

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1397

Introduced by

Representatives Carlson, Torgerson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-04 and a new section to  
2 chapter 15-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to public access on original grant  
3 lands and nongrant lands; and to amend and reenact section 15-07-20 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to nongrant land leases.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Lease of grant lands - Public access.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
9 lessee of grant lands under this chapter may not post those lands to prohibit public access or  
10 hunting on the lands. The lessee shall post signs in a conspicuous manner notifying the public  
11 that the land is public land open to public access and hunting. The board of university and  
12 school lands shall include a provision in each lease that the lessee may not post the leased  
13 land to prohibit hunting during any open hunting season.

14 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 created and enacted as follows:

16 **Lease of nongrant lands - Public access.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
17 a lessee of nongrant lands under this chapter may not post those lands to prohibit public access  
18 or hunting on the lands. The lessee shall post signs in a conspicuous manner notifying the  
19 public that the land is public land open to public access and hunting. The board of university  
20 and school lands shall include a provision in each lease that the lessee may not post the leased  
21 land to prohibit hunting during any open hunting season.

22 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-07-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **15-07-20. Leasing of nongrant lands.** The board of university and school lands may  
2 lease nongrant lands under ~~such~~ reasonable rules ~~and regulations~~ as it may establish. ~~Such~~  
3 ~~The rules and regulations~~ may provide for leasing with or without advertisement or competitive  
4 bidding. Leases made under ~~the provisions of~~ this section must be for cash only, and the rental  
5 must be collected in advance except that the board may collect a share of a conservation  
6 reserve program payment paid by the federal government. No lease of nongrant lands may  
7 extend for a period of more than four years, except pasture lands may be leased for a period of  
8 five years and any land accepted into the conservation reserve program may have a lease term  
9 that coincides with the term of the conservation reserve program contract if so provided in the  
10 lease. Leases may be renewed at the discretion of the board. When nongrant lands are leased  
11 without advertisement or competitive bidding, the board shall determine the rental by taking into  
12 consideration the nature and adaptability of the lands and the improvements thereon. Leases  
13 made under this section must include a provision that the lessee may not post the land to  
14 prohibit public access or hunting.