~contain information displayed in the following order:~~
- 19 a. ~~Include a~~ Three columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement
20 ~~applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the~~ dollar valuation of
21 the true and full value, ~~taxable value, and net taxable value of the parcel as~~
22 defined by law of the property and the total mill levy applicable.
- 23 b. ~~Include, or be accompanied by a separate sheet, with three~~ information identifying
24 ~~the property tax levy against the parcel by each taxing district followed by the~~
25 ~~consolidated tax levied against the parcel. The information must be displayed in a~~
26 ~~textual and graphical depiction of taxes levied against each parcel and listed in:~~
- 27 (1) ~~Three~~ columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement
28 applies and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the property tax
29 levy in dollars against the parcel by the county and school district and any
30 city or township that levied taxes against the ~~parcel~~ each taxing district,
31 ~~excluding any amounts levied as a result of voter approved levy authority,~~

1 ~~which must be separately stated for each taxing district with voter approved~~
2 ~~levy authority.~~

3 ~~(2) A pie chart for the taxable year to which the statement applies, which shows~~
4 ~~the percentage of the total tax levied against the parcel by each of the~~
5 ~~taxing districts that levied taxes against the parcel, excluding any amounts~~
6 ~~levied as a result of voter approved levy authority, which must be combined~~
7 ~~and represented as a single item in the pie chart.~~

8 ~~(3) A separate color to represent each taxing district and the separately stated~~
9 ~~voter approved levy authority, which must correspond to the color used to~~
10 ~~identify the tax levied against the parcel in the pie chart required under~~
11 ~~paragraph 2.~~

12 c. Provide information identifying the property tax savings provided by the state of
13 North Dakota. The tax statement must include a line item that is entitled
14 "legislative tax relief" and identifies the dollar amount of property tax savings
15 realized by the taxpayer under chapter 50-34 for taxable years before 2019,
16 chapter 50-35 for taxable years after 2018, and chapter 15.1-27.

17 (1) For purposes of this subdivision, legislative tax relief under chapter 15.1-27
18 is determined by multiplying the taxable value for the taxable year for each
19 parcel shown on the tax statement by ~~the number of mills of mill levy~~
20 ~~reduction grant under chapter 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year plus the~~
21 ~~number of mills determined by subtracting from the 2012 taxable year mill~~
22 ~~rate of the school district in which the parcel is located the lesser of one~~
23 ~~hundred twenty-five mills or the sum of:~~

24 (a) ~~Fifty mills~~ The number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under
25 chapter 57-64 for the 2012 taxable year; or and

26 (b) The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district ~~minus~~ excluding
27 sixty mills.

28 (2) Legislative tax relief under chapter 50-35 is determined by multiplying the
29 taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel shown on the tax
30 statement by the number of mills of relief determined by dividing the amount
31 calculated in subsection 1 of section 50-35-03 for a human service zone by

1 the taxable value of taxable property in the zone for the taxable ~~year. Three~~
2 ~~columns showing, for the taxable year to which the tax statement applies,~~
3 ~~and the two immediately preceding taxable years, the net effective tax rate~~
4 ~~applied to the parcel.~~

- 5 2. Failure of an owner to receive a statement will not relieve that owner of liability, nor
6 extend the discount privilege past the February fifteenth deadline.

7 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE TAX REFORM AND RELIEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TAX**
8 **REFORM AND RELIEF STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 9 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall appoint a legislative tax
10 reform and relief advisory committee.
- 11 2. The committee must consist of three members of the finance and taxation standing
12 committee of the house of representatives and three members of the finance and
13 taxation standing committee of the senate, appointed by the respective majority
14 leaders of the house of representatives and senate. The legislative management shall
15 designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to
16 the statutes and procedures governing the operation of other legislative management
17 interim committees.
- 18 3. The committee shall study tax reform and relief, including income and property tax
19 reform and relief. Based on information provided by the tax department and input from
20 local taxing districts, the committee shall:
- 21 a. Review historical income and property tax relief provided by the legislative
22 assembly.
- 23 b. Receive information regarding tax reform and relief legislation enacted by the
24 sixty-ninth legislative assembly, including:
- 25 (1) Analysis of the tax reform and relief legislation, including data regarding the
26 estimated and actual fiscal impact of the legislation.
- 27 (2) Information from the tax department, local taxing district representatives,
28 and other interested persons regarding the progress of implementing the tax
29 reform and relief legislation.
- 30 4. The committee chairman may invite the tax commissioner or the commissioner's
31 designee, the state supervisor of assessments, and a representative of the North

Dakota association of counties, North Dakota league of cities, North Dakota township officers association, and North Dakota school boards association to participate at the table in committee discussion, without compensation, for purposes of discussion limited to the following topics:

a. Creation of a new uniform property tax statement form to increase transparency in property taxation.

b. The feasibility and desirability of implementing a statewide uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system to compile, record, and report property tax data for all taxing districts in a logical, consistent, and organized framework, including consideration of potential costs associated with developing a reporting system.

c. The feasibility and desirability of implementing an alternative reporting method for information related to legislative tax relief as calculated under subdivision c of subsection 1 of section 57-20-07.1, including compiling and reporting the information on a statewide basis.

5. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. TAX COMMISSIONER STUDY - TAX EXEMPT PROPERTY - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall, in consultation with the county directors of tax equalization and city, county, and township assessors, compile the following data for each parcel of tax exempt property located in the state:

- a. The true and full valuation.
- b. The county in which the parcel is located.
- c. The property classification.
- d. The property tax exemption under which the parcel is considered tax exempt.

2. The tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall establish the procedure by which the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments will compile the data.

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 3. If necessary to meet the deadline to submit the report required under subsection 4, the
2 tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments may develop a uniform method
3 to be used by the county directors of tax equalization and city, county, and township
4 assessors to estimate the true and full value per square foot or acre of corresponding
5 property classification in the county in which the property is situated for the most
6 recent taxable year.
- 7 4. Before July 1, 2026, the tax commissioner and state supervisor of assessments shall
8 submit to the legislative management a written report summarizing the information
9 received under this section. The report must include the total true and full valuation of
10 exempt property in each county, separated by property tax exemption and property
11 classification, a description of the uniform method to estimate the true and full value of
12 parcels of tax exempt property, and the number of parcels of tax exempt property in
13 each county for which the uniform method was applied to estimate true and full value.



Testimony of Broc Lietz, Director of Finance

Fargo Park District

To Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

In Opposition to HB 1572

March 18, 2025

Chairperson Weber and Members of the Committee:

My name is Broc Lietz, I am the Director of Finance for the Fargo Park District, on behalf of the Fargo Park District, I am speaking in opposition to HB 1572 as written, specifically the Section 1 proposal of limiting park district general obligation bonding authority to 1% and up to \$15 million without a public vote.

The following concerns stem from the bill as presented:

- Park districts in the state are currently held to a more restrictive limitation for general obligation bonds than other political subdivisions. NDCC 21-03-04 spells out authority of "municipality's" having a bonding limit of 5% of assessed valuation, while NDCC 21-03-07 spells out specific authority for park districts with a limit of 1% of assessed valuation.
- The bonding limitation of \$15 million does not address the increase in costs over time. The buying power of \$15 million upon effective date of this bill will be significantly diminished in future years, whereas the 1% of assessed valuation honors the ongoing growth in thriving communities throughout the state.
- HB 1572 today has a direct impact to the largest communities and park districts within those communities, effectively limiting the local control of five park districts and differentiating those districts from our peers throughout the state.
- The Fargo Park District has current G.O. bonding authority of nearly \$85 million, which is 1% of the \$8.5 billion of total tax assessed valuation in the City of Fargo. HB 1572 directly limits local control from the elected officials of the Fargo Park District from \$85 million to \$15 million.
- NDCC currently has accountability measures in place for G.O. bond issuance beyond the 1% limitation. Park districts must publish the intent to issue bonds, and the corresponding mill levy increase for debt service with a 60-day protest period in which citizens can protest the issuance.
- The Fargo Park District is not actively resistant to the need for property tax reform and potential caps proposed to limit taxing impact to the public. We simply would ask for equality of application as park districts throughout the state are currently held to a different standard than our other political subdivision partners.

State statute limitations aside, local governing officials always reserve the right to call for a vote of the public for taxing efforts. There are parameters in place that provide for public input without a public vote.

I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1572 or amend the bill to a cap of \$30 million, thus allowing for increased flexibility and local control.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1572
3/24/2025

Relating to park district bonding authority without a vote, reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

8:40 a.m. Chairman Weber opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Weber, Vice Chairman Rummel, Senator Marcellais, Senator Patten, Senator Powers, Senator Walen

Discussion Topics:

- Logistics of study on tax exempted property

8:40 a.m. Vice Chairman Rummel provided discussion regarding study on tax exempted property.

8:43 a.m. Chairman Weber closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Finance and Taxation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1572
4/1/2025

Relating to a uniform taxing district financial and property tax data reporting system and relating to park district bonding authority without a vote, reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

9:22 a.m. Chairman Weber opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Weber, Vice Chairman Rummel, Senator Marcellais, Senator Patten, Senator Powers, Senator Walen

Discussion Topics:

- Tax information portal
- Study for tax exempt property
- Bond issuance limitations

9:23 a.m. Chairman Weber opened discussion to the committee for updates regarding components of study for tax exempted properties.

9:37 a.m. Senator Powers moved a Do Not Pass.

9:37 a.m. Senator Walen seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Michelle Powers	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Powers will carry the bill.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Weber adjourned the meeting.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1572 ([25.0523.03000](#))**

Finance and Taxation Committee (Sen. Weber, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1572 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.