

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE BILL NO. 2081
(Finance and Taxation Committee)
(At the request of the State Treasurer)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 57-02-08.1 and subsection 3 of section 57-37.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the procedures for the refund of certain taxes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 57-02-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. Any person sixty-five years of age or older, or any person who is permanently and totally disabled as certified by a licensed physician approved by the local governing body, with an income of fourteen thousand dollars or less per annum from all sources, including the income of any dependent person, including any county, state, or federal public assistance benefits, social security, or other retirement benefits, but excluding any federal rent subsidy, and who rents living quarters is eligible for refund for that part of the annual rent which is deemed by this subsection to constitute the payment of property tax and which is further deemed to represent a burdensome share of the person's income. For the purpose of this subsection, twenty percent of the annual rent, exclusive of any federal rent subsidy and of charges for any utilities, services, furniture, furnishings, or personal property appliances furnished by the landlord as part of the rental agreement, whether ~~or not~~ expressly set out in the rental agreement, must be considered as payment made for property tax. When any part of the twenty percent of the annual rent exceeds four percent of the annual income of a qualified applicant, the applicant is entitled to receive a refund from the state general fund for that amount in excess of four percent of the person's annual income, but the refund may not be in excess of two hundred forty dollars. If the calculation for the refund is less than five dollars, a minimum of five dollars must be sent to the qualifying applicant. In no case may a husband and wife who are living together both be entitled to the refund as provided for in this subsection. Each application for refund under this subsection must be made to the tax commissioner before the first day of June of each year by the person claiming the refund, but the tax commissioner may grant an extension of time to file an application for good cause. The tax commissioner shall ~~certify to the state treasurer the amount of the refund due, if any, and the state treasurer shall~~ issue the refund ~~from the state general fund~~ to the applicant. In no case may this subsection apply to rents or fees paid by a person for any living quarters, including a nursing home licensed pursuant to section 23-16-01, if that living quarter has been declared exempt from property taxation and is not making a payment in lieu of property taxes.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 57-37.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. In case an overpayment of such tax has been made for the estate of a decedent, such overpayment must be repaid out of any undistributed estate taxes in the hands of the state treasurer upon an order of the tax commissioner. Any overpayment to be repaid must bear interest at the Bank of North Dakota's money market demand account rate on the date of the tax commissioner's order to the state treasurer. Interest is to be computed from the time the tax was paid until the overpayment is repaid. Any interest owed by the state must be paid by the state treasurer from the general fund appropriation for miscellaneous refunds approved by the legislative assembly. The state treasurer shall thereupon present

and file with the appropriate county treasurers and city auditors a verified claim of such overpayment accompanied by a copy of the order of the tax commissioner for such refund and the county treasurers and city auditors shall pay such claim to the state treasurer.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2081.

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 92 Nays 0 Absent 2

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State