

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Conference Committee Amendments  
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2035**

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-39.2 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a sales tax exemption for tangible personal property used to construct  
3 a fertilizer or chemical processing facility; to amend and reenact section 40-57.1-03 and  
4 subsection 4 of section 57-40.2-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to  
5 requirements of a city or county granting a property tax exemption and a use tax exemption for  
6 tangible personal property used to construct a fertilizer or chemical processing facility; to  
7 provide for studies by the legislative management and industrial commission; and to provide for  
8 a retroactive effective date.

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

10 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-57.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 ~~40-57.1-03. (Effective for the first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013)~~  
13 ~~Municipality's authority to grant or revoke tax exemption or payments in lieu of taxes --~~  
14 ~~Notice to competitors -- Limitations.~~

15 1. ~~After negotiation with a potential project operator, a municipality may grant a partial or~~  
16 ~~complete exemption from ad valorem taxation on all buildings, structures, fixtures, and~~  
17 ~~improvements used in or necessary to the operation of a project for a period not~~  
18 ~~exceeding five years from the date of commencement of project operations. A~~  
19 ~~municipality may also grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation~~  
20 ~~on buildings, structures, fixtures, and improvements used in or necessary to the~~  
21 ~~operation of a project that produces or manufactures a product from agricultural~~  
22 ~~commodities for all or part of the sixth year through the tenth year from the date of~~  
23 ~~commencement of project operations.~~

- 1       2.   ~~In addition to, or in lieu of, a property tax exemption granted under this section, a~~  
2       ~~municipality may establish an amount due as payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes on~~  
3       ~~buildings, structures, fixtures, and improvements used in the operation of a project.~~  
4       ~~The governing body of the municipality shall designate the amount of the payments for~~  
5       ~~each year and the beginning year and the concluding year for payments in lieu of~~  
6       ~~taxes, but the option to make payments in lieu of taxes under this section may not~~  
7       ~~extend beyond the twentieth year from the date of commencement of project~~  
8       ~~operations. To establish the amount of payments in lieu of taxes, the governing body~~  
9       ~~of the municipality may use actual or estimated levels of assessment and taxation or~~  
10      ~~may establish payment amounts based on other factors. The governing body of the~~  
11      ~~municipality may designate different amounts of payments in lieu of taxes in different~~  
12      ~~years to recognize future project expansion plans or other considerations.~~
- 13      3.   ~~By November first of each year, the municipality that granted the option to make~~  
14      ~~payments in lieu of taxes shall certify to the county auditor the amount of payments~~  
15      ~~in lieu of taxes due under this section in the following year. After receiving the~~  
16      ~~statement from the municipality, the county auditor shall certify the payments in lieu of~~  
17      ~~taxes to the county treasurer for collection at the time when, and in the manner in~~  
18      ~~which, ad valorem taxes must be certified. Upon receipt by the county treasurer of the~~  
19      ~~amount of payments in lieu of taxes under this section, the county treasurer shall~~  
20      ~~apportion and distribute that amount to taxing districts on the basis on which the~~  
21      ~~general real estate tax levy is apportioned and distributed. The municipality may enter~~  
22      ~~into a written agreement with the local school district and any other local taxing~~  
23      ~~districts that wish to enter the agreement for an alternate method of apportionment~~  
24      ~~and distribution. If such an agreement is entered into, the county treasurer shall~~  
25      ~~apportion and distribute the money according to the written agreement. All provisions~~  
26      ~~of law relating to enforcement, administration, collection, penalties, and delinquency~~  
27      ~~proceedings for ad valorem taxes apply to payments in lieu of taxes under this section.~~  
28      ~~However, the discount for early payment of taxes under section 57-20-09 does not~~  
29      ~~apply to payments in lieu of taxes under this section. The buildings, structures,~~  
30      ~~fixtures, and improvements comprising a project for which payments in lieu of taxes~~

1 are allowed under this section must be excluded from the valuation of property in the  
2 taxing district for purposes of determining the mill rate for the taxing district.

