## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE February 10, 1981

The Senate Committee on Taxation was called to order by Chairman Keith Ashworth, at 2:28 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 1981, in Room 213 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada.

Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Keith Ashworth, Chairman Senator Norman D. Glaser, Vice Chairman Senator Don Ashworth Senator Virgil M. Getto Senator James N. Kosinski

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Floyd R. Lamb Senator William J. Raggio

#### **GUEST LEGISLATOR:**

Senator William H. Hernstadt

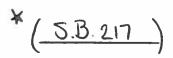
## STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Shorr, Deputy Fiscal Analyst Colleen Crum, Committee Secretary

The chairman said he would read Bill Draft Requests for possible committee introduction. If there were no objections the bills would be introduced.

There were no objections to the introduction of the following bills:

\*BDR 32-946: Revises method of appraising certain property and changes fiscal year for which property taxes are paid.



- BDR 32-750: Revises method of appraising certain property and changes fiscal year for which property taxes are paid.
- BDR 32-1274: Makes substantial revisions relating to property tax, sales tax and other taxes.

#### SENATE BILL NO. 162

Senator Hernstadt, who originally requested the bill, explained that the bill exempts sales tax on eye glasses, other opthalmic devices and prosthestic devices. Considering that the cost of artifical limbs can run as high as \$2000.00, a 3.5 percent sales tax amounts to a sizeable additional cost to the buyer. If the sales tax is increased to 6 percent as proposed by the governor, the impact would be even greater. This bill is consistent with the measure passed by the people of this state several years ago which took the sales tax off prescription drugs. He submitted statistics detailing states which exempt tax on opthalmic or prosthetic devices. (See Exhibit C.)

Senator Hernstadt submitted <u>BDR 32-386</u>, requested by Senator Wilbur Faiss, for consideration. <u>BDR 32-386</u> applies a broader sales tax exemption. It would exempt any auditory, orthopedic, opthalmic, ocular, and other prosthetic device or appliance for human use and articles in the nature of crutches, canes, braces and similar devices. (See Exhibit D.)

Senator Hernstadt stated he was amenable to amending the broader language contained in <u>BDR 32-386</u> into <u>Senate Bill No. 162</u>. He urged placing the issue on the June 2, 1981 ballot rather than the November 2, 1982 ballot.

Mr. Walter Benecke of the Burge-Lloyd Surgical Company in Reno spoke in support of the bill. He submitted statistics showing cities and counties which impose a retail sales tax. (See Exhibit E.) He felt the broad application in BDR 32-386 should be amended into Senate Bill No. 162.

Mr. Benecke questioned the wording which would appear on the ballot, as stated on page 3, lines 45-50 in <u>Senate Bill No. 162</u>.

· (S.B. 219) · (S.B. 218)

He interpreted the language as saying that a dispensing optician would have to dispense the prosthetic device.

The chairman explained the bill says the question must be presented in "substantially" the same form. It does not necessarily have to be worded exactly as it appears in the bill.

Senator Glaser asked why the language "dispensing opticians" was required. The chairman explained opticians dispense other items for the care of the eye than eye glasses.

Senator Don Ashworth felt it shouldn't matter who dispenses the eye glasses. The opthalmic device should be free from taxation, no matter who dispenses it. He suggesed striking the words "by dispensing opticians", on page three lines 48 and 49.

Mr. Dennis W. Danforth of Benson Opticians explained that presently opthalmologists and optometrists who dispense their own eyewear do not have to charge sales tax. Dispensing opticians are classified as retailers and must charge sales tax on eyewear.

Senator Kosinski noted that page 4, line 47 states a dispensing optician should not be considered a retailer.

Mr. Ed Shorr, Deputy Fiscal Analyst, explained <u>Senate Bill No. 162</u> takes the tax off at the retail level for dispensing opticians. The dispensing optician would not be required to charge sales tax, but he would be required to pay use tax when he purchases eyewear wholesale. <u>BDR 32-386</u> would remove the tax at both the retail and wholesale levels.

The chairman asked if <u>BDR 32-386</u> covered the entire problem better than <u>Senate Bill No. 162</u>. Mr. Benecke replied that it did because he preferred removing the tax at both the retail and wholesale levels.

Senator Kosinski asked what percentage of sales are covered by third party payers, such as insurance companies. Mr. Benecke replied 90 percent are covered by third party

payers if the Nevada Industrial Commission, Medicare, and Veterans Administration are included in the figures. Insurance companies are charged sales tax. The Nevada Industrial Commission, Medicare and Verterans Administration are not charged sales tax because they are part of a government entity. The Medicare patient is charged for the portion of the bill which is not covered by Medicare. This usually amounts to 40 percent of the bill.

