Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1388

Introduced by

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Representatives Louser, Rick C. Becker, Blum, Devlin, D. Ruby, Schatz, Simons, Streyle Senators Armstrong, Burckhard

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-49, 15.1-27-04.1, 15.1-27-35.3, and
- 2 15.1-29-15, subsection 7 of section 21-03-07, subsection 11 of section 40-58-20, section
- 3 40-63-05, subsection 42 of section 57-02-08, sections 57-15-01.1 and 57-15-14.2, subsection 4
- 4 of section 57-15-17, and sections 57-19-01 and 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,
- 5 relating to taxes levied for Fargo board of education building expenses, determination of school
- 6 state aid payments, school district tuition payment levies, tax increment financing and
- 7 renaissance zone property tax incentives, property tax exemptions for new single-family
- 8 residential property, school district levies, and information provided on property tax statements;
- 9 to repeal sections 15-39.1-28, 15.1-27-04.2, 15.1-27-20.2, 57-19-02, 57-19-03, 57-19-05,
- 10 57-19-09, 57-19-11, and 57-20-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to tax levies for
- 11 teacher retirements, minimum local effort and taxable valuation considerations for purposes of
- determining school state aid payments, school district special reserve funds, and the state-paid
- property tax relief credit; and to provide an effective date.

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

- 15 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-09-49 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 17 15.1-09-49. Board of education of city of Fargo Taxes for buildings.
 - The amount to be raised for teacher salaries and contingent expenses must be such only as together with the public money coming to the city from any source is sufficient to establish and maintain efficient and proper schools for students in the city. The tax for purchasing, leasing, or improving sites and the building, purchasing, leasing, enlarging, altering, and
- 22 repairing of schools may not exceed in any one year fifteen mills on the taxable valuation of
- property in the school district, when authorized to do so by sixty percent of the qualified electors
- 24 voting upon the question at a regular or special election in any school district. The board of

1	education may borrow, and when necessary shall borrow, in anticipation of the taxes to be						
2	raised, levied, and collected.						
3	SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is						
4	amended and reenacted as follows:						
5	15.1-27-0)4.1.	Baseline funding - Establishment - Determination of state aid.				
6	1. In order to To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the						
7	sup	erinte	endent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A				
8	district's baseline funding consists of determine:						
9	a.	All s	state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the				
10		201	2-13 school year;				
11	b.	The	district's 2012-13 mill levy reduction grant, as determined in accordance with				
12		cha	pter 57-64, as it existed on June 30, 2013;				
13	c.	An a	amount equal to that raised by the district's 20122016 general fund levy or				
14		that	raised by one hundred ten mills of the district's 2012 general fund levy,				
15		whic	chever is less ;				
16	d. b.	An a	amount equal to that raised by the district's 2012 long-distance learning and				
17		edu	cational technology2016 miscellaneous fund levy;				
18	e. <u>c.</u>	An a	amount equal to that raised by the district's 2012 alternative education				
19		prog	gram2016 special reserve fund levy;				
20	<u>d.</u>	An a	amount equal to that raised by the district's 2016 tuition fund levy; and				
21	f. <u>e.</u>	An a	amount equal to:				
22		(1)	Seventy-five percent of all revenue received by the school district and				
23			reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial				
24			accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of				
25			public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;				
26		(2)	Seventy-five percent of all mineral revenue received by the school district				
27			through direct allocation from the state treasurer and not reported under				
28			code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and				
29			reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction				
30			in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;				

1 Seventy-five percent of all tuition received by the school district and (3) 2 reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district financial 3 accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of 4 public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08, with the exception 5 of revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program 6 provided at a residential treatment facility and tuition received for the 7 provision of an adult farm management program; 8 (4) Seventy-five percent of all revenue received by the school district from 9 payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission of electric 10 power; 11 Seventy-five percent of all revenue received by the school district from 12 payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from sources other than 13 coal: 14 All revenue received by the school district from mobile home taxes: 15 (7) Seventy-five percent of all revenue received by the school district from the 16 leasing of land acquired by the United States for which compensation is 17 allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c)(3); 18 (8) All telecommunications tax revenue received by the school district; and 19 All revenue received by the school district from payments in lieu of taxes (9) 20 and state reimbursement of the homestead credit and disabled veterans 21 credit. 22 2. The superintendent shall divide the district's total baseline funding by the district's 23 2012-13 weighted student units in order to determine the district's baseline funding per-24 weighted student unit. 25 3. In 2015-162017-18, the superintendent shall multiply the district's weighted 26 student units by nine thousand three hundred sixty-fivesix hundred forty-six 27 dollars. 28 (1) The superintendent shall adjust the product to ensure that the product is at 29 least equal to the greater of:

