

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1102  
(Representative DeKrey)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 61-32-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to drainage permits.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-32-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**61-32-03. Permit to drain waters required - Penalty.** Any person, before draining ~~water from~~ a pond, slough, ~~or~~ lake, or ~~sheetwater~~, or any series thereof, which has a watershed area comprising eighty acres [32.37 hectares] or more, shall first secure a permit to do so. The permit application must be submitted to the state engineer. The state engineer shall refer the application to the water resource district or districts within which is found a majority of the watershed or drainage area of the pond, slough, ~~or~~ lake, or ~~sheetwater~~ for consideration and approval, but the state engineer may require that applications proposing drainage of statewide or interdistrict significance be returned to the state engineer for final approval. A permit may not be granted until an investigation discloses that the quantity of water which will be drained from the pond, slough, ~~or~~ lake, or ~~sheetwater~~, or any series thereof, will not flood or adversely affect downstream lands. If the investigation shows that the proposed drainage will flood or adversely affect lands of downstream landowners, the water resource board may not issue a permit until flowage easements are obtained. The flowage easements must be filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of the county or counties in which the lands are situated. An owner of land proposing to drain shall undertake and agree to pay the expenses incurred in making the required investigation. This section does not apply to the construction or maintenance of any existing or prospective drain constructed under the supervision of a state or federal agency, as determined by the state engineer.

Any person draining, or causing to be drained, ~~water of~~ a pond, slough, ~~or~~ lake, or ~~sheetwater~~, or any series thereof, which has a watershed area comprising eighty acres [32.37 hectares] or more, without first securing a permit to do so, as provided by this section, is liable for all damage sustained by any person caused by the draining, and is guilty of an infraction. ~~When temporary ponding of water occurs due to spring runoff or heavy rains, an area not in excess of eighty acres [32.37 hectares] may be drained without first securing a permit.~~ As used in this section, sheetwater means shallow water that floods land not normally subject to standing water. The state engineer may adopt rules for temporary permits for emergency drainage.

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1102.

House Vote:      Yeas    54      Nays    40      Absent    4

Senate Vote:    Yeas    47      Nays    0      Absent    2

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997,

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

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