Mr. Benecke noted Assemblyman Erik Beyer plans to submit a bill which would remove sales tax from ostomy appliances. He suggested including this exemption in Senate Bill No. 162.

Mr. Pat Hundley, a dispensing optician, spoke in favor of the concept but felt <u>BDR 32-386</u> covered the issue more thoroughly. He requested that opticians be specifically mentioned in <u>BDR 32-386</u> to make it clear that they are exempt from the tax.

Senator Glaser asked for the difference between an optometrist and an optician. Mr. Hundley stated opticians specialize in filling prescriptions received from the optometrist or eye specialist.

Mr. Orvis Reil, private citizen, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Daryl Capurro, representing the Nevada Motor Transport Association and the Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers Association, requested to speak on the broader issue of sales tax exemptions. He stated that the proposal to increase sales tax would impact the new and used auto retail industry by increasing the cost of automobiles between \$200 to \$400.

The chairman asked if Mr. Capurro was suggesting exempting retail auto sales from sales tax. Mr. Capurro replied he was proposing that sales tax on new or used retail sales of autos be exempt, only if the sales tax is increased. He noted Senate Bill No. 64 was defeated in the 60th Session and suggested that it be resurrected.

Mr. Len Hughes, from the hearing aid industry, spoke in favor of the bill. He stated exempting sales tax on these items would be beneficial in cost savings to the user.

# SENATE BILL NO. 114

The chairman explained this bill basically cleaned up language which was overlooked when the original legislation was adopted. The most substantial change occurred on page two, line 17, changing the date of assessment year from May 1 to May 25.

Senator Glaser moved that Senate Bill No. 114 be approved.

Senator Getto seconded the motion.

The motion carried. (Senators Lamb and Raggio were absent for the vote.)

The chairman closed the hearings on the two bills and asked for committee discussion on <a href="Senate Bill No. 162">Senate Bill No. 162</a>.

Senator Don Ashworth stated the committee should keep in mind that the largest percentage of the money spent on prosthetic and opthalmic devices was paid by a third party. Requests like this one for tax exemption will affect the entire tax package proposal. He suggested holding Senate Bill No. 162 until the tax package has been analyzed.

The chairman noted that many different industries, such as the auto and mobile home industries, may also ask to be exempted from the sales tax.

The chairman stated that unless there were any objections Senate Bill No. 162 would be held for future consideration. There were no objections and the bill was held.

In other business, Mr. Shorr presented a memo pertaining to Senate Bill No. 9 on the state payments to Carson City.

(See Exhibit F.) It was decided to discuss this issue at a future hearing when Senator Raggio was present.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Colleen Crum, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Reith Ashworth, Chairman

DATE: Veh 11, 1981

# SENATE AGENDA

# COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EXH	IB	IT	P

Committee	on <u>Taxation</u>			,	Room	213
Day T	uesday	_, Date	February	10 ,	Time	2 p.m.

- S. B. No. 114--Conforms date for performing certain duties respecting property tax allowance to date for setting tax rates.
- S. B. No. 162--Provides for submission to voters of amendments to Sales and Use Tax Act.

# ATTENDANCE ROSTER FORM

# COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

DATE: February 10, 1981

EXHIBIT B

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# BENSON OPTICAL CO., INC.

# RETAIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

# EXHIBIT C

SECTION:	RETAIL SALES	Date Originated 10-10
SUBJECT:	STATE SALES/USE TAX	Date Revised 9-01

We are required to charge and collect sales tax on our retail sales in some states. The following will give you the necessary information.

STATE	PERCENT OF TAX	ITEMS EXEMPT
Arizona	4%	
*Colorado		
Ft. Collins	3%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
All Other Branches	31/2%	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
District of Columbia	5%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
*	2,0	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Florida	4%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
		Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Idaho	3%	sens, hearing are, artificial Eye
Illinois	4%	
Iowa	3%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
	2,0	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Kansas	3%	bens, hearing Ard, Artificial Eye
Maryland	4%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
	.,,	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Michigan	496	bens, hearing and, artificial tye
Minnesota	4%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
	.,,	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Missouri	3%	nens, hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Nebraska	23%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
2	- 20	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Nevada	3%	beno, hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
New Jersey	5%	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
	370	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
New Mexico	4%	bens, hearing with Artificial Eye
North Dakota	4%	
Oklahoma	2%	
Pennsylvania	6%	Processing the Process Contact
	0,0	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
South Dakota	4%	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Committee	7/0	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
Utah -	ч%	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
Wisconsin	4% 4%	Decembration Provides Co.
11 27 C V 113 211	7/0	Prescription Eyeglasses, Contact
Wyoming	3%	Lens, Hearing Aid, Artificial Eye
11.2 CHITTE	<i>37</i> 0	

<sup>\*</sup> Colorado State Tax is 3%. Offices within the counties of Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Boulder and Douglass must also include an additional percent for county transportation tax. This additional tax would apply to all offices except Ft. Collins.