3 4. ~~Negotiations with potential project operators for tax exemption or payments in lieu of~~  
4 ~~taxes must be carried on by the city council or commission if the project is proposed to~~  
5 ~~be located within the boundaries of a city, and by the board of county commissioners if~~  
6 ~~the project is proposed to be located outside the corporate limits of any city. A partial~~  
7 ~~exemption must be stated as a percentage of the total ad valorem taxes assessed~~  
8 ~~against the property. Unless the governing body of the municipality determines that~~  
9 ~~there is no existing business within the municipality for which the potential project~~  
10 ~~would be a competitor, the potential project operator shall publish two notices to~~  
11 ~~competitors, the form of which must be prescribed by the tax commissioner, of the~~  
12 ~~application for tax exemption or payments in lieu of taxes in the official newspaper of~~  
13 ~~the municipality at least one week apart. The publications must be completed not less~~  
14 ~~than fifteen nor more than thirty days before the governing body of the municipality is~~  
15 ~~to consider the application. The municipality shall determine whether the granting of~~  
16 ~~the exemption or payments in lieu of taxes, or both, is in the best interest of the~~  
17 ~~municipality, and if it so determines, shall give its approval.~~

18 5. ~~By motion approved by the governing body of the municipality before the beginning of~~  
19 ~~a taxable year for which a property tax exemption or the option to make payments~~  
20 ~~in lieu of taxes under this section previously has been approved by the governing~~  
21 ~~body, a property tax exemption may be revoked or reduced and payments in lieu of~~  
22 ~~taxes may be revoked or increased for that taxable year for reasons specified in a~~  
23 ~~negotiated agreement or if the governing body finds that:~~

24 a. ~~Information provided by the project operator during the negotiation and~~  
25 ~~deliberation of a property tax exemption or the option to make payments in lieu of~~  
26 ~~taxes has proven to be inaccurate or untrue;~~

27 b. ~~Use of the property by the project operator does not comply with the reasonable~~  
28 ~~expectations of the governing body at the time the property tax exemption or the~~  
29 ~~option to make payments in lieu of taxes was approved;~~

- 1 e. The property has been improved to a substantially greater extent than the  
2 governing body reasonably anticipated at the time the property tax exemption or  
3 the option to make payments in lieu of taxes was approved; or  
4 d. There has been a change of ownership of the property since the property tax  
5 exemption or the option to make payments in lieu of taxes was approved.  
6 6. During the negotiation and deliberation of a property tax exemption or the option to  
7 make payments in lieu of taxes under this chapter, a municipality shall include, as  
8 nonvoting ex officio members of its governing body, a representative appointed by the  
9 school board of each school district affected by the proposed action and a  
10 representative appointed by the board of township supervisors of each township  
11 affected by the proposed action.

12 **(Effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014) Municipality's**  
13 **authority to grant or revoke tax exemption or payments in lieu of taxes - Notice to**  
14 **competitors - Limitations.**

- 15 1. After negotiation with a potential project operator, a municipality may grant a partial or  
16 complete exemption from ad valorem taxation on all buildings, structures, fixtures, and  
17 improvements used in or necessary to the operation of a project for a period not  
18 exceeding five years from the date of commencement of project operations. A  
19 municipality may also grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation  
20 on buildings, structures, fixtures, and improvements used in or necessary to the  
21 operation of a project that produces or manufactures a product from agricultural  
22 commodities for all or part of the sixth year through the tenth year from the date of  
23 commencement of project operations. Before a municipality may grant a partial or  
24 complete exemption from ad valorem taxation under this section:  
25 a. The governing body of the municipality must have received the certification of the  
26 department of commerce division of economic development and finance that the  
27 project is a primary sector business, as defined in subsection 3 of section  
28 40-57.1-02; or  
29 b. The city council or commission, if the project is proposed to be located within the  
30 boundaries of a city of fewer than forty thousand population, or the board of  
31 county commissioners, of a county of fewer than forty thousand population and if

