

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Conference Committee Amendments  
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1291**

Introduced by

Representatives Brandenburg, Froelich, Kempenich, Nicholas

Senators Erbele, Taylor

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 23-25-11 and 42-04-01 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to animal feeding operations and livestock auction markets.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-25-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **23-25-11. Regulation of odors - Rules.**

- 7 1. In areas located within a city or the area over which a city has exercised  
8 extraterritorial zoning as defined in section 40-47-01.1, a person may not  
9 discharge into the ambient air any objectionable odorous air contaminant that  
10 measures seven odor concentration units or higher outside the property boundary  
11 where the discharge is occurring. If an agricultural operation as defined by section  
12 42-04-01 has been in operation for more than one year, as provided by section  
13 42-04-02, and the business or residence making the odor complaint was built or  
14 established after the agricultural operation was established, the measurement for  
15 compliance with the seven odor concentration units standard must be taken within  
16 one hundred feet [30.48 meters] of the subsequently established residence,  
17 church, school, business, or public building making the complaint rather than at the  
18 property boundary of the agricultural operation. The measurement may not be  
19 taken within five hundred feet [.15 kilometer] of the property boundary of the  
20 agricultural operation.
- 21 2. In areas located outside a city or outside the area over which a city has exercised  
22 extraterritorial zoning as defined in section 40-47-01.1, a person may not  
23 discharge into the ambient air any objectionable odorous air contaminant that

causes odors that measure seven odor concentration units or higher as measured at any of the following locations:

- a. Within one hundred feet [30.48 meters] of any residence, church, school, business, or public building, or within a campground or public park. An odor measurement may not be taken at the residence of the owner or operator of the source of the odor, or at any residence, church, school, business, or public building, or within a campground or public park, that is built or established within one-half mile [.80 kilometer] of the source of the odor after the source of the odor has been built or established; or
  - b. At any point located beyond one-half mile [.80 kilometer] from the source of the odor, except for property owned by the owner or operator of the source of the odor, or over which the owner or operator of the source of the odor has purchased an odor easement.
  - c. If a county or township has zoned or established a setback distance for an animal feeding operation which is greater than one-half mile [.80 kilometer] under either section 11-33-02 or 58-03-11, or if the setback distance under subsection 7 is greater than one-half mile [.80 kilometer], measurements for compliance with the seven odor concentration units standard must be taken at the setback distance rather than one-half mile [.80 kilometer] from the facility under subdivision b, except for any residence, church, school, business, public building, park, or campground within the setback distance which was built or established before the animal feeding operation was established, unless the animal feeding operation has obtained an odor easement from the preexisting facility.
3. An odor measurement may be taken only with a properly maintained scentometer, by an odor panel, or by another instrument or method approved by the state department of health, and only by inspectors certified by the department who have successfully completed a department-sponsored odor certification course and demonstrated the ability to distinguish various odor samples and concentrations. If a certified inspector measures a violation of this section, the department may send a certified letter of apparent noncompliance to the person causing the apparent

violation and may negotiate with the owner or operator for the establishment of an odor management plan and best management practices to address the apparent violation. The department shall give the owner or operator at least fifteen days to implement the odor management plan. If the odor problem persists, the department may proceed with an enforcement action provided at least two certified inspectors at the same time each measure a violation and then confirm the violation by a second odor measurement taken by each certified inspector, at least fifteen minutes, but no more than two hours, after the first measurement.

4. A person is exempt from this section while spreading or applying animal manure or other recycled agricultural material to land in accordance with a nutrient management plan approved by the state department of health. A person is exempt from this section while spreading or applying animal manure or other recycled agricultural material to land owned or leased by that person in accordance with rules adopted by the department. An owner or operator of a lagoon or waste storage pond permitted by the department is exempt from this section in the spring from the time when the cover of the permitted lagoon or pond begins to melt until fourteen days after all the ice cover on the lagoon or pond has completely melted. Notwithstanding these exemptions, all persons shall manage their property and systems to minimize the impact of odors on their neighbors.

