Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1128

Introduced by

Political Subdivisions Committee

(At the request of the Adjutant General)

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-17.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code,
- 2 relating to immunity and exemptions for actions in response to emergency management.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 37-17.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-1**

37-17.1-16. Immunity and exemption.

- 7 1. All functions hereunder and all other activities relating to emergency management 8 are hereby declared to be governmental functions. Neither the state nor any 9 county or city or its departments and agencies, or any disaster or emergency 10 worker, or any person, organization, or private entity providing goods or services 11 during an emergency, complying with or reasonably attempting to comply with this 12 chapter, or any executive order or disaster or emergency operational plan pursuant 13 to the provisions of this chapter, or pursuant to any ordinance relating to any 14 precautionary measures enacted by any county or city of the state, except in case 15 of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith, is liable for the death of or 16 injury to persons, or for damage to property, as a result of any such activity. This 17 section does not affect the right of any person to receive benefits to which that 18 person would otherwise be entitled under this chapter, or under workforce safety 19 and insurance law, or under any pension law, nor the right of any such person to 20 receive any benefits or compensation under any Act of Congress. 21 2. Any requirement for a license to practice any professional, mechanical, or other
- 22 Any requirement for a license to practice any professional, mechanical, or other 22 skill does not apply to any authorized disaster or emergency worker who, in the 23 course of performing their duties, practices such professional, mechanical, or other 24 skill during a disaster or emergency.

Sixty-first Legislative Assembly

1	<u>3.</u>	Neither the state nor any county or city or its departments or agencies, or any
2		disaster or emergency worker, including any association, fraternal organization,
3		private for-profit entity, not-for-profit entity, religious organization, or charitable
4		organization and the officers, directors, employees, and agents of such
5		associations, organizations, and entities, when such persons, associations,
6		organizations, or entities are working in coordination and under the direction of an
7		appropriate state agency, who voluntarily and without the expectation or receipt of
8		compensation provides services or goods in preparation for, anticipation of, or
9		during a time of emergency and in a place of emergency as declared by the
10		governor for the benefit of any natural person or a person's property to prevent or
11		minimize harm to such natural person or to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and
12		damage to such person's property resulting from biological, chemical, or nuclear
13		agents; terrorism; pandemics or epidemics of infectious disease; or catastrophic
14		acts of nature, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, or wave action, or any
15		other occurrence which warrants the declaration of a state emergency or disaster
16		by the governor is not civilly liable to any natural person receiving such assistance
17		as a result of any act or omission in rendering such service if such natural person,
18		association, organization, or entity was acting in good faith and unless the damage
19		or injury was caused by the willful or wanton negligence or misconduct of such
20		natural person, association, organization, or entity. Nothing in this section may be
21		construed to amend, repeal, alter, or affect in any manner any other provision of
22		law granting immunity or limiting liability. Nothing in this section may be construed
23		to abrogate the sovereign immunity of this state as to all actions executed by any
24		party under this section.