

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1245
(Representatives Headland, Kasper, Nathe, D. Ruby)
(Senators Kannianen, Weber)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 57-15-01 and 57-15-30.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to communication of property tax levies with the public and financial reporting to the state auditor; to provide for the tax commissioner to study property tax transparency; and to provide for a legislative management report.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-01. Levy in specific amounts - Exceptions.

With the exception of special assessment taxes and such general taxes as may be definitely fixed by law, all state, county, city, township, school district, and park district taxes must be levied or voted in specific amounts of money. For purposes of communicating with the public and comparing the amount levied in the current taxable year to the amount levied in the preceding taxable year, taxing districts shall express levies in terms of dollars rather than mills.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-30.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-30.2. Financial reporting requirements for taxing entities - County auditor - State auditor.

1. The governing body of any county, city, township, school district, park district, recreation service district, rural fire protection district, rural ambulance service district, soil conservation district, conservancy district, water authority, or any other taxing entity authorized to levy property taxes or have property taxes levied on its behalf, in the year for which the levy will apply, shall file with the county auditor of each county in which the taxing entity is located, at a time and in a format prescribed by the county auditor, a financial report for the preceding calendar year showing the ending balances of each fund or account held by the taxing entity during that year.
2. By March first of each year, the county auditor of each county shall provide to the state auditor in an electronic format a financial report showing the ending balances of the county general fund and county road and bridge fund for the preceding calendar year, including the amount in each fund which is committed for a specific use. The county auditor shall provide the report to the state auditor regardless of whether an audit is complete.

SECTION 3. TAX COMMISSIONER STUDY - PROPERTY TAX TRANSPARENCY - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.

1. During the 2023-24 interim, the tax commissioner, state supervisor of assessments, and the chairmen of the finance and taxation standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate shall conduct a property tax transparency study. The study must be conducted in consultation with city and county organizations, including county auditors and county directors of tax equalization. The study must include consideration of the following:

- a. Historical changes in property valuations, mill rates levied, and impacts on citizens' tax burdens in each taxing jurisdiction, including development of an effective mechanism to make the information available to the public;
 - b. Creation of a new uniform property tax statement form to increase transparency in property taxation;
 - c. Feasibility and desirability of transitioning counties to a uniform system of collecting and reporting property tax information, including the process to transition counties to a uniform chart of accounts, implementation and administration of a uniform chart of accounts, and the associated costs; and
 - d. Feasibility and desirability of implementation of a statewide property tax information system and the associated costs.
2. Before June 1, 2024, the tax commissioner, state supervisor of assessments, and the chairmen of the finance and taxation standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate shall report their findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the legislative management.

Dennis E. Johnson
Speaker of the House

Tammie Lyle
President of the Senate

Buell F. Reul
Chief Clerk of the House

Chanda Morgan
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1245.

House Vote: Yeas 91 Nays 0 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

Buell F. Reul
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 11:40 AM. on April 6, 2023.

Approved at 11:45 AM. on April 10, 2023.

Doug Burgum
Governor

Filed in this office this 11th day of April, 2023,
at 8:50 o'clock A. M.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State