#### EXHIBIT D

SUMMARY--Provides for submission to voters of amendments to Sales and Use Tax Law. (3DR 32-386)

Fiscal Note: Effect on Local Government: Yes.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.

AN ACT relating to taxation; providing for the submission to the voters of the question whether the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955 should be amended to exempt prosthetic and similar devices; contingently creating similar exemptions from certain analogous taxes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. At the general election on November 2, 1982, a proposal must be submitted to the registered voters of this state to amend the Sales and Use Tax Act, which was enacted by the 47th session of the legislature of the State of Nevada and approved by the governor in 1955, and subsequently approved by the people of this state in the general election held on November 6, 1956.

- Sec. 2. At the time and in the manner provided by law, the secretary of state shall transmit the proposed act to the county clerks, and the county clerks shall cause it to be published and posted as provided by law.
- Sec. 3. The proclamation and notice to the voters given by the county clerks pursuant to law must be in substantially the following form:

Notice is hereby given that at the general election on November 2, 1982, a question will appear on the ballot for the adoption or rejection by the registered voters of the state of the following proposed act:

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An Act to provide revenue for the State of Nevada; providing for sales and use taxes; providing for the manner of collection; defining certain terms; providing penalties for violation, and other matters properly relating thereto," approved March 29, 1955, as

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 56.1 of the above-entitled act, being chapter 397, Statutes of Nevada 1955, as added by chapter

306, Statutes of Nevada 1969, at page 532, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 56.1. 1. [These] There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this act the gross receipts from sales and the storage, use or other consumption of medicines:

- (a) Prescribed for the treatment of a human being by a person authorized to prescribe medicines, and dispensed on a prescription filled by a registered pharmacist in accordance with law; [or]
- (b) Furnished by a licensed physician, dentist or [chiropodist] <u>modiatrist</u> to his own patient for the treatment of the patient; [or]
- (c) Furnished by a hospital for treatment of any person pursuant to the order of a licensed physician, dentist or [chiropodist; or] podiatrist;
- (d) Sold to a licensed physician, dentist, [chiropodist]

  odiatrist or hospital for the treatment of a human being
  [.] :
- (e) Any auditory, orthogodic, ophthalmic, ocular or other prosthetic device or appliance for human use; and
- (f) Articles which are in the nature of crutches, cames, braces and similar devices.
- 2. "Medicine" means any substance or preparation intended for use by external or internal application to the human body in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease or affliction of the human body and which is commonly recognized as a substance or preparation intended for such use.
  - "Medicine" does not include:
- (a) (Any auditory, prosthetic, cphthalmic or ocular device or appliance.
- (b)] Articles which are in the nature of splints, bandages, pads, compresses, supports, dressings [, instruments, crutches, canes, braces, devices or other mechanical, electronic, optical or physical equipment.

#### (c)] or instruments.

- (b) Any alcoholic beverage, except where the alcohol merely provides a solution in the ordinary preparation of a medicine as defined by subsection 2.
- 4. Insulin furnished by a registered pharmacist to a person for treatment of diabetes as directed by a physician shall be deemed to be dispensed on prescription within the meaning of this section.
- Sec. 2. This act shall become effective on January 1, 1983.
- Sec. 4. The ballot page assemblies and the paper ballots to be used in voting on the question must present the question in substantially the following form:

Shall the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955 be amended to exempt auditory, orthopedic, ophthalmic, ocular and other prosthetic devices from those taxes?

Yes..... No......

Sec. 5. The explanation of the question which must appear on each paper ballot and sample ballot and in every publication and posting of notice of the question must be in substantially the following form:

#### (Explanation of Question)

The proposed amendment to the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955 would exempt auditory, orthopedic, ophthalmic, ocular and other prosthetic devices from those taxes effective January 1, 1983. If this proposal is adopted, the legislature has provided that the Local School Support Tax Law and the City-County Relief Tax Law will be amended to provide the same exemptions. A "Yes" vote is to provide for the exemption on auditory, orthopedic, ophthalmic, ocular and other prosthetic devices. A "No" vote is a vote not to provide the exemption on auditory, orthopedic, ophthalmic, and other prosthetic devices.

