

Fifty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Representative Belter

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 15 of section 57-02-08 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to application of the property tax exemption for farm buildings; and to  
3 provide an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 15 of section 57-02-08 of the 1997  
6 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 7 15. a. All farm structures and improvements located on agricultural lands.
- 8 (1) This subsection shall be construed to exempt farm buildings and  
9 improvements only, and shall not be construed to exempt from taxation  
10 industrial plants, or structures of any kind not used or intended for use  
11 as a part of a farm plant, or as a farm residence.
- 12 (2) Any structure or improvement used in connection with a retail or  
13 wholesale business other than farming, any structure or improvement  
14 located on platted land within the corporate limits of a city, or any  
15 structure or improvement located on railroad operating property subject  
16 to assessment under chapter 57-05 is not exempt under this  
17 subsection.
- 18 (3) The following factors may not be considered in application of the  
19 exemption under this subsection:
- 20 (a) Whether the farmer grows or purchases feed for animals raised  
21 on the farm.
- 22 (b) Whether animals being raised on the farm are owned by the  
23 farmer.

(c) Whether the farm's replacement animals are produced on the farm.

(d) Whether the farmer is engaged in contract feeding of animals on the farm.

b. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that this exemption as applied to a residence shall be strictly construed and interpreted to exempt only a residence which is situated on a farm and which is occupied or used by a person who is a farmer and that the exemption shall not be applied to property which is occupied or used by a person who is not a farmer. For purposes of this subdivision:

(1) "Farm" means a single tract or contiguous tracts of agricultural land containing a minimum of ten acres [4.05 hectares] and for which the farmer, actually farming the land or engaged in the raising of livestock or other similar operations normally associated with farming and ranching, has not received more than fifty percent of annual net income from nonfarm income, including that of a spouse if married, during each of the three preceding calendar years.

(2) "Farmer" means an individual who normally devotes the major portion of time to the activities of producing products of the soil, poultry, livestock, or dairy farming in such products' unmanufactured state and has not received more than fifty percent of annual net income from nonfarm income, including that of a spouse if married, during each of the three preceding calendar years. "Farmer" includes an individual who is retired because of illness or age and who at the time of retirement owned and occupied as a farmer as defined above the residence in which the person lives and for which the exemption is claimed.

(3) "Net income from farming activities" described in paragraph 2 means taxable income from those activities as computed for income tax purposes pursuant to chapter 57-38 adjusted to include the following:

- 1 (a) The difference between gross sales price less expenses of sale  
2 and the amount reported for sales of agricultural products for  
3 which the farmer reported a capital gain.
- 4 (b) Interest expenses from farming activities which have been  
5 deducted in computing taxable income.
- 6 (4) When exemption is claimed under this subdivision for a residence, the  
7 assessor may require that the occupant of the residence who it is  
8 claimed is a farmer provide to the assessor for the year or years  
9 specified by the assessor a written statement in which it is stated that  
10 fifty percent or more of the net income of that occupant was, or was not,  
11 net income from farming activities; provided, that if that occupant is  
12 married and both spouses occupy the residence, it shall be stated in the  
13 written statement whether their net income from farming activities was  
14 fifty percent or more of their combined net income from all sources.
- 15 (5) In addition to any of the provisions of this subsection or any other  
16 provision of law, a residence situated on agricultural land is not exempt  
17 for the year if it is occupied by an individual engaged in farming who  
18 had nonfarm income, including that of a spouse if married, of more than  
19 forty thousand dollars during each of the three preceding calendar  
20 years. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to an individual  
21 who is retired because of illness or age and who at the time of  
22 retirement owned and occupied as a farmer the residence in which the  
23 person lives and for which the exemption is claimed.
- 24 (6) For purposes of this section, "livestock" includes "nontraditional  
25 livestock" as defined in section 36-01-00.1.
- 26 (7) A farmer operating a bed and breakfast facility in the farm residence  
27 occupied by that farmer is entitled to the exemption under this section  
28 for that residence if the farmer and the residence would qualify for  
29 exemption under this section except for the use of the residence as a  
30 bed and breakfast facility.

1           **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after  
2   December 31, 1998.