1				(a)	One hundred six percent of the district's baseline funding per
2					weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by
3					the district's 2013-14 weighted student units; or
4				(b)	One hundred percent of the district's baseline funding as established
5					in subsection 1.
6			(2)	The	superintendent shall also adjust the product to ensure that the product
7				does	s not exceed one hundred thirty percent of the district's baseline funding
8				per \	weighted student unit multiplied by the district's 2013-14 weighted
9				stud	ent units, as established in subsection 2.
10		b.	In 2	016-1	72018-19, the superintendent shall multiply the district's weighted
11			stud	dent u	nits by nine thousand six hundred forty-sixnine hundred thirty-five
12			doll	ars.	
13			(1)	The	superintendent shall adjust the product to ensure that the product is at-
14				leas	t equal to the greater of:
15				(a)	One hundred eight percent of the district's baseline funding per-
16					weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by
17					the district's 2014-15 weighted student units; or
18				(b)	One hundred percent of the district's baseline funding as established
19					in subsection 1.
20			(2)	The	superintendent shall also adjust the product to ensure that the product
21				does	s not exceed one hundred forty percent of the district's baseline funding
22				per \	weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the
23				distr	rict's 2014-15 weighted student units.
24	4 <u>.3.</u>	Afte	er det	ermini	ing the product in accordance with subsection 32 , the superintendent of
25		pul	olic ins	structi	on shall:
26		a.	Sub	tract <u>/</u>	Add an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of
27			the	schoo	ol district, provided that after 2013, the amount in dollars subtracted for-
28			pur	oses	of this subdivision may not exceed the previous year's amount in-
29			doll	ars s u	btracted for purposes of this subdivision by more than twelve
30			per	cent th	e amount determined under subdivisions a through d of subsection 1;
31			and		

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- 1 Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenues listed in 2 paragraphs 1 through 5, and 7 of subdivision fe of subsection 1 and one hundred 3 percent of all revenues listed in paragraphs 6, 8, and 9 of subdivision fe of 4 subsection 1. 5 5.4. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 43 is the 6 amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory 7 requirements or limitations. 8 SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-35.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is 9 amended and reenacted as follows: 10 15.1-27-35.3. Payments to school districts - Unobligated general fund balance. 11 a. The superintendent of public instruction shall determine the amount of payments due 12 a school district and shall subtract from that the amount by which the unobligated 13 general fund balance of the district on the preceding June thirtieth is in excess of forty 14 percent of its actual expenditures, plus twenty thousand dollars. 15 b.2. Beginning July 1, 2017, the superintendent of public instruction shall determine the 16 amount of payments due to a school district and shall subtract from that the amount by 17 which the unobligated general fund balance of the district on the preceding June 18 thirtieth is in excess of thirty-five percent of its actual expenditures, plus twenty 19 thousand dollars. 20 For purposes of this section, a district's unobligated general fund balance includes all-21 moneys in the district's miscellaneous fund, as established under section 57-15-14.2. 22 SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-29-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is 23 amended and reenacted as follows: 24 15.1-29-15. LevyFunding for tuition payments. 25 If the board of a school district approves tuition payments for students in grades seven 26 through twelve or if the board is required to make tuition or tutoring payments under this 27 chapter, the board may levy an amount sufficientuse funding provided in accordance with 28 subdivision a of subsection 3 of section 15.1-27-04.1 to meet such the payments, pursuant to-29 section 57-15-14.2.
 - **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 21-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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1 The governing body of any public school district may also, by resolution adopted by a 2 two-thirds vote, may dedicate the tax levies as authorized by section 15.1-09-47, 3 15.1-09-49, 57-15-14, or 57-15-16 and may authorize and issue general obligation 4 bonds to be paid by these dedicated levies for the purpose of providing funds for the 5 purchase, construction, reconstruction, or repair of public school buildings or for the 6 construction or improvement of a project under section 15.1-36-02 or 15.1-36-03. The 7 initial resolution authorizing the tax levy dedication and general obligation bonds must 8 be published in the official newspaper of the school district, and any owner of taxable 9 property within the school district may, within sixty days after publication, file with the 10 business manager of the school district a protest against the adoption of the 11 resolution. Protests must be in writing and must describe the property that is the 12 subject of the protest. If the governing body finds the protests to have been signed by 13 the owners of taxable property having an assessed valuation equal to five percent or 14 more of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the school district, as 15 theretofore last finally equalized, all further proceedings under the initial resolution are 16 barred.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Subsection 11 of section 40-58-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11. As an alternative to the sale of bonds to be amortized with tax increments as provided in this section, the governing body of a municipality may, in its discretion, grant a total or partial tax exemption for the project in orderany project approved before January 1.

