

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1218

Introduced by

Representatives Skarphol, Grande, Rennerfeldt, Wald

Senators Lyson, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 38-08-08 and subsection 3 of
2 section 38-08-09.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to carrying or otherwise
3 financing nonparticipating owners in the development of oil and gas interests in spacing units
4 and plans of unitization.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 38-08-08 of the North Dakota
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 3. In addition to any costs and charges recoverable under subsections 1 and 2, if a
9 ~~lessee owning~~ the owner of an interest in a spacing unit elects not to participate in
10 the risk and cost of drilling a well thereon, the owner paying for the nonparticipating
11 ~~lessee's~~ owner's share of the drilling and operation of a well may recover from the
12 nonparticipating ~~lessee~~ owner a risk penalty for the risk involved in drilling the well.
13 The recovery of a risk penalty is as follows:

- 14 a. If the nonparticipating owner's interest in the spacing unit is derived from a
15 lease or other contract for development, the risk penalty is ~~one~~ two hundred
16 percent of the nonparticipating ~~lessee's~~ owner's share of the reasonable
17 actual costs of drilling and completing the well and may be recovered out of,
18 and only out of, production from the pooled spacing unit, as provided by
19 section 38-08-10, exclusive of any royalty or overriding royalty. ~~No risk~~
20 penalty may be assessed against an unleased mineral interest.
- 21 b. If the nonparticipating owner's interest in the spacing unit is not subject to a
22 lease or other contract for development, the risk penalty is one hundred
23 percent of the nonparticipating owner's share of the reasonable actual costs
24 of drilling and completing the well and may be recovered out of, and only out

1 of, production from the pooled spacing unit, as provided by section 38-08-10,
2 exclusive of any royalty provided for in subsection 1.

- 3 c. The owner paying for the nonparticipating owner's share of the drilling and
4 operation of a well may recover from the nonparticipating owner a risk penalty
5 for the risk involved in drilling and completing the well only if the paying owner
6 has made an unsuccessful, good-faith attempt to have the unleased
7 nonparticipating owner execute a lease or to have the leased nonparticipating
8 owner join in and participate in the risk and cost of drilling the well.

9 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 38-08-09.4 of the North Dakota
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 11 3. The manner in which the unit and the further development and operation of the unit
12 area shall or may be financed and the basis, terms, and conditions on which the
13 cost and expense thereof shall be apportioned among and assessed against the
14 tracts and interests made chargeable therewith, including a detailed accounting
15 procedure governing all charges and credits incident to such operations. Upon and
16 subject to such terms and conditions as to time and legal rate of interest as may be
17 fair to all concerned, reasonable provision must be made in the plan of unitization
18 for carrying or otherwise financing ~~lessees~~ owners who are unable to promptly
19 meet their financial obligations in connection with the unit and, in addition to the
20 unit expense assessed against each tract and chargeable to each owner, the
21 recovery of a risk penalty from each owner electing not to participate in the unit
22 expense. The recovery of the risk penalty is as follows:

- 23 a. If the nonparticipating owner's interest in the unit is derived from a lease or
24 other contract for development, the risk penalty is two hundred percent of the
25 nonparticipating owner's share of the unit expense and may be recovered out
26 of, and only out of, production from the unit, exclusive of any royalty or
27 overriding royalty.
- 28 b. If the nonparticipating owner's interest in the unit is not subject to a lease or
29 other contract for development, the penalty is one hundred percent of the
30 nonparticipating owner's share of the unit expense and may be recovered out

- 1 of, and only out of, production from the unit, exclusive of any royalty provided
2 for in section 38-08-09.13.
- 3 c. The owner paying for the nonparticipating owner's share of the unit expense
4 may recover from the nonparticipating owner a risk penalty for the risk
5 involved in the unit expense only if the paying owner has made an
6 unsuccessful, good-faith attempt to have the unleased nonparticipating owner
7 execute a lease or to have the leased nonparticipating owner join in and
8 participate in the risk of the unit expense.