

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Education Finance Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-35 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the inspection of schools by the state fire marshal or the state fire
3 marshal's designee; and to amend and reenact sections 15-35-01.1 and 18-01-02 of the North
4 Dakota Century Code, relating to required approval for school district construction projects and
5 the duties of the state fire marshal.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-35-01.1 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
8 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **15-35-01.1. Approval required for certain school district construction projects.**

10 1. Notwithstanding the powers and duties of school boards of public school districts
11 otherwise provided by law, all construction, purchase, repair, improvement,
12 renovation, or modernization of any school building or facility within a school
13 district estimated by the school boards to cost in excess of twenty-five thousand
14 dollars may not be commenced unless approved by the superintendent of public
15 instruction. No such construction, purchase, repair, improvement, renovation, or
16 modernization of any school building or facility may be approved unless the school
17 district proposing the project demonstrates the need, the educational utility of the
18 project, fiscal need, and the capacity to pay for the project under rules adopted by
19 the superintendent of public instruction pursuant to chapter 28-32 after receiving
20 input from the state board of public school education. In the event of disagreement
21 between the superintendent of public instruction and the school board applying for
22 approval of a construction project under this section, the school board may appeal
23 the application to the state board of public school education and the decision of the
24 state board approving or disapproving the application is final.

2. For purposes of this section, "facility" includes a parking lot, athletic complex, or any other improvement to real property owned by the school district.

3. This section does not apply to any construction, purchase, repair, improvement, renovation, or modernization required as part of a plan of correction approved by the state fire marshal under section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 15-35 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Inspection of schools - Submission of inspection report - Correction of deficiencies.

1. The state fire marshal or the state fire marshal's designee shall inspect each public and private elementary and secondary school in this state at least once every three years, prepare an inspection report, and provide copies of the report to the superintendent of the school district and the superintendent of public instruction.

2. a. If a deficiency is noted, the superintendent of the school district shall submit a plan of correction to the state fire marshal or the state fire marshal's designee and shall remedy the deficiency within a time period acceptable to the state fire marshal or the state fire marshal's designee.

b. If the report discloses an imminent fire hazard, the state fire marshal or the state fire marshal's designee shall immediately notify the school district board, the superintendent of the school district, and the superintendent of public instruction of the hazard. Upon the recommendation by the superintendent of public instruction for immediate closure, the school district board and the superintendent of the school district may immediately close some or all of the school, until the fire hazard is eliminated. In the case of a closure, the superintendent of the school district in which the public school is located, or the administrator of the private school shall cooperate with the superintendent of public instruction to make adequate arrangements for the interim education of all affected students.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 18-01-02 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1 **18-01-02. Duties of state fire marshal and deputy state fire marshals.** The state
2 fire marshal and deputy state fire marshals may enforce all the laws of the state providing for:
- 3 1. The prevention of fires.
- 4 2. The storage, sale, and use of combustibles and explosives.
- 5 3. The installation and maintenance of automatic or other fire alarms and fire
6 extinguishing equipment.
- 7 4. The means and adequacy of exits in case of fires from all public and private
8 elementary and secondary schools, from all public places, and from all other
9 places in which fifty or more persons congregate from time to time for any purpose.
- 10 5. The suppression of arson and the investigation of the cause and origin of fires.
- 11 6. The education of the citizens of North Dakota on the hazards of fire, through
12 organized programs.