

HOUSE BILL NO. 1518

Introduced by

Representatives Nicholas, Boucher, Brandenburg, Mueller, Uglem

Senator Warner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 4-28-06 and 4-28-07 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the North Dakota wheat commission; and to declare an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-28-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **4-28-06. Wheat commission - Duties and powers.** In the administration of this
7 chapter, the commission has the following powers, authority, and duties:

- 8 1. To foster and promote programs aimed at increasing the sale, utilization, and
9 development of wheat, both at home and abroad.
- 10 2. To publish and disseminate reliable information on the value of wheat and wheat
11 products for any purpose for which they are valuable and useful to both processor
12 and consumer.
- 13 3. To search for and promote new uses of wheat and wheat products.
- 14 4. To contract and cooperate with any person, firm, corporation, limited liability
15 company, or association, or with any local, state, or federal department or agency
16 for executing or carrying on a program or programs of research, education, and
17 publicity.
- 18 5. To lease, purchase, own, equip, maintain, and operate a commission office.
- 19 6. To appoint, employ, bond, discharge, fix the compensation and prescribe the
20 duties of such administrative, clerical, technical and other personnel, employees,
21 and agents as it may deem necessary to conduct the business and affairs of the
22 commission.
- 23 7. To accept donations of funds, property, and services or other assistance, financial
24 or otherwise, from federal, state, and other public or private sources for the

1 purpose of aiding and promoting the work and objectives of the commission,
2 depositing all funds so received in the state wheat commission fund in the state
3 treasury.

4 8. To ~~promote North Dakota opportunities as afforded by the development of the~~
5 ~~St. Lawrence seaway~~ provide market maintenance and development services,
6 utilization research, transportation research, and education.

7 9. To address trade and domestic issues.

8 10. To seek improvement in the export quality of wheat.

9 ~~40.~~ 11. To exercise all express and implied rights, powers, and authority that may be
10 necessary to perform and carry out the expressed purposes of this chapter and all
11 of the purposes reasonably implied incidentally thereto or lawfully connected
12 therewith and to adopt, rescind, modify, and amend all necessary and proper
13 orders, resolutions, rules, and regulations for the procedure and exercise of its
14 powers and the performance of its duties.

15 ~~44.~~ 12. To prosecute in the name of the state of North Dakota any suit or action to enforce
16 collection or assure payment of the tax or assessment authorized by the provisions
17 of this chapter, and to sue and be sued in the name of the commission.

18 13. To engage in any other related activities.

19 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-28-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **4-28-07. Wheat tax levy.**

22 1. a. A tax of ~~ten~~ fifteen mills per bushel [35.24 liters] by weight must be levied and
23 imposed upon all wheat grown in this state, delivered into this state, or sold
24 through commercial channels to a first purchaser in this state.

25 b. The tax must be levied and assessed at the time of sale and deducted by the
26 purchaser from the price paid, or in the case of a lien, pledge, or mortgage,
27 deducted from the proceeds of the loan or claim secured, subject to
28 adjustment at the time of settlement in the event the number of bushels [liters]
29 is not accurately determined at the time of the lien, pledge, or mortgage.

- 1 c. At the time of sale, the first purchaser in this state shall issue and deliver to
2 the producer or seller a record of the transaction in the manner prescribed by
3 the commission.
- 4 2. a. Any producer who sells wheat to a first purchaser in this state and who is
5 subject to the deduction provided in this chapter, within sixty days following
6 the deduction or final settlement, may make application by personal letter to
7 the wheat commission for a refund application blank.
- 8 b. Upon the return of the blank, properly executed by the producer,
9 accompanied by a record of the deduction by the purchaser, the producer
10 must be refunded the net amount of the deduction collected.
- 11 c. If no request for refund has been made within the period prescribed above,
12 then the producer is presumed to have agreed to the deduction. However, a
13 producer, for any reason, having paid the tax more than once on the same
14 wheat, upon furnishing proof of this to the commission, is entitled to a refund
15 of the overpayment.
- 16 3. The commission, to inform the producer, shall develop and disseminate information
17 and instructions relating to the purpose of the wheat tax and manner in which
18 refunds may be claimed and to this extent shall cooperate with governmental
19 agencies, state and federal, and private businesses engaged in the purchase of
20 wheat.
- 21 4. ~~The commission may use the amount raised by two mills of the levy provided for in~~
22 ~~this section to support the commission's involvement in trade issues throughout the~~
23 ~~world.~~
- 24 5. The commission ~~may use the~~ shall expend an amount at least equal to that raised
25 ~~by up to two mills of the levy provided for in this section for the purposes of~~
26 ~~providing market maintenance and development services, utilization research,~~
27 ~~transportation research, and education; addressing domestic policy issues; and~~
28 ~~engaging in other related activities; or for the purposes of contracting to:~~
- 29 a. Contract for market maintenance and development services, utilization
30 research, transportation research, and education; ~~addressing~~
- 31 b. To address domestic policy issues; and ~~engaging~~

1 c. To engage in other related activities, with no more than two trade associations
2 that are incorporated in this state and which have as their primary purpose the
3 representation of wheat producers.

4 6- 5. When the wheat commission presents the report required by section 4-24-10, the
5 commission shall present a separate report detailing the nature and extent of the
6 commission's efforts to address trade and domestic policy issues. The
7 commission may invite other entities with which it has contracted to assist in the
8 presentations.

9 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.