

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 962

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2012

Introduced by Pahls, 31.

FOR AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend sections 77-382 and 77-2715.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to tax expenditure reporting; to name the Tax Rate Review Committee and provide for a report; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 77-382, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-382 (1) The department shall prepare a tax expenditure report describing ~~(1)~~ (a) the basic provisions of the Nebraska tax laws, ~~(2)~~ (b) the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the exemptions, deductions, exclusions, deferrals, credits, and preferential rates in effect on July 1 of each year and allowed under Nebraska's tax structure and in the property tax, and ~~(3)~~ (c) the elements which make up the tax base for state and local income, including income, sales and use, property, and miscellaneous taxes.

(2) The department shall review the major tax exemptions for which state general funds are used to reduce the impact of revenue lost due to a tax expenditure. The report shall indicate an estimate of the amount of the reduction in revenue resulting from the operation of all tax expenditures. The report shall list each tax expenditure relating to sales and use tax under the following categories:

(a) Agriculture, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Agricultural machinery; agricultural chemicals; seeds sold to commercial producers; water for irrigation and manufacturing; commercial artificial insemination; mineral oil as dust suppressant; animal grooming; oxygen for use in aquaculture; animal life whose products constitute food for human consumption; and grains;

(b) Business across state lines, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Property shipped out-of-state; fabrication labor for items to be shipped out-of-state; property to be transported out-of-state; property purchased in other states to be used in Nebraska; aircraft delivery to an out-of-state resident or business; state reciprocal agreements for industrial machinery; and property taxed in another state;

(c) Common carrier and logistics, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Railroad rolling stock and repair parts and services; common or contract carriers and repair parts and services; common or contract carrier accessories; and common or contract carrier safety equipment;

(d) Consumer goods, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Motor vehicles and motorboat trade-ins; merchandise trade-ins; certain medical equipment and medicine; newspapers; laundromats; telefloral deliveries; motor vehicle discounts for the disabled; and political campaign fundraisers;

(e) Energy, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Motor fuels; energy used in industry; energy used in agriculture; aviation fuel; and minerals, oil, and gas severed from real property;

(f) Food, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Food for home consumption; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; school lunches; meals sold by hospitals; meals sold by institutions at a flat rate; food for the elderly, handicapped, and Supplemental Security Income recipients; and meals sold by churches;

(g) General business, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Component and ingredient parts; manufacturing machinery; containers; film rentals; molds and dies; syndicated programming; intercompany sales; intercompany leases; sale of a business or farm machinery; and transfer of property in a change of business ownership;

(h) Lodging and shelter, which shall include a separate listing for the following item: Room rentals by certain institutions;

(i) Miscellaneous, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Cash discounts and coupons; separately stated finance charges; casual sales; lease-to-purchase agreements; and separately stated taxes;

(j) Nonprofits, governments, and exempt entities, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Purchases by political subdivisions of the state; purchases by churches and nonprofit colleges and medical facilities; purchasing agents for public real estate construction

improvements; contractor as purchasing agent for public agencies; Nebraska lottery; admissions to school events; sales on Native American Indian reservations; school-supporting fundraisers; fine art purchases by a museum; purchases by the Nebraska State Fair Board; purchases by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority and licensees of the State Racing Commission; purchases by the United States Government; public records; and sales by religious organizations;

(k) Recent sales tax expenditures, which shall include a separate listing for each sales tax expenditure created by statute or rule and regulation after the effective date of this act; and

(1) Telecommunications, which shall include a separate listing for the following items: Telecommunications access charges; prepaid calling arrangements; conference bridging services; and nonvoice data services.

(3) The report shall make recommendations relating to the elimination, in whole or in part, of particular tax expenditures or to the limiting of the duration of particular tax expenditures to a fixed number of years.

(4) It is the intent of the Legislature that nothing in the Tax Expenditure Reporting Act shall cause the valuation or assessment of any property exempt from taxation on the basis of its use exclusively for religious, educational, or charitable purposes.

Sec. 2. Section 77-2715.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-2715.01 (1) (a) Commencing in 1987 the Legislature shall set the rate for the income tax imposed by section 77-2715 and the rate of the sales tax imposed by subsection (1) of section 77-2703. The rate of the income tax set by the Legislature shall be considered the primary rate for establishing the tax rate schedules used to compute the tax.

(b) The Legislature shall set the rates of the sales tax and income tax so that the estimated funds available plus estimated receipts from the sales, use, income, and franchise taxes will be not less than three percent nor more than seven percent in excess of the appropriations and express obligations for the biennium for which the appropriations are made. The purpose of this subdivision is to insure that there shall be maintained in the state treasury an adequate General Fund balance, considering cash flow, to meet the appropriations and express obligations of the state.

(c) For purposes of this section, express obligation shall mean an obligation which has fiscal impact identifiable by a sum certain or by an established percentage or other determinative factor or factors.

(2) The Speaker of the Legislature and the chairpersons of the Legislature's Executive Board, Revenue Committee, and Appropriations Committee shall constitute a committee to be known as the Tax Rate Review Committee. The Tax Rate Review Committee shall meet with the Tax Commissioner within ten days after July 15 and November 15 of each year and shall determine whether the rates for sales tax and income tax should be changed. In making such determination they the committee shall recalculate the requirements pursuant to the formula set forth in subsection (1) of this section, taking into consideration the appropriations and express obligations for any session, all miscellaneous claims, deficiency bills, and all emergency appropriations. The committee shall prepare an annual report of its determinations under this section. The committee shall submit such report electronically to the Legislature and shall append the tax expenditure report required under section 77-382.

In the event it is determined by a majority vote of the committee that the rates must be changed as a result of a regular or special session or as a result of a change in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and amendments thereto, other provisions of the laws of the United States relating to federal income taxes, and the rules and regulations issued under such laws, they the committee shall petition the Governor to call a special session of the Legislature to make whatever rate changes may be necessary.

Sec. 3. Original sections 77-382 and 77-2715.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.