

Fifty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1163

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor Committee

(At the request of the Department of Financial Institutions)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 6-01-17.1 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to a fee for an application to merge by two or more credit unions;  
3 to amend and reenact sections 6-06-05, 6-06-06.1, 6-06-08, 6-06-12, 6-06-13, 6-06-13.1,  
4 6-06-14, 6-06-19, 6-06-20, 6-06-21, 6-06-26, and 6-08-15 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
5 relating to the use of the phrases credit union and corporate central credit union, the issuance  
6 of certificates of deposit, reports by credit unions, interest rate determinations, credit union  
7 board membership, credit union organization, credit union volunteers, credit union credit  
8 committee meetings, credit union loan and borrowing limitations, credit union committee loans,  
9 credit union reserve funds, credit union dividends, and slander against financial institutions; and  
10 to repeal sections 6-06-21.1 and 6-06-39 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to credit  
11 union reserve funds and share scaledowns.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 6-01-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code  
14 is created and enacted as follows:

15 Application by two or more credit unions to merge, a fee of three hundred dollars.

16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **6-06-05. Use of credit union and corporate central credit union restricted -**  
19 **Forfeiture.** It is unlawful for any person, association, copartnership, or corporation, domestic or  
20 foreign, except corporations organized in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, to use  
21 the words "credit union", "corporate central credit union", or "central credit union" in their name  
22 or title, and any person, association, copartnership, or corporation violating this section shall  
23 forfeit to the state one hundred dollars for every day, or part thereof, during which such violation  
24 continues. The commissioner may recover such forfeited sums in a civil action, and shall

1 deposit any sums recovered or collected with the state treasurer. Only one "corporate central  
2 credit union" or "central credit union" may be organized under this chapter, and no other credit  
3 union may use the term "corporate central" or "central" as part of its name. The North Dakota  
4 credit union league, any chapter, affiliate, or subsidiary of this league, and any political action  
5 committee formed by credit unions organized under this chapter or federal law or a political  
6 action committee formed by the North Dakota credit union league are specifically exempt from  
7 this restriction.

8 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **6-06-06.1. Issuance of certificates of deposit - Penalty.** Certificates of deposit, as  
11 defined in section 41-03-04, may only be issued in this state by credit unions authorized to  
12 issue certificates of deposit, and which are organized to do business in this state under this  
13 chapter or under the Federal Credit Union Act, and whose accounts are insured by the national  
14 credit union administration, except that the requirement for insurance of accounts for ~~the North~~  
15 ~~Dakota~~ any "corporate central credit union" or "central credit union" may be waived under  
16 section 6-06-40, or as authorized under sections 6-03-02.2 and 7-02-08.1. Any person violating  
17 this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars.

18 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **6-06-08. State credit union board to supervise credit unions - Reports -**  
21 **Examinations - Fees.**

- 22 1. Credit unions and the permanent loan funds of credit unions, if any, are under the  
23 supervision of the commissioner. Credit unions shall report to the commissioner  
24 when called by the commissioner, and at least ~~twice~~ four times each year. The  
25 commissioner shall prescribe the forms for the reports. The reports must be  
26 received by the commissioner within thirty days of the call. At the discretion of the  
27 commissioner, a call may be complied with by submission of a ~~photocopy~~ copy of  
28 the call report ~~submitted to the national credit union administration, or a printout~~  
29 ~~retrieved from computer facilities in~~ e-mailed directly to the department of financial  
30 institutions ~~and connected to those of the national credit union administration.~~  
31 The commissioner may call for special reports from any credit union whenever in the

1 commissioner's judgment it is necessary to obtain complete knowledge of the  
2 condition of the credit union. Every credit union that fails to make and transmit any  
3 report required in pursuance of this section shall forfeit and pay to the state a  
4 penalty of two hundred dollars for delinquency. The commissioner may waive the  
5 penalty for reports filed late, not exceeding three business days beyond the due  
6 date required by this section.

- 7 2. Credit unions must be examined at least once each twenty-four months by the  
8 commissioner. In lieu of the examinations herein required, the commissioner may  
9 accept any examination made or obtained by the national credit union  
10 administration, and may in the commissioner's discretion conduct a joint  
11 examination with the national credit union administration.

