

Introduced by

Senators Fischer, Espegard, Heitkamp

Representatives Aarsvold, Carlson, Delmore

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for creation of the Lake Agassiz water authority.

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

3 **SECTION 1. Findings and declaration of policy.** The legislative assembly declares
4 that many areas and localities in eastern North Dakota do not enjoy adequate quantities of
5 high-quality drinking water; that other areas and localities in eastern North Dakota do not have
6 sufficient quantities of water to ensure a dependable, long-term supply; that greater economic
7 security and the protection of health and property, benefits the land and water resources of this
8 state; and that the promotion of the prosperity and general welfare of all of the people of this
9 state depend on the effective development and utilization of the land and water resources of
10 this state and necessitates and requires the exercise of the sovereign powers of this state and
11 concern a public purpose. To accomplish this public purpose, it is declared necessary that a
12 water authority to store and distribute water to eastern North Dakota be established to provide
13 for the supply and distribution of water to the people of eastern North Dakota for purposes,
14 including domestic, rural water, municipal, livestock, light industrial, and other uses, with
15 primary emphasis on domestic, rural water, and municipal uses; and provide for the future
16 economic welfare and prosperity of the people of this state, and particularly the people of
17 eastern North Dakota, by the bulk purchase of water from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy
18 District delivered by the Red River valley water supply project for beneficial and public uses.
19 In furtherance of this public purpose, the state water commission may provide for the issuance
20 of bonds in accordance with chapter 61-02 to finance the costs of any project to deliver water to
21 eastern North Dakota. This Act does not to abrogate or limit the rights, powers, duties, and
22 functions of the state water commission or state engineer, but is supplementary to those rights,
23 powers, duties, and functions.

1 **SECTION 2. Lake Agassiz water authority created.** The Lake Agassiz water
2 authority consists of that part of the state which is included within the boundaries of: Cavalier,
3 Pembina, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Griggs, Steele, Traill, Barnes, Cass, Ransom, Sargent,
4 and Richland Counties. The authority is a governmental agency, body politic and corporate
5 with the authority to exercise the power specified in this Act, or which may be reasonably
6 implied.

7 **SECTION 3. Lake Agassiz water authority - Board of directors.** The authority must
8 be governed by a board of directors selected as follows:

- 9 1. One member from a city with a population greater than forty thousand located east
10 of state highway 1 and north of state highway 200.
- 11 2. One member from a city with a population greater than forty thousand located east
12 of state highway 1 and south of state highway 200.
- 13 3. One member from a city with a population of five thousand but not more than forty
14 thousand located east of state highway 1.
- 15 4. One member from a city with a population of less than five thousand located east
16 of state highway 1.
- 17 5. Two members from water districts located east of state highway 1 and north of
18 state highway 200.
- 19 6. Two members from water districts located east of state highway 1 and south of
20 state highway 200.
- 21 7. One member from water districts located east of state highway 1.

22 City members must be selected by election by cities located east of state highway 1 during the
23 annual meeting of the North Dakota league of cities in every odd-numbered year beginning in
24 2003. Water district members must be selected by election by water districts located east of
25 state highway 1 during the annual meeting of the North Dakota rural water systems association
26 in every even-numbered year beginning in 2004. The initial selection of members must be at a
27 meeting held by the board of directors of the North Dakota league of cities and by the board of
28 directors of the North Dakota rural water systems association. A member may designate an
29 alternate to attend meetings and to act on the member's behalf. The board of directors may
30 designate associate members who are nonvoting members of the board. Notwithstanding the
31 provisions of this section, within two years of the first delivery of water by the Red River valley

1 water supply project, board members must be from a city or water district that has entered a
2 water service contract with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.

3 **SECTION 4. Board of directors - Officers - Meetings.** The board of directors may
4 adopt such rules and bylaws for the conduct of the business affairs of the authority as it
5 determines necessary, including the time and place of regular meetings of the board and a
6 dues structure for membership in the authority. The board shall elect from its members a
7 chairman and a vice chairman. The board shall also elect a secretary and a treasurer, which
8 offices may be held by the same individual, and either or both offices may be held by an
9 individual who is not a member of the board. Special meetings of the board may be called by
10 the secretary on order of the chairman or upon written request of a majority of the qualified
11 members of the board. Notice of a special meeting must be mailed to each member of the
12 board at least six days before the meeting, provided that a special meeting may be held at any
13 time when all members of the board are present or consent in writing. The Garrison Diversion
14 Conservancy District shall provide administrative, technical, and legal support for the authority.