2017. to provide assistance to a project developer in a development or renewal area, pursuant to agreement with the municipality. However, if a developer of a development or renewal project receives a tax exemption for that project pursuant to this subsection, that project developer may not receive a tax exemption for that project under section 40-57.1-03, 40-57.1-04, 40-57.1-04.1, or 40-57.1-04.3. The amount of annual tax exemption under this subsection is limited to the tax increment as defined in this section as it applies to the development or renewal project and may extend for a period not to exceed fifteen years. In determining the total amount of the tax exemption to be authorized, the municipality shall give due consideration to the same elements as are involved in the sale of bonds to be amortized by tax increments. The

amount to be reimbursed, by tax exemption, to the project developer must be all or a portion of eligible public costs which have been paid by the project developer, plus interest on those costs at a rate not to exceed ten percent per annum. The amount of tax exemption must be an amount sufficient to reimburse the project operator for those eligible costs, amortized pursuant to the agreement between the project developer and the municipality.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 40-63-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-63-05. Property tax exemptions.

- 1. AFor a renaissance zone project approved before January 1, 2017, a municipality may grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation on single-family residential property, exclusive of the land on which it is situated, if the property was purchased or rehabilitated by an individual for the individual's primary place of residence as a zone project. An exemption granted under this subsection may not extend beyond five taxable years following the date of acquisition or completion of rehabilitation.
- 2. AFor a renaissance zone project approved before January 1, 2017, a municipality may grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation on buildings, structures, fixtures, and improvements purchased or rehabilitated as a zone project for any business or investment purpose. The state board of equalization may grant a partial or complete exemption from ad valorem taxation on public utility infrastructure rehabilitated as a zone project. An exemption under this subsection may not extend beyond five taxable years following the date of purchase or completion of rehabilitation.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Subsection 42 of section 57-02-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

42. a. NewFor taxable years before 2017, new single-family residential property, exclusive of the land on which it is situated, is exempt from assessment for the taxable year in which construction began and the next two taxable years, if the property remains owned by the builder, remains unoccupied, and all of the following conditions are met:

1			(1)	The governing body of the city, for property within city limits, or the			
2				governing body of the county, for property outside city limits, has approved			
3				the exemption of property under this subsection by resolution. A resolution			
4				adopted under this subsection may be rescinded or amended at any time.			
5				The governing body of the city or county may limit or impose conditions			
6				upon exemptions under this subsection, including limitations on the time			
7				during which an exemption is allowed.			
8			(2)	Special assessments and taxes on the property upon which the residence is			
9				situated are not delinquent.			
10		b.	A bu	uilder is eligible for exemption of no more than ten properties under this			
11			sub	section in a taxable year within each jurisdiction that has approved the			
12			exe	mption under this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "builder"			
13			inclu	udes an individual who builds that individual's own residence.			
14	SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is						
15	amended and reenacted as follows:						
16	57-15-01.1. Protection of taxpayers and taxing districts.						
17	Each taxing district, excluding a school district, may levy the lesser of the amount in dollars						
18	as certified in the budget of the governing body, or the amount in dollars as allowed in this						
19	9 section, subject to the following:						
20	1.	No	taxing	g district may levy more taxes expressed in dollars than the amounts allowed			
21		by 1	this se	ection.			
22	2.	For	purp	oses of this section:			
23		a.	"Ba	se year" means the taxing district's taxable year with the highest amount			
24			levie	ed in dollars in property taxes of the three taxable years immediately			
25			pred	ceding the budget year;			
26		b.	"Bu	dget year" means the taxing district's year for which the levy is being			
27			dete	ermined under this section;			
28		C.	"Ca	lculated mill rate" means the mill rate that results from dividing the base year			
29			taxe	es levied by the sum of the taxable value of the taxable property in the base			
30			yea	r plus the taxable value of the property exempt by local discretion or			
31			cha	ritable status, calculated in the same manner as the taxable property; and			

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- 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. For purposes of this subdivision, an expired temporary mill levy increase does not include a school district general fund mill-rate exceeding one hundred ten mills which has expired or has not received approval of electors for an extension under subsection 2 of section 57-64-03.
 - d. If the base year is a taxable year before 2013, reduced by the amount of state aid under chapter 15.1-27, which is determined by multiplying the budget year taxable valuation of the school district by the lesser of:
 - (1) The base year mill rate of the school district minus sixty mills; or
 - (2) Fifty mills.

- e. If the base year is a taxable year before 2016, the base year human services

 county levy in dollars must be reduced Reduced to the amount of the county

 social service board budget levy for the budget year as determined under section

 11-23-01 if the base year is a taxable year before 2016.
 - 4. 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.
 - 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:
 - Any irrepealable 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.
 - 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 undersection 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.
 - 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 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-14.2. School district levies - Required transfers.

