

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

SENATE BILL NO. 2100  
(Finance and Taxation Committee)  
(At the request of the Tax Commissioner)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 23-15-01 and 57-15-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the removal of a reference to personal property taxes on fireworks and to delete a duplicate reference to mill levy limitations; and to provide an effective date.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-15-01 of the 1997 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**23-15-01. Fireworks defined.** The term fireworks means and includes any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, and includes blank cartridges, toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, or toy guns in which explosives other than toy paper caps are used, the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel the same, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, Roman candles, daygo bombs, sparklers, or other fireworks of like construction, any fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound, or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance. Nothing in this regulation may be construed as applying to toy paper caps containing not more than twenty-five hundredths of a grain [16.20 milligrams] of explosive composition per cap.

Any person, firm, corporation, or limited liability company having operated a retail business ~~wherein merchandise was assessed by the local taxing authority, on April first immediately preceding thereto,~~ and having a retail license as provided in section 23-15-04 may offer for sale and sell at retail, to persons of twelve years of age or more, only during the period beginning June twenty-seventh and ending July fifth, both dates inclusive, the following items:

1. Star lights, with wood spike cemented in one end, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed twenty grams each in weight (10 ball).
2. Helicopter type flyers, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed twenty grams each in weight.
3. Cylindrical fountains, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed seventy-five grams each in weight. The inside tube diameter may not exceed three-fourths inch [19.05 millimeters].
4. Cone fountains, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed fifty grams each in weight.
5. Wheels, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed sixty grams in weight, for each driver unit, but there may be any number of drivers on any one wheel. The inside bore of driver tubes may not be over one-half inch [12.7 millimeters].
6. Illuminating torches and colored fire in any form, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed one hundred grams each in weight.
7. Sparklers and dipped sticks, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed one hundred grams each in weight. Pyrotechnic composition containing any chlorate may not exceed five grams.

8. Comets and shells, of which the mortar is an integral part, except those designed to produce an audible effect, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed forty grams each in weight.
9. Soft shell firecrackers not to exceed one and one-half inches [38.1 millimeters] in length and one-fourth inch [6.35 millimeters] in diameter, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed fifty milligrams each in weight.
10. Whistles without report, total pyrotechnic composition not to exceed forty grams each in weight.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-01.1 of the 1997 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**57-15-01.1. Protection of taxpayers and taxing districts.** Each taxing district may levy the lesser of the amount in dollars as certified in the budget of the governing body, or the amount in dollars as allowed in this section, subject to the following:

1. No taxing district may levy more taxes expressed in dollars than the amounts allowed by this section.
2. For purposes of this section:
  - a. "Base year" means the taxing district's taxable year with the highest amount levied in dollars in property taxes of the three taxable years immediately preceding the budget year;
  - b. "Budget year" means the taxing district's year for which the levy is being determined under this section;
  - c. "Calculated mill rate" means the mill rate that results from dividing the base year taxes levied by the sum of the taxable value of the taxable property in the base year plus the taxable value of the property exempt by local discretion or charitable status, calculated in the same manner as the taxable property; and
  - d. "Property exempt by local discretion or charitable status" means property exempted from taxation as new or expanding businesses under chapter 40-57.1; improvements to property under chapter 57-02.2; or buildings belonging to institutions of public charity, new single-family residential or townhouse or condominium property, property used for early childhood services, or pollution abatement improvements under section 57-02-08.
3. A taxing district may elect to levy the amount levied in dollars in the base year. Any levy under this section must be specifically approved by a resolution approved by the governing body of the taxing district. Before determining the levy limitation under this section, the dollar amount levied in the base year must be:
  - a. Reduced by an amount equal to the sum determined by application of the base year's calculated mill rate for that taxing district to the final base year taxable valuation of any taxable property and property exempt by local discretion or charitable status which is not included in the taxing district for the budget year but was included in the taxing district for the base year.
  - b. Increased by an amount equal to the sum determined by the application of the base year's calculated mill rate for that taxing district to the final budget year taxable valuation of any taxable property or property exempt by local discretion or charitable status which was not included in the taxing district for the base year but which is included in the taxing district for the budget year.
  - c. Reduced to reflect expired temporary mill levy increases authorized by the electors of the taxing district.

4. ~~A taxing district may levy an amount in dollars equal to the amount levied in any of the previous three years reduced to reflect expired temporary mill levy increases authorized by the electors of the taxing district and increased by an amount equal to the sum determined by the application of any unused mill levy authority from that year, which was authorized by law or by the electors of that taxing district but not levied for that year, to the budget year taxable valuation of the taxable property in that taxing district. A taxing district electing to increase its levy under this subsection may not add any amount permitted by subsection 3 to the amount levied under this subsection.~~
5. In addition to any other levy limitation factor under this section, a taxing district may increase its levy in dollars to reflect new or increased mill levies authorized by the legislative assembly or authorized by the electors of the taxing district.
6. 5. Under this section a taxing district may supersede any applicable mill levy limitations otherwise provided by law, or a taxing district may levy up to the mill levy limitations otherwise provided by law without reference to this section, but the provisions of this section do not apply to the following:
  - a. Any irrevocable tax to pay bonded indebtedness levied pursuant to section 16 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota.
  - b. The one-mill levy for the state medical center authorized by section 10 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota.
7. 6. A school district choosing to determine its levy authority under this section may apply subsection 3 only to the amount in dollars levied for general fund purposes under section 57-15-14 or, if the levy in the base year included separate general fund and special fund levies under sections 57-15-14 and 57-15-14.2, the school district may apply subsection 3 to the total amount levied in dollars in the base year for both the general fund and special fund accounts. School district levies under any section other than section 57-15-14 may be made within applicable limitations but those levies are not subject to subsection 3.
8. 7. Optional levies under this section may be used by any city or county that has adopted a home rule charter unless the provisions of the charter supersede state laws related to property tax levy limitations.

**SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2100.

Senate Vote:    Yeas    49        Nays    0        Absent    0

House Vote:    Yeas    92        Nays    0        Absent    6

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State