1 the project is proposed to be located in the county but outside the corporate limits  
2 of any city, may grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation  
3 for a project operating in the retail sector if that governing body has obtained the  
4 approval of exemption of property under this subdivision from a majority of the  
5 qualified electors of the city or county voting on the question at a city or county  
6 election held in conjunction with a statewide general election and if that  
7 governing body has established by resolution or ordinance the criteria that will be  
8 applied by the governing body to determine whether it is appropriate to grant a  
9 partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation under this section for a  
10 project operating in the retail sector. The ballot for elector approval of exemption  
11 of property under this subdivision must present the question at the election for a  
12 yes or no vote on the question:

13 Shall the governing body of [name of county or city] be empowered to grant  
14 property tax exemptions upon application of new or expanding retail sector  
15 businesses?

16 Only a governing body of a city or county that meets the requirements of this  
17 subdivision may grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation  
18 under this section for a project operating in the retail sector. Criteria established  
19 by the governing body under this subdivision, at a minimum, must be intended to  
20 require:

- 21 (1) Evaluation of the potential positive or adverse consequences for existing  
22 retail sector businesses in the municipality from granting the exemption;
- 23 (2) Evaluation of the short-term and long-term effects for other property  
24 taxpayers in the municipality from granting the exemption;
- 25 (3) A written agreement with the project operator, including performance  
26 requirements for which the exemption may be terminated by the governing  
27 body of the municipality if those requirements are not met; and
- 28 (4) Evaluation of whether the project operator would locate the project within  
29 the municipality without the exemption.

- 30 2. In addition to, or in lieu of, a property tax exemption granted under this section, a  
31 municipality may establish an amount due as payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes on

1 buildings, structures, fixtures, and improvements used in the operation of a project.

2 The governing body of the municipality shall designate the amount of the payments for  
3 each year and the beginning year and the concluding year for payments in lieu of  
4 taxes, but the option to make payments in lieu of taxes under this section may not  
5 extend beyond the twentieth year from the date of commencement of project  
6 operations. To establish the amount of payments in lieu of taxes, the governing body  
7 of the municipality may use actual or estimated levels of assessment and taxation or  
8 may establish payment amounts based on other factors. The governing body of the  
9 municipality may designate different amounts of payments in lieu of taxes in different  
10 years to recognize future project expansion plans or other considerations.

11 3. Before a governing body may grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem  
12 taxation or the option to make payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes under this chapter,  
13 the governing body shall consult with the department of commerce. If the department  
14 of commerce determines that the total project costs are estimated to exceed one  
15 billion dollars, the department of commerce shall conduct a public hearing and notice  
16 of that hearing must be provided to each affected taxing district and any existing  
17 business within the municipality for which the potential project would be a competitor.

18 4. By November first of each year, the municipality that granted the option to make  
19 payments in lieu of taxes shall certify to the county auditor the amount of payments  
20 in lieu of taxes due under this section in the following year. After receiving the  
21 statement from the municipality, the county auditor shall certify the payments in lieu of  
22 taxes to the county treasurer for collection at the time when, and in the manner in  
23 which, ad valorem taxes must be certified. Upon receipt by the county treasurer of the  
24 amount of payments in lieu of taxes under this section, the county treasurer shall  
25 apportion and distribute that amount to taxing districts on the basis on which the  
26 general real estate tax levy is apportioned and distributed. The municipality may enter  
27 into a written agreement with the local school district and any other local taxing  
28 districts that wish to enter the agreement for an alternate method of apportionment  
29 and distribution. If such an agreement is entered into, the county treasurer shall  
30 apportion and distribute the money according to the written agreement. All provisions  
31 of law relating to enforcement, administration, collection, penalties, and delinquency

1 proceedings for ad valorem taxes apply to payments in lieu of taxes under this section.  
2 However, the discount for early payment of taxes under section 57-20-09 does not  
3 apply to payments in lieu of taxes under this section. The buildings, structures,  
4 fixtures, and improvements comprising a project for which payments in lieu of taxes  
5 are allowed under this section must be excluded from the valuation of property in the  
6 taxing district for purposes of determining the mill rate for the taxing district.

