

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2258

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; and to amend and
2 reenact section 61-24-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to compensation of the
3 members of the board of directors of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-24-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **61-24-04. Compensation of directors.** Each member of the board of directors of the
8 district is entitled to receive as compensation from the district ~~sixty-two dollars and fifty cents~~
9 ~~compensation~~ an amount determined by the board of directors not to exceed the amount
10 provided for members of the legislative council under section 54-35-10 per day and must be
11 reimbursed for the member's expenses in the amounts provided in sections 44-08-04 and
12 54-06-09 while attending meetings of the board or otherwise engaged in the official business of
13 the district.

14 **SECTION 2. Findings and declaration of policy.** The legislative assembly declares
15 that many areas and localities in eastern North Dakota do not enjoy adequate quantities of
16 high-quality drinking water; that other areas and localities in eastern North Dakota do not have
17 sufficient quantities of water to ensure a dependable, long-term supply; that greater economic
18 security and the protection of health and property benefits the land and water resources of this
19 state; and that the promotion of the prosperity and general welfare of all of the people of this
20 state depend on the effective development and utilization of the land and water resources of
21 this state and necessitates and requires the exercise of the sovereign powers of this state and
22 concern a public purpose. To accomplish this public purpose, it is declared necessary that a
23 water authority to store and distribute water to eastern North Dakota be established to provide
24 for the supply and distribution of water to the people of eastern North Dakota for purposes,

1 including domestic, rural water, municipal, livestock, light industrial, and other uses, with
2 primary emphasis on domestic, rural water, and municipal uses; and provide for the future
3 economic welfare and prosperity of the people of this state, and particularly the people of
4 eastern North Dakota, by the bulk purchase of water from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy
5 District delivered by the Red River valley water supply project for beneficial and public uses.

6 In furtherance of this public purpose, the state water commission may provide for the
7 issuance of bonds in accordance with chapter 61-02 to finance the costs of any project to
8 deliver water to eastern North Dakota. Sections 2 through 6 of this Act do not abrogate or limit
9 the rights, powers, duties, and functions of the state water commission or state engineer, but is
10 supplementary to those rights, powers, duties, and functions.

11 **SECTION 3. Lake Agassiz water authority created.** The Lake Agassiz water
12 authority consists of cities and water districts located in that part of the state which is included
13 within the boundaries of: Cavalier, Pembina, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Griggs, Steele,
14 Trail, Barnes, Cass, Ransom, Sargent, and Richland Counties and that pay dues to the
15 authority. The authority is a governmental agency, body politic and corporate with the authority
16 to exercise the power specified in sections 2 through 6 of this Act, or which may be reasonably
17 implied. Cities and water districts may pay dues to the authority as determined by the authority.

18 **SECTION 4. Lake Agassiz water authority - Board of directors.** The authority must
19 be governed by a board of directors selected as follows:

- 20 1. One member from a city with a population greater than forty thousand located east
21 of state highway 1 and north of state highway 200.
- 22 2. One member from a city with a population greater than forty thousand located east
23 of state highway 1 and south of state highway 200.
- 24 3. One member from a city with a population of five thousand but not more than forty
25 thousand located east of state highway 1.
- 26 4. One member from a city with a population of less than five thousand located east
27 of state highway 1.
- 28 5. Two members from water districts located east of state highway 1 and north of
29 state highway 200.
- 30 6. Two members from water districts located east of state highway 1 and south of
31 state highway 200.

1 7. One member from water districts located east of state highway 1.
2 City members must be selected for two-year terms by election by cities located east of state
3 highway 1 during the annual meeting of the North Dakota league of cities in every
4 odd-numbered year beginning in 2003. Water district members must be selected for two-year
5 terms by election by water districts located east of state highway 1 during the annual meeting of
6 the North Dakota rural water systems association in every even-numbered year beginning in
7 2004. The initial selection of members must be at a meeting held by the board of directors of
8 the North Dakota league of cities and by the board of directors of the North Dakota rural water
9 systems association. The initial city members shall serve until the annual meeting of the North
10 Dakota league of cities in 2003 and the initial water district members shall serve until the
11 annual meeting of the North Dakota rural water systems association in 2004. A member may
12 designate an alternate to attend meetings and to act on the member's behalf. The board of
13 directors may designate associate members who are nonvoting members of the board.
14 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, within two years of the first delivery of water by
15 the Red River valley water supply project, board members must be from a city or water district
16 that has entered a water service contract with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District.