- 12 3. If it is determined through an examination or otherwise that the credit union is  
13 violating the provisions of this chapter, or is insolvent, the state credit union board  
14 may serve notice on the credit union of its intention to revoke the charter. If such  
15 violations continue for a period of fifteen days after such notice, the board may  
16 revoke the charter and take possession of the business and property of such credit  
17 union, and shall maintain possession then until such time as it permits the  
18 reinstatement of the charter and the continuation of business by the credit union, or  
19 until its affairs finally are liquidated. The board may take similar action if any  
20 required report remains in arrears for more than fifteen days.

- 21 4. Every state credit union, including ~~North Dakota central~~ any "corporate central" or  
22 "corporate" credit union, placed under the jurisdiction and control of the state credit  
23 union board and the commissioner by the provisions of this title shall pay a yearly  
24 assessment. This assessment is to be determined by the state credit union board  
25 as necessary to fund that portion of the department's budget relating to the  
26 regulation of state-chartered credit unions. The assessment must be paid to the  
27 state treasurer within thirty days of each June thirtieth. Credit unions that have not  
28 been examined by the commissioner or the state credit union board for three years  
29 prior to any assessment date are not required to pay the assessment. The state  
30 treasurer shall report the payments of fees to the commissioner, and if any credit  
31 union is delinquent more than twenty days in making payment, the board may

make an order suspending the functions of the delinquent credit union until payment of the amount due. The commissioner may assess a penalty of five dollars for each day that the penalty is delinquent. The examination fee for ~~North Dakota central~~ any "corporate central" or "corporate" credit union shall be charged by the department at an hourly rate to be set by the commissioner, sufficient to cover all reasonable expenses of the department associated with the examination. All fees and penalties under this section must be paid to the state treasurer and deposited in the financial institutions regulatory fund.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**6-06-12. Directors - Duties and powers - Loan limitations.** The directors shall have general management of the credit union, and it is their duty particularly:

1. To act on applications for membership, unless a membership officer is appointed.
2. To determine interest rates on loans and deposits or designate a representative to determine these rates.
3. To fix, subject to the approval of the commissioner, the amount of surety bond which must be required of all officers and employees handling money.
4. To declare dividends.
5. To transmit to the members recommendations for changes in the bylaws.
6. To fill vacancies on the board of directors and on the credit committee who shall serve until their successors are chosen and qualified.
7. To determine the maximum individual shareholdings and the maximum aggregate liability to the credit union of any one borrower but such maximum aggregate liability allowed by the board may not exceed the amounts listed in the following schedule:

Total Assets	Loan Limit
0 to 70,000	10% with a limit of 5,000
70,001 to 100,000	6,000 limit
100,001 to 200,000	8,000 limit
200,001 to 300,000	10,000 limit
300,001 to 400,000	12,000 limit

1	400,001 to 500,000	14,000 limit
2	over 500,000	3% of assets

3           For purposes of this subsection, the aggregate liability of one borrower to a  
4           credit union includes the total direct, indirect, and contingent liabilities of the  
5           borrower, and the liabilities of separate borrowers for which the repayment of  
6           separate loans or extensions of credit is substantially from the same source. The  
7           aggregate liability of any one borrower to the credit union does not include any loan  
8           or portion of a loan guaranteed by the government, to the extent of the guarantee,  
9           nor any loan secured by shares in the credit union, to the extent of the security.

10           In all cases a credit union is allowed to loan up to and including two hundred  
11           dollars to any individual regardless of the amount of total assets in said credit  
12           union. Provided, that the foregoing provisions do not apply to the North Dakota  
13           central credit union.

- 14           8. To supervise and control investments other than loans to members.
- 15           9. To establish a schedule of fines for delinquency in the payment of principal or  
16           interest, which the board shall impose at its discretion.
- 17           10. The board may appoint membership officers authorized to approve applications for  
18           membership under such conditions as the board may prescribe; except that such  
19           membership officers so authorized shall submit to the board at each monthly  
20           meeting a list of approved or pending applications for membership received since  
21           the previous monthly meeting, together with such other related information as the  
22           bylaws or the board may require.
- 23           11. No immediate family member of the president, general manager, or chief executive  
24           officer of the credit union may serve on the board of directors of the credit union.

