

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE BILL NO. 2040  
(Legislative Council)  
(Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

AN ACT to create and enact two new subsections to section 57-39.2-01 and a new section to chapter 57-39.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of telecommunications company and telecommunications service and to a sales and use tax exemption for equipment used in telecommunications infrastructure development; and to provide an expiration date.

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

**SECTION 1.** Two new subsections to section 57-39.2-01 of the North Dakota Century Code are created and enacted as follows:

"Telecommunications company" means a person engaged in the furnishing of telecommunications service within this state.

"Telecommunications service" means the electronic transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals to a point, or between or among points. The term includes such transmission, conveyance, or routing in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, code, or protocol of the content for purposes of transmission, conveyance, or routing without regard to whether the service is referred to as voice over internet protocol services or is classified by the federal communications commission as enhanced or value-added. The term does not include:

- a. Data processing and information services that allow data to be generated, acquired, stored, processed, or retrieved and delivered by an electronic transmission to a purchaser where the purchaser's primary purpose for the underlying transaction is the processed data or information;
- b. Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer's premises;
- c. Tangible personal property;
- d. Advertising, including directory advertising;
- e. Billing and collection services provided to third parties;
- f. Internet access service;
- g. Radio and television audio and video programming services, regardless of the medium, including the furnishing of transmission, conveyance, and routing of such services by the programming service provider. Radio and television audio and video programming services include cable service as defined in 47 U.S.C. 522(6) and audio and video programming services delivered by commercial mobile radio service providers, as defined in 47 CFR 20.3;
- h. Ancillary services; or
- i. Digital products delivered electronically, including software, music, video, reading materials, and ringtones.

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 57-39.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Sales tax exemption for equipment used in telecommunications infrastructure development.**

1. Gross receipts from sales of tangible personal property used to construct or expand telecommunications service infrastructure in this state are exempt from taxes under this chapter. To be exempt, the tangible personal property must be incorporated into telecommunications service infrastructure owned by a telecommunications company.
2. To qualify for exemption at the time of purchase, a telecommunications company must receive a certificate from the commissioner stating that the property qualifies for the exemption. If a certificate is not received before the purchase or the purchase is made by a contractor, subcontractor, or builder, the telecommunications company must apply to the commissioner for a refund of sales and use taxes paid for which the exemption is claimed under this section. Application for a refund must be made at the times and in the manner directed by the commissioner and must include sufficient information to permit the commissioner to verify the sales and use taxes paid and the exempt status of the sale or use.

**SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through June 30, 2011, and after that date is ineffective.

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President of the Senate

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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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2040.

Senate Vote:    Yeas    38        Nays    9        Absent    0

House Vote:    Yeas    88        Nays    0        Absent    6

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State