

Hearing Date: February 28, 2007 Committee On: Revenue

**Introducer(s):** (Mines) **Title:** Change inheritance tax rates

## **Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments Indefinitely Postponed

## Vote Results:

- 7 Yes Senators Burling, Cornett, Dierks, Langemeier, Preister, Raikes and White
- 0 No
- 0 Present, not voting
- 1 Absent Senator Janssen

<b>Proponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Senator Mick Mines	Introducer
Jerry Stilmock	National Federation of Independent Business
<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Dean T. Lux	Dodge County Board of Supervisors
Jerry McCallum	Madison County Commissioners, NACO
Neutral: None	Representing:

## Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 502 would amend three sections of the county inheritance tax to increase the exemption amounts for all three classes of beneficiaries. First, section 77-2004 would be amended to increase the exemption amount for close relatives (siblings and lineal relatives) from \$10,000 per beneficiary to \$100,000. The tax rate on close relatives would remain one percent.

For more distant relatives, the exemption amount would be increased from \$2,000 to \$25,000 (section 77-2005). LB 502 would also provide that all inheritances over \$25,000 be taxed at ten percent. Currently there are two brackets; inherited property with a value from \$2,000 - \$60,000 are taxed at six percent, and inheritances greater than \$60,000 are taxed at nine percent.

For non-relatives (section 77-2006), there is currently an exemption for inheritances with a value of \$500 or less. LB 502 would increase the exemption amount to \$25,000 and provide that inheritances in excess of \$25,000 be taxed at eighteen percent. Currently, there are five tax brackets as shown below:

Bracket	<u>Rate</u>
\$0 - \$5,000	6%
\$5 000 \$10 000	9%
\$5,000 - \$10,000	9%
\$10,000 - \$20,000	12%
\$20,000 - \$50,000	15%
Over \$50,000	18%

Section 4 would amend section 77-2040 to provide that these changes would be operative for property passing from decedents dying on or after January 1, 2007.

## **Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The Committee amendments reduce the proposed increase in the exemption amount for siblings and lineal descendents from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

Senator Ray Janssen, Chairperson