15 **SECTION 5. Authority of the district.** The board of directors of the Lake Agassiz
16 water authority may:

- 17 1. Sue and be sued in the name of the authority.
- 18 2. Exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner provided by title 32 for the
19 purpose of acquiring and securing any rights, titles, interests, estates, or
20 easements necessary or proper to carry out the duties imposed by this Act, and
21 particularly to acquire the necessary rights in land for the construction of pipelines,
22 reservoirs, connections, valves, pumping installations, or other facilities for the
23 storage, transportation, or utilization of water and all other appurtenant facilities
24 used in connection with the authority, or any part thereof.
- 25 3. Accept funds, property, and services or other assistance, financial or otherwise,
26 from federal, state, and other public or private sources for the purpose of aiding
27 and promoting the construction, maintenance, and operation of the authority.
- 28 4. Cooperate and contract with the state, its agencies, or its political subdivisions in
29 research and investigation or other activities promoting the establishment,
30 construction, development, or operation of the authority.

- 1 5. Appoint and fix the compensation and reimbursement of expenses of such
2 employees as the board deems necessary to conduct the business and affairs of
3 the authority and to procure the services of engineers and other technical experts,
4 and to retain attorneys to assist, advise, and act for the authority in its proceedings.
- 5 6. Operate and manage the authority to distribute water throughout eastern North
6 Dakota within or outside the territorial boundaries of the authority.
- 7 7. Sell or exchange any and all real property purchased or acquired by the authority.
8 All money received from any such sale or exchange must be deposited to the
9 credit of the authority and may be used to pay expenses of the authority.
- 10 8. Enter a contract for a supply of water from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy
11 District and to sell, lease, and otherwise contract to furnish any such water for
12 beneficial use to persons or entities within or outside the authority.
- 13 9. Borrow money as provided in this Act.
- 14 10. Issue and sell bonds in an amount or amounts determined by the board, including
15 an amount or amounts for costs of issuance and financing, and any necessary
16 reserve funds, for the purpose of financing the cost of a project.
- 17 11. Refund and refinance its bonds from time to time as often as it is advantageous
18 and in the interest of the authority.
- 19 12. Pledge any and all income, profits, and revenues received by the authority in
20 connection with the operation, lease, sale, or other disposition of all or any part of a
21 project to secure the payment of bonds issued and sold to finance the project.
- 22 13. Pledge all or any part of any assessments levied under this Act to secure the
23 payment or redemption of any bonds issued in anticipation of the levy and
24 collection of the assessments.
- 25 14. Prescribe, revise, and collect rates, fees, tolls, or charges for the services, facilities,
26 or commodities furnished by the authority, and in anticipation of the collection of
27 the revenues of the authority, issue revenue bonds to finance all or part of the
28 costs of the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, betterment, or
29 extension of a project.
- 30 15. Pledge revenues of the authority to the punctual payment of principal and interest
31 on bonds. A pledge under this subsection applies to the revenues of

1 improvements, betterments, or extensions of the authority which may be
2 constructed or acquired after the issuance of bonds as well as the revenues of
3 existing systems, plants, works, instrumentalities, and properties of any part of the
4 authority improved, bettered, or extended.

5 16. Make all contracts, execute all instruments, and do all things necessary or
6 convenient in the exercise of its powers or in the performance of its covenants or
7 duties or in order to secure the payment of its bonds, but an encumbrance,
8 mortgage, or other pledge of property of the authority may not be created by any
9 such contract or instrument.

10 17. Accept from any authorized federal agency loans or grants for the planning,
11 construction, acquisition, lease, or other provision of a project, and to enter into
12 agreements with the agency respecting the loan or grants.

13 18. Contract debts and borrow money, pledge property of the authority for repayment
14 of indebtedness other than bonded indebtedness, and provide for payment of
15 debts and expenses of the authority.

16 Property of the authority may not be liable to be forfeited or taken in payment of any bonds
17 issued under this Act, and debt on the general credit of the authority may not be incurred in any
18 manner for payment of bonds under this Act.