7 4.5. Negotiations with potential project operators for tax exemption or payments in lieu of  
8 taxes must be carried on by the city council or commission if the project is proposed to  
9 be located within the boundaries of a city, and by the board of county commissioners if  
10 the project is proposed to be located outside the corporate limits of any city. A partial  
11 exemption must be stated as a percentage of the total ad valorem taxes assessed  
12 against the property. Unless the governing body of the municipality determines that  
13 there is no existing business within the municipality for which the potential project  
14 would be a competitor, the potential project operator shall publish two notices to  
15 competitors, the form of which must be prescribed by the tax commissioner, of the  
16 application for tax exemption or payments in lieu of taxes in the official newspaper of  
17 the municipality at least one week apart. The publications must be completed not less  
18 than fifteen nor more than thirty days before the governing body of the municipality is  
19 to consider the application. The municipality shall determine whether the granting of  
20 the exemption or payments in lieu of taxes, or both, is in the best interest of the  
21 municipality, and if it so determines, shall give its approval.

22 5.6. By motion approved by the governing body of the municipality before the beginning of  
23 a taxable year for which a property tax exemption or the option to make payments  
24 in lieu of taxes under this section previously has been approved by the governing  
25 body, a property tax exemption may be revoked or reduced and payments in lieu of  
26 taxes may be revoked or increased for that taxable year for reasons specified in a  
27 negotiated agreement or if the governing body finds that:

- 28 a. Information provided by the project operator during the negotiation and  
29 deliberation of a property tax exemption or the option to make payments in lieu of  
30 taxes has proven to be inaccurate or untrue;

1           b. Use of the property by the project operator does not comply with the reasonable  
2           expectations of the governing body at the time the property tax exemption or the  
3           option to make payments in lieu of taxes was approved;

4           c. The property has been improved to a substantially greater extent than the  
5           governing body reasonably anticipated at the time the property tax exemption or  
6           the option to make payments in lieu of taxes was approved; or

7           d. There has been a change of ownership of the property since the property tax  
8           exemption or the option to make payments in lieu of taxes was approved.

9       ~~6-7.~~ During the negotiation and deliberation of a property tax exemption or the option to  
10       make payments in lieu of taxes under this chapter, a municipality shall include, as  
11       nonvoting ex officio members of its governing body, a representative appointed by the  
12       school board of each school district affected by the proposed action and a  
13       representative appointed by the board of township supervisors of each township  
14       affected by the proposed action.

15       ~~7-8.~~ A city or county may not supersede or expand the provisions of this section under  
16       home rule authority.

17       **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 57-39.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
18       and enacted as follows:

19       **Sales and use tax exemption for materials used to construct a fertilizer or chemical**  
20       **processing facility.**

21       1. Gross receipts from sales of tangible personal property used to construct a fertilizer or  
22       chemical processing facility in this state, and any component integral to the fertilizer or  
23       chemical processing plant, are exempt from taxes under this chapter. To be exempt,  
24       the tangible personal property must be incorporated in the structure of the facility or  
25       used in the construction process to the point of having no residual economic value.  
26       The exemption provided in this section applies to all phases of construction under the  
27       permit or application for permit required by subsection 2. An integral component to the  
28       fertilizer or chemical processing plant:

29       a. May be owned directly or indirectly by the fertilizer or chemical processing facility,  
30       or by an unrelated third party;