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

29 **SECTION 6. Authority of the district.** The board of directors of the Lake Agassiz
30 water authority may:

31 1. Sue and be sued in the name of the authority.

- 1 2. Exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner provided by title 32 for the
2 purpose of acquiring and securing any rights, titles, interests, estates, or
3 easements necessary or proper to carry out the duties imposed by sections 2
4 through 6 of this Act, and particularly to acquire the necessary rights in land for the
5 construction of pipelines, reservoirs, connections, valves, pumping installations, or
6 other facilities for the storage, transportation, or utilization of water and all other
7 appurtenant facilities used in connection with the authority, or any part thereof.
- 8 3. Accept funds, property, and services or other assistance, financial or otherwise,
9 from federal, state, and other public or private sources for the purpose of aiding
10 and promoting the construction, maintenance, and operation of the authority.
- 11 4. Cooperate and contract with the state, its agencies, or its political subdivisions in
12 research and investigation or other activities promoting the establishment,
13 construction, development, or operation of the authority.
- 14 5. Appoint and fix the compensation and reimbursement of expenses of such
15 employees as the board deems necessary to conduct the business and affairs of
16 the authority and to procure the services of engineers and other technical experts,
17 and to retain attorneys to assist, advise, and act for the authority in its
18 proceedings.
- 19 6. Operate and manage the authority to distribute water throughout eastern North
20 Dakota within or outside the territorial boundaries of the authority.
- 21 7. Sell or exchange any and all real property purchased or acquired by the authority.
22 All money received from any such sale or exchange must be deposited to the
23 credit of the authority and may be used to pay expenses of the authority.
- 24 8. Enter a contract for a supply of water from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy
25 District and to sell, lease, and otherwise contract to furnish any such water for
26 beneficial use to persons or entities within or outside the authority.
- 27 9. Borrow money as provided in sections 2 through 6 of this Act.
- 28 10. Issue and sell bonds in an amount or amounts determined by the board, including
29 an amount or amounts for costs of issuance and financing, and any necessary
30 reserve funds, for the purpose of financing the cost of a project.

- 1 11. Refund and refinance its bonds from time to time as often as it is advantageous
2 and in the interest of the authority.
- 3 12. Pledge any and all income, profits, and revenues received by the authority in
4 connection with the operation, lease, sale, or other disposition of all or any part of
5 a project to secure the payment of bonds issued and sold to finance the project.
- 6 13. Prescribe, revise, and collect rates, fees, tolls, or charges for the services,
7 facilities, or commodities furnished by the authority, and in anticipation of the
8 collection of the revenues of the authority, issue revenue bonds to finance all or
9 part of the costs of the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement,
10 betterment, or extension of a project.
- 11 14. Pledge revenues of the authority to the punctual payment of principal and interest
12 on bonds. A pledge under this subsection applies to the revenues of
13 improvements, betterments, or extensions of the authority which may be
14 constructed or acquired after the issuance of bonds as well as the revenues of
15 existing systems, plants, works, instrumentalities, and properties of any part of the
16 authority improved, bettered, or extended.
- 17 15. Make all contracts, execute all instruments, and do all things necessary or
18 convenient in the exercise of its powers or in the performance of its covenants or
19 duties or in order to secure the payment of its bonds, but an encumbrance,
20 mortgage, or other pledge of property of the authority may not be created by any
21 such contract or instrument.
- 22 16. Accept from any authorized federal agency loans or grants for the planning,
23 construction, acquisition, lease, or other provision of a project, and to enter into
24 agreements with the agency respecting the loan or grants.
- 25 17. Contract debts and borrow money, pledge property of the authority for repayment
26 of indebtedness other than bonded indebtedness, and provide for payment of
27 debts and expenses of the authority.
- 28 Property of the authority may not be liable to be forfeited or taken in payment of any bonds
29 issued under sections 2 through 6 of this Act, and debt on the general credit of the authority
30 may not be incurred in any manner for payment of bonds under sections 2 through 6 of this Act.