

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2326

Introduced by

Senators Tallackson, Klein

Representatives Headland, Nicholas, Pollert, Solberg

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 4-10-01, 4-10-06.1, and 4-10-06.3 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to seed potato certification requirements.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-10-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **4-10-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context ~~or subject matter~~ otherwise
7 requires:

- 8 1. "Agent" or "agents", when used to indicate or refer to the commissioner's agent or
9 agents, means the commissioner's deputies, inspectors, representatives, agents,
10 or other assistants as the case requires.
- 11 2. "Certified" means the potatoes were randomly inspected and found to meet the
12 rules and regulations of the state seed department.
- 13 3. "Closed container", or its plural form, means any container which shall be sewed,
14 tied, sealed, glued, nailed, or otherwise closed in a practical or secure manner for
15 handling.
- 16 4. "Commissioner" means the state seed commissioner.
- 17 5. "Inspection" means a random sample of potato plants or potato tubers were
18 examined according to the rules ~~and regulations~~ of the state seed department or
19 according to the instructions of the United States department of agriculture, food
20 safety and quality service.
- 21 6. "Label", and its various grammatical forms, when used as a noun means any tag,
22 label, brand, or device attached to, or written, stamped, printed, or stenciled on,
23 any container and carrying a term or terms setting forth the grade, condition,
24 quality, weight, variety, or class of the potatoes or other produce therein contained,

and when used as a verb means the act or the fact of the use of the aforesaid labeling items and methods in connection with potatoes or other produce, and when used as an adjective, its descriptive meaning must be interpreted from its use and meaning as a noun and verb as herein prescribed.

7. "Other produce" means natural products of the farm, garden, and orchard, exclusive of grain, true seeds, livestock, and livestock products.

8. ~~"Person" means both the singular and plural, as the case requires, and includes individuals, copartnerships, companies, societies, associations, firms, corporations, or limited liability companies.~~

9. "Potatoes" means what is commonly called and known as white or Irish potatoes.

~~40.~~ 9. "State seed department" means the seed department of the state of North Dakota.

10. "Variety" means a plant group within a single botanical taxon of the lowest-known rank which, without regard to whether the conditions for plant variety protection are met, can be defined by the expression of the characteristics resulting from a given genotype or combination of genotypes, distinguished from any other plant grouping by the expression of at least one characteristic, and considered as a unit with regard to the suitability of the plant grouping for being propagated unchanged. A variety may be represented by seed, transplants, plants, tubers, tissue culture, plantlets, and other matter.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 4-10-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-10-06.1. Seed potatoes - Certification requirement.

1. A person may not plant seed potatoes in lots of one acre [.405 hectare] or more, for the purpose of selling the crop to be harvested, unless the seed potatoes:
 - a. Have been certified by the commissioner as meeting the standards of this chapter;
 - b. Have been certified by another state or province having a similar seed potato quality assurance program; or
 - c. Have been field-inspected and approved by the commissioner.

2. ~~The commissioner shall permit a North Dakota grower to plant uncertified potatoes grown by the grower, if the grower is within twelve months of having the grower's own certified parent seed potatoes.~~

3. The commissioner shall permit a North Dakota potato grower to sell or otherwise transfer certified seed potatoes to another North Dakota potato grower. The recipient grower may plant the seed potatoes only for commercial production. The seed potatoes may not be recertified or retained for use in the following production cycle.

4. 3. If the commissioner has reason to believe that seed potatoes meeting the requirements of this section are not available in sufficient quantities to fulfill planting needs, the commissioner may permit the planting of seed potatoes with a higher disease content, provided that bacterial ring rot is not present and that a serious disease threat is not posed.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 4-10-06.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-10-06.3. Imported seed potatoes - Certification requirement. All seed potatoes imported into this state for planting purposes by any person from any state, territory, or country must be accompanied by ~~an~~:

1. a. An official grade certificate describing the grade of the potatoes; or a
b. A health certificate to certify that the lot of seed potatoes was field inspected by an official certifying agency and is similar to the standards established by this chapter for seed potatoes; and
2. Any other document or certificate required for the importation of seed potatoes by the state, province, territory, or country of origin, including test results issued by a laboratory approved by the United States department of agriculture's animal and plant health inspection service.