31       b. Must be located at the facility site; and



- 1           c. Must be necessary for the plant's processing of fertilizer or chemicals.
- 2           2. On or before June 30, 2019, the owner of the fertilizer or chemical processing plant  
3 must receive from the department of health an air quality permit or a notice that the air  
4 quality permit application is complete. The owner shall provide this documentation to  
5 the tax commissioner to qualify for the exemption under this section. Denial,  
6 expiration, or revocation of a permit terminates the exemption under this section.
- 7           3. To receive the exemption under this section at the time of purchase, the owner of the  
8 processing facility must receive from the tax commissioner a certificate that the  
9 tangible personal property used to construct the processing facility which the owner  
10 intends to purchase qualifies for exemption. If a certificate is not received before the  
11 purchase, the owner shall pay the applicable tax imposed by this chapter and apply to  
12 the tax commissioner for a refund.
- 13          4. If the tangible personal property is purchased or installed by a contractor subject to the  
14 tax imposed by this chapter, the owner may apply for a refund of the difference  
15 between the amount remitted by the contractor and the exemption imposed or allowed  
16 by this section. Application for refund must be made at the times and in the manner  
17 directed by the tax commissioner and must include sufficient information to permit the  
18 tax commissioner to verify the sales and use taxes paid and the exempt status of the  
19 sale or use.
- 20          5. For purposes of this section, a fertilizer or chemical processing facility means a  
21 processing plant that produces for retail or wholesale a fertilizer, chemical, or chemical  
22 derivative from natural gas, natural gas liquids, or crude oil components.

23           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 57-40.2-03.3 of the North Dakota  
24 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 25          4. The tax imposed by this section does not apply to:
- 26           a. Production equipment or tangible personal property as authorized or approved  
27           for exemption by the tax commissioner under section 57-39.2-04.2;
- 28           b. Machinery, equipment, or other tangible personal property used to construct an  
29           agricultural commodity processing facility as authorized or approved for  
30           exemption by the tax commissioner under section 57-39.2-04.3 or 57-39.2-04.4;

- 1           c. Tangible personal property used to construct or expand a system used to  
2           compress, process, gather, or refine gas recovered from an oil or gas well in this  
3           state or used to expand or build a gas-processing facility in this state as  
4           authorized or approved for exemption by the tax commissioner under section  
5           57-39.2-04.5;
- 6           d. Tangible personal property used to construct or expand a qualifying oil refinery as  
7           authorized or approved for exemption by the tax commissioner under section  
8           57-39.2-04.6;
- 9           e. Tangible personal property used to construct or expand a qualifying facility as  
10          authorized or approved for exemption by the tax commissioner under section  
11          57-39.2-04.10;
- 12          f. Tangible personal property used to construct or expand a qualifying facility as  
13          authorized or approved for exemption by the tax commissioner under section  
14          57-39.2-04.11; ~~or~~
- 15          g. Telecommunications infrastructure that is capable of providing  
16          telecommunications service as authorized or approved for exemption by the  
17          commissioner under chapter 57-39.2; or
- 18          h. Tangible personal property used to construct a qualifying fertilizer or chemical  
19          processing facility as authorized or approved for exemption by the tax  
20          commissioner under section 2 of this Act.

21           **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

22   **IMPACT.** During the 2015-16 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the  
23   impact of large economic development projects on political subdivisions. The study may include  
24   a review of the current process for seeking out input from political subdivisions potentially  
25   impacted by a large economic development project and any mechanisms in place to address  
26   the potential impact. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,  
27   together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-fifth  
28   legislative assembly.

29           **SECTION 5. OIL AND GAS RESEARCH - NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION STUDY.** The  
30   industrial commission may use the sum of one hundred thousand dollars or so much of the sum  
31   as necessary from the oil and gas research fund, or so much of the amount as may be

1 necessary, pursuant to its continuing appropriation under section 57-51.1-07.3 for the purpose  
2 of contracting for an independent, nonmatching natural gas production study.

3 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE - RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.** Section 1 of this Act is  
4 effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act are  
5 retroactively effective, and apply to taxable events occurring after December 31, 2014.