25           **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26           amended and reenacted as follows:

27           **6-06-13. Officers - Elections - Duties.** At their organization meeting and within thirty  
28           days following each annual meeting of the members, the directors shall elect from their own  
29           number an executive officer, who may be designated as chairman of the board or president; a  
30           vice chairman of the board or one or more vice presidents; a treasurer; and a secretary. The  
31           treasurer and the secretary may be the same individual. The persons so elected are the

1 executive officers of the corporation. The terms of the officers must be one year, or until their  
2 successors are chosen and have duly qualified. The duties of the officers must be prescribed in  
3 the bylaws. The board of directors may employ an officer in charge of operations whose title  
4 must be ~~either president or~~, chief executive officer, general manager, or ~~both~~ any combination  
5 thereof; or, in lieu thereof, the board of directors may designate the treasurer or an assistant  
6 treasurer to act as general manager and be in active charge of the affairs of the credit union.

7 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-13.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **6-06-13.1. Credit union volunteers - Immunity.** A person who serves as a volunteer,  
10 including a director, credit committee member, or supervisory committee member, of a federal  
11 or state-chartered credit union is immune from civil liability for any act or omission resulting in  
12 damage or injury if at the time of the act or omission all of the following are met:

- 13 1. The volunteer was acting in good faith and in the scope of that person's official  
14 duties as a volunteer of the credit union.
- 15 2. The act or omission did not constitute willful misconduct or gross negligence on the  
16 part of the volunteer.
- 17 3. The volunteer did not receive or expect to receive reimbursement for or payment of  
18 expenses in excess of ~~two~~ five thousand dollars per year for expenses actually  
19 incurred as a result of providing services as a volunteer of the credit union and did  
20 not receive or expect to receive compensation or anything in lieu of compensation  
21 as payment for services provided as a volunteer of the credit union.

22 This section does not grant immunity to any person causing damage as the result of the  
23 negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

24 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **6-06-14. Loans - How made - Security - Meetings and duties of credit committee -**  
27 **Preferential loans.** The credit committee has general supervision over all loans to members,  
28 and shall meet as often as may be necessary to perform its duties and at least once each  
29 month, except the foregoing provisions regarding monthly meetings do not apply to ~~the North~~  
30 ~~Dakota central~~ any "corporate central" or "corporate" credit union. Notice must be given to  
31 each member of the committee before any meeting is held. All applications for a loan must be

1 made on a form approved by the committee and must set forth the purpose for which the loan is  
2 desired, the security, if any, which is offered, and such other data as the committee may  
3 require. The maximum aggregate loans that may be made to a member or a group of members  
4 relying on a single income source without adequate security is ~~two thousand five hundred~~  
5 ~~dollars or one percent of the credit union's total share and deposit accounts, whichever is the~~  
6 ~~higher, but not to exceed fifty thousand dollars~~ subject to limits approved in loan policy by the  
7 board of directors of the credit union. Security under this section includes an assignment of  
8 shares or deposits, an endorsement made on the note by a responsible person, and such other  
9 security as the committee in its discretion may deem adequate. No loan may be made unless it  
10 is approved by a majority of the entire committee; except that the credit committee may appoint  
11 and delegate to one or more loan officers the power to approve loans up to the limit established  
12 by the credit committee, or in excess of the limit if the excess is fully secured by unpledged  
13 shares. An individual may not disburse funds of the credit union for any loan that has been  
14 approved by that individual in that individual's capacity as a loan officer. Not more than one  
15 member of the credit committee may be appointed as a loan officer. Every loan by a credit  
16 union to its directors, officers, managers, and committee members must be made on  
17 substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the  
18 time for comparable transactions with other persons and must be in strict conformity with the  
19 credit union's rules and regulations.