1. For taxable years after 20132016, the board of a school district may levy a tax not exceeding the amount in dollars that the school district levied for the prior year, plus-

- twelve percent, up to a levy of seventy mills on the taxable valuation of the district, for any purpose related to the provision of educational services. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into the school district's general fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.
 - 2. For taxable years after 2013, the board of a school district may levy no more than twelve mills on the taxable valuation of the district, for miscellaneous purposes and expenses. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund known as the miscellaneous fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.
 - 3. The board of a school district may levy no more than three mills on the taxable valuation of the district for deposit into a special reserve fund, in accordance with chapter 57-19.
 - 4. The board of a school district may levy no more than the number of mills necessary, on the taxable valuation of the district, for the payment of tuition, in accordance with section 15.1-29-15. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund known as the tuition fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.
 - 5. Nothing in this section limits the board of a school district from levying:
 - a. Millsmills for a building fund, as permitted in sections 15.1-09-49 and 57-15-16;
 - b. Mills, mills necessary to pay principal and interest on the bonded debt of the district, including the mills necessary to pay principal and interest on any bonded debt incurred under section 57-15-17.1 before July 1, 2013, and mills necessary to pay principal and interest on any bonded debt incurred under section 57-15-14 before July 1, 2017.
 - On July 1, 2017, each school district shall transfer any moneys remaining in its
 miscellaneous fund, special reserve fund, and tuition fund to the general fund of the
 school district.
- SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Subsection 4 of section 57-15-17 of the North Dakota Century

 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 4. a. If collections from the taxes levied for the current budget and other income are insufficient to meet the requirements for general operating expenses, the board of a school district may transfer unobligated funds from the building fund into the general fund of the school district, provided the school district has issued certificates of indebtedness equal to fifty percent of the outstanding uncollected general fund property tax.
 - A board may not transfer funds from the building fund into the general fund for more than two years.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 57-19-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-19-01. School district - Establishment Discontinuation of special reserve fund Required transfers.

EachOn July 1, 2017, each school district in this state may establish and maintain ashall transfer to its general fund any moneys remaining in its special reserve fund, subject to the limitations in section 57-15-14.2. The balance of moneys in the fund may not exceed that which could be produced by a levy of fifteen mills in that district for that year.

SECTION 13. AMENDMENT. Section 57-20-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-20-07.1. County treasurer to mail real estate tax statement - Contents of statement.

On or before December twenty-sixth of each year, the county treasurer shall mail a real estate tax statement to the owner of each parcel of real property at the owner's last-known address. The form of the real estate tax statement to be used in every county must be prescribed and approved for use by the tax commissioner. The statement must be provided in a manner that allows the taxpayer to retain a printed record of the obligation for payment of taxes and special assessments as provided in the statement. If a parcel of real property is owned by more than one individual, the county treasurer shall send only one statement to one of the owners of that property. Additional copies of the tax statement will be sent to the other owners upon their request and the furnishing of their names and addresses to the county treasurer. The tax statement must:

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repealed.

December 31, 2016.

1 Include a dollar valuation of the true and full value as defined by law of the 2 property and the total mill levy applicable. 3 b. Include, or be accompanied by a separate sheet, with three columns showing, for 4 the taxable year to which the tax statement applies and the two immediately 5 preceding taxable years, the property tax levy in dollars against the parcel by the 6 county and school district and any city or township that levied taxes against the 7 parcel. 8 Provide information identifying the property tax savings provided by the state of C. 9 North Dakota. The tax statement must include a line item that is entitled 10 "legislative tax relief" and identifies the dollar amount of property tax savings-11 realized by the taxpayer under chapter 15.1-27 and under section 57-20-07.2. 12 For purposes of this subdivision, legislative tax relief is determined by multiplying-13 the taxable value for the taxable year for each parcel shown on the tax statement 14 by the number of mills of mill levy reduction grant under chapter 57-64 for the 15 2012 taxable year plus the number of mills determined by subtracting from the 16 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district in which the parcel is located the 17 lesser of: 18 (1) Fifty mills; or 19 The 2012 taxable year mill rate of the school district minus sixty mills. 20 Failure of an owner to receive a statement will not relieve that owner of liability, nor 21 extend the discount privilege past the February fifteenth deadline. 22 **SECTION 14. REPEAL.** Sections 15-39.1-28, 15.1-27-04.2, 15.1-27-20.2, 57-19-02, 23 57-19-03, 57-19-05, 57-19-09, 57-19-11, and 57-20-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code are

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act is effective for taxable years beginning after