- Sec. 6. If a majority of the votes cast on the question is yes, the amendment to the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955 shall become effective on January 1, 1983. If a majority of votes cast on the question is no, the amendments to the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955 shall not become effective.
- Sec. 7. All general election laws not inconsistent with this act are applicable.
- Sec. 8. Any informalities, omissions or defects in the content or making of the publications, proclamations or notices provided for in this act and by the general election laws under which this election is held must be so construed as not to invalidate the adoption of the act by a majority of the registered voters voting on the question if it can be ascertained with reasonable certainty from the official returns transmitted to the office of the secretary of state whether the proposed amendment was adopted or rejected by a majority of those registered voters.
  - Sec. 9. NRS 374.287 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 374.287 1. There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this [act] chapter the gross receipts from sales and the storage, use or other consumption of medicines:
- (a) Prescribed for the treatment of a human being by a person authorized to prescribe medicines, and dispensed on a prescription filled by a registered pharmacist in accordance with law; [or] .
- (b) Furnished by a licensed physician, dentist or podiatrist to his own patient for the treatment of the patient; [or]
- (c) Furnished by a hospital for treatment of any person pursuant to the order of a licensed physician, dentist or podiatrist; [or]
- (d) Sold to a licensed physician, dentist, podiatrist or hospital for the treatment of a human being [.]  $\pm$
- (e) Any auditory, orthopedic, ophthalmic, ocular or other prosthetic device or appliance for human use; and

# (f) Articles which are in the nature of crutches, cames, braces and similar devices.

- 2. "Medicine" means any substance or preparation intended for use by external or internal application to the human body in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease or affliction of the human body and which is commonly recognized as a substance or preparation intended for such use.
  - 3. "Medicine" does not include:
- (a) [Any auditory, prosthetic, ophthalmic or ocular device or appliance.
- (b)] Articles which are in the nature of splints, bandages. pads, compresses, supports, dressings [, instruments, crutches, canes, braces, devices or other mechanical, electronic, optical or physical equipment.

#### (c)] or instruments.

- (b) Any alcoholic beverage, except where the alcohol merely provides a solution in the ordinary preparation of a medicine as defined by subsection 2.
- 4. Insulin furnished by a registered pharmacist to a person for treatment of diabetes as directed by a physician small be deemed to be dispensed on prescription within the meaning of this section.
- Sec. 10. Sections 1 to 8, inclusive, of this act and this section shall become effective on July 1, 1981. Section 9, shall become effective on January 1, 1983, only if the question provided for in section 3 of this act is approved by the voters.

# BENSON OPTICAL CO., INC.

# RETAIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

# EXHIBIT E

SECTION:	RETAIL SALES	Date Originated	10-01-72	
SUBJECT:	CITY/COUNTY SALES TAX	Date Revised	9-01-74	

Some cities and counties that we are located in impose a sales tax on our retail sales. The following list shows the percentage rate to be charged.

CITY	STATE	% TAX	COUNTY	STATE	% TAX
Aurora*	Colorado	3%	Clark (Las Vegas &	Nevada	₹%
Boulder*	Colorado	2%	Henderson)		
Denver	Colorado	3%	Elko (Elko)	Nevada	₹%
Englewood	Colorado	3%	Washoe (Sparks)	Nevada	3%
Fort Collins*	Colorado	2%	Santa Fe (Santa Fe)	New Mexico	3%
Greeley*	Colorado	1%	Davis (Bountiful)	Utah	3%
Lakewood*	Colorado	2 <del>1/</del> %	Salt Lake (Salt Lake	Utah	₹ ₹ ₹ ₹ ₩
Littleton	Colorado	3%	City, Murray)		-
Loveland	Colorado	1%			
Westminster	Colorado	2%			
Geneva	Illinois	196			
Minattan	Kansas	<del>}</del> %			
Durath*	Minnesota	1%			
Lincoln*	Nebraska	1%			
Omaha*	Nebraska	1%			
Tulsa	Oklahoma	2%			
Aberdeen*	South Dakota	1%	*		
Madison*	South Dakota	1%			
Rapid City*	South Dakota	1 <del>3</del> %			
Sioux Falls*	South Dakota	1%			

<sup>\* -</sup> Rx's are exempt

#### STATE OF NEVADA

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January 28, 1981

EXHIBIT F

TO:

Senator Keith Ashworth, Chairman

Senate Committee on Taxation

883

FROM:

Ed Schorr, Deputy Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT:

S.B. 9--BDR 32-446

"Removes provision which allows counties to tax certain real estate belongings to the State of Nevada under

certain conditions."