20 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **6-06-19. Authority to borrow - Limitation - Exception.** A credit union may borrow  
23 money from any source, but the total borrowings may not exceed twenty-five percent of the  
24 credit union's assets unless the commissioner authorizes a larger amount. The board or  
25 commissioner may suspend or restrict the borrowing powers of a credit union. The limitation on  
26 borrowing does not apply to a corporate central credit union which is limited to borrowing up to  
27 five times the corporate central credit union's capital, surplus, and reserve fund. For purposes  
28 of this section, capital, surplus, and reserve fund for a corporate central credit union includes  
29 statutory or regulatory reserves, reserves established for contingencies or any other purposes,  
30 undivided earnings, all sums on deposit by other credit unions which are ~~permanent~~  
31 membership capital base funds share deposits as defined by the bylaws of the corporate

1 central credit union, or any other funds being held by the corporate central credit union for the  
2 purpose of maintaining a capital base. A credit union must provide within one week written  
3 notification to the commissioner of the amount, terms, and source of all borrowings under this  
4 section. Written notification is not required if the borrowings are provided by the corporate  
5 central credit union and that information is available to the commissioner through electronic  
6 inquiry.

7 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **6-06-20. Borrowings of directors and committee members limited - Repayment of**  
10 **loans.** A director or member of any committee may not borrow from the credit union in which  
11 the director or member holds office more than ~~twenty one hundred~~ thousand dollars plus  
12 pledged shares and deposits less any loan balance therein, unless the application is approved  
13 by three-fourths of the other members of the board of directors. The director or member may  
14 guarantee or endorse paper for other borrowers. A borrower may repay the borrower's loan in  
15 whole or in part on any day that the office of the credit union is open for business.

16 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **6-06-21. Reserve fund.** Every credit union, including corporate central credit unions,  
19 shall maintain ~~a reserve fund in accordance with the rules of the national credit union~~  
20 ~~administration to be used as a reserve against bad loans and other losses. This fund may not~~  
21 ~~be distributed except upon prior approval of the state credit union board~~ an allowance for loan  
22 and lease loss account in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and rules  
23 of the national credit union administration. If it is found through an examination that the  
24 allowance for loan and lease loss account is not sufficient in disclosing the exposure to loan  
25 losses, then the credit union will increase the allowance for loan and lease loss account within  
26 thirty days as directed by the commissioner.

27 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-06-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **6-06-26. Dividends.** A credit union, ~~upon action by its~~ union's board of directors, may  
30 declare and pay a dividend ~~to be paid from the remaining~~ on shares from current or  
31 accumulated net earnings, or both, ~~in the absence of sufficient net earnings, as authorized by~~



~~the board or commissioner. The board of directors shall establish the dividend and the dividend period. The members may fix the maximum rate of dividends to be paid. The dividends must be paid from the net earnings of the credit union, after establishing a special reserve for delinquent loans as required by the board or commissioner. A credit union, upon action of its board of directors, may authorize an interest refund to members of record at the close of business the last day of any dividend period in proportion to the interest paid during that dividend period. Interest refunds may be made to borrowers only after provision has been made for a special reserve for delinquent loans if required by the board or commissioner but only after providing for required reserves, accrued and unpaid expenses, and established loan and lease losses. A credit union may pay a dividend on partial or full shares and may pay the dividend at differing levels and at differing intervals based on the type of share accounts owned by a member, the liquidation priority of share accounts, and the balances of a member's share accounts. A credit union may determine the rate and amount of a dividend before the end of the dividend period involved. A credit union, upon action of its board of directors, may authorize an interest refund to members of record at the close of business the last day of any dividend period in proportion to the interest paid during that dividend period. A credit union shall not pay a dividend if payment would result in the insolvency of the credit union.~~

**SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-08-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**6-08-15. Slander or libel of bank or credit union - Safe deposit, annuity, surety, or trust company - Aiding or abetting - Penalty - Liability for damages.** Any person who willfully and maliciously makes, circulates, or transmits to another or to others, any false statement, rumor, or suggestion, written, printed, or by word of mouth, which directly or by inference is derogatory to the financial condition, or which affects the solvency or financial standing, of any state or national bank, of any state or federal credit union, or of any annuity, safe deposit, surety, or trust company authorized to do business in this state, or who counsels, aids, procures, or induces another to start, transmit, or circulate any such false statement or rumor, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor, and in addition thereto is liable in damages to such association, or corporation, or the receiver thereof, to be recovered in a civil action brought for that purpose.

- 1           **SECTION 14. REPEAL.** Sections 6-06-21.1 and 6-06-39 of the North Dakota Century
- 2   Code are repealed.