

March 5, 2009

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1496

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for an equine processing facility feasibility study and create an advisory committee; to provide an appropriation; and to provide for legislative intent.

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

**SECTION 1. EQUINE PROCESSING FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

1. During the 2009-10 interim, the department of commerce shall conduct an equine processing facility feasibility study. The study must begin with a review of federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines regarding equine processing and an evaluation of the potential for amendments and modifications. If an equine processing facility is determined to be permissible under existing laws, the study may proceed to:
  - a. Address the cost of constructing a new equine processing facility in this state;
  - b. Determine whether any existing structures could be converted to an equine processing facility and the cost of converting the structures;
  - c. Determine the nature and scope of existing and potential markets, both domestic and international, for equine meat and other byproducts of equine processing; and
  - d. Examine the potential for obtaining loans, grants, and other incentives in order to further the development of an equine processing facility.
2. The department shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.

**SECTION 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.** The department of commerce may appoint a five-member committee to provide advice and guidance to the department regarding the feasibility study provided for in section 1 of this Act. The department may use up to \$5,000 of the amount appropriated under section 3 of this Act to provide reimbursement for expenses, as allowed by law for state officers, to any member of the advisory committee who does not serve on the committee by virtue of the individual's public office or public employment.

**SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of conducting the equine processing facility feasibility study as provided under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011. The department