5. This section does not apply to chemical compounds that can be individually measured by instruments, other than a scentometer, that have been designed and proven to measure the individual chemical or chemical compound, such as hydrogen sulfide, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, and for which the state department of health has established a specific limitation by rule.

6. For purposes of this section, a public park is a park established by the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state in the manner prescribed by law. For purposes of this section, a campground is a public or private area of land used exclusively for camping and open to the public for a fee on a regular or seasonal basis.

7. a. In a county that does not regulate the nature, scope, and location of an animal feeding operation under section 11-33-02, the department shall

1 require that any new animal feeding operation permitted under chapter 61-28  
2 be set back from any existing residence, church, school, business, public  
3 building, park, or campground.

4 (1) If there are fewer than three hundred animal units, there is no minimum  
5 setback requirement.

6 (2) If there are at least three hundred animal units but no more than one  
7 thousand animal units, the setback for any animal operation is one-half  
8 mile [.80 kilometer].

9 (3) If there are at least one thousand one animal units but no more than  
10 two thousand animal units, the setback for a hog operation is  
11 three-fourths mile [1.20 kilometers] and the setback for any other  
12 animal operation is one-half mile [.80 kilometer].

13 (4) If there are at least two thousand one animal units but no more than  
14 five thousand animal units, the setback for a hog operation is one mile  
15 [1.60 kilometers] and the setback for any other animal operation is  
16 three-fourths mile [1.20 kilometers].

17 (5) If there are five thousand one or more animal units, the setback for a  
18 hog operation is one and one-half miles [2.40 kilometers] and the  
19 setback for any other animal operation is one mile [1.60 kilometers].

20 b. The setbacks set forth in subdivision a do not apply if the owner or operator  
21 applying for the permit obtains an odor easement from the preexisting use  
22 that is closer.

23 c. For purposes of this section:

24 (1) One mature dairy cow, whether milking or dry, equals 1.33 animal  
25 units;

26 (2) One dairy cow, heifer or bull, other than an animal described in  
27 paragraph 1 equals 1.0 animal unit;

28 (3) One weaned beef animal, whether a calf, heifer, steer, or bull, equals  
29 0.75 animal unit;

30 (4) One cow-calf pair equals 1.0 animal unit;

- 1                   (5)   One swine weighing fifty-five pounds [24.948 kilograms] or more equals  
2                               0.4 animal unit;  
3                   (6)   One swine weighing less than fifty-five pounds [24.948 kilograms]  
4                               equals 0.1 animal unit;  
5                   (7)   One horse equals 2.0 animal units;  
6                   (8)   One sheep or lamb equals 0.1 animal unit;  
7                   (9)   One turkey equals 0.0182 animal unit;  
8                   (10)   One chicken, other than a laying hen, equals 0.008 animal unit;  
9                   (11)   One laying hen equals 0.012 animal unit;  
10                  (12)   One duck equals 0.033 animal unit; and  
11                  (13)   Any livestock not listed in paragraphs 1 through 12 equals 1.0 animal  
12                               unit per each one thousand pounds [453.59 kilograms] whether single  
13                               or combined animal weight.

14           8.   A permitted animal feeding operation may expand its permitted capacity by  
15                       twenty-five percent on one occasion without triggering a higher setback distance.

16           9.   Neither a county nor a township may regulate or through any means impose  
17                       restrictions or requirements on animal feeding operations or on other agricultural  
18                       operations except as permitted under sections 11-33-02 and 58-03-11.

19           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 42-04-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21           **42-04-01. Agricultural operation defined.** As used in this chapter, "agricultural  
22 operation" means the science and art of ~~production of~~ producing plants and animals useful to  
23 people, by a corporation or a limited liability company as allowed under chapter 10-06.1, or by a  
24 corporation or limited liability company, a partnership, or a proprietorship, and ~~including, to a~~  
25 ~~variable extent,~~ includes the preparation of these products for people's use and ~~their the~~  
26 disposal of these products by marketing or ~~otherwise, and other means.~~ The term includes  
27 livestock auction markets and horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, forestry, dairy, livestock,  
28 poultry, bee, and any and all forms of farm products, and farm production.