This bill would repeal the provision allowing state payments to Carson City in lieu of property tax on state property. Currently the assessed value of state owned property which exceeds 17 percent of a county's total assessed value may be taxed. Since 1969 the amount of annual payment to Carson City has ranged from \$0 to \$220,000, and last year (FY 1979-80) no payment was made. No other county contains sufficient state land to qualify under this provision.

S.B. 48 which "Provides for reimbursement of Carson City for services rendered to state" is the companion measure to S.B. 9. It was introduced January 21, 1981, and referred to Senate Government Affairs.

ES:np

Page l

S. B. 114

# SENATE BILL NO. 114—COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

JANUARY 28, 1981

#### Referred to Committee on Taxation

SUMMARY—Conforms date for performing certain duties respecting property tax allowance to date for setting tax rates. (BDR 32-41)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

ENFLANATION-Matter in trailer is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the property tax; changing the date on which the county assessor must perform certain duties respecting the allowance for certain residential heating or cooling systems to conform to the date on which the Nevada tax commission meets to set the tax rates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.-

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. NRS 361.795 is hereby amended to read as follows: 361.795 1. As used in this section, "qualified system" means any system, method, construction, installation, machinery, equipment, device or appliance which is designed, constructed or installed in a residential building to heat or cool the building by using:

(a) Solar or wind energy; (b) Geothermal resources;

(c) Energy derived from conversion of solid wastes; or

(d) Water power, which conforms to standards established by regulation of the depart-

12. 2. The owner of a residential building which is heated or cooled with a qualified system is entitled to an allowance against the property tax

15 (a) During the current assessment year if the building is placed upon 16 the secured tax roll; or

17 (b) In the next following assessment year if the building is placed upon the unsecured tax roll, 18

in an amount equal to the difference between the tax on [such] the 19 property as its assessed value with the system and the tax on [such] the property at its assessed value without the system.

3. In no event may the allowance:

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(a) Exceed the amount of the accrued property tax paid by the claimant on the building or \$2,000, whichever is less; or

(b) Be granted in any assessment year in which the qualified system is

not actually used to heat or cool the building.

4. Only one owner of the building may file a claim for an assessment year. A claim may be filed with the county assessor of the county in which the building is located. The claim [shall] must be made under oath or affirmation and filed in such form and content, and accompanied by such proof, as the department may prescribe. The county assessor shall furnish the appropriate form to each claimant.

5. The claim [shall] must be filed between January 15 and March

11 15, inclusive:

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(a) Of each assessment year for which an allowance is claimed

against the tax on property placed upon the secured tax roll.

(b) Next preceding each assessment year for which an allowance is

claimed against the tax on property placed upon the unsecured tax roll.

6. By not later than May [1] 25 of the assessment year [,] or, if
May 25 falls on a Saturday or Sunday or on a legal holiday, on the Monday or Tuesday, respectively, next following, the county assessor shall provide the auditor of his county a statement showing the property description or parcel number, name and address of claimant, and the dollar allowances of each claim granted for the assessment year under this section with respect to property placed upon the secured tax roll. After the county auditor extends the secured tax roll, he shall adjust the roll to show the dollar allowances and the amounts of tax, if any, remaining due as a result of claims granted under this section. By not later than June 1 of the assessment year, the county auditor shall deliver the extended tax roll, so adjusted, to the ex officio tax receiver of the county.

7. The ex officio tax receiver of the county shall make such corresponding adjustments to the individual property tax bills, prepared from the secured tax rolls, as are necessary to notify the taxpayers of

the allowances granted them under this section.

8. After granting the claim of a taxpayer whose building is placed upon the unsecured tax roll, the county assessor shall determine the amount of the allowance to which the claimant is entitled under this section and shall credit the claimant's individual property tax account

9. The county assessor shall send to the department, for each assessment year, a statement showing the allowances granted pursuant to this section. Upon verification and audit of the allowances, the department shall authorize reimbursement to the county by the state

from money appropriated for the purpose.

10. Any person who willfully makes a materially false statement on a claim filed under this section or produces false proof, and as a result of [such] that false statement or false proof, a tax allowance is granted to a person not entitled to the allowance, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

SEC. 2. This act shall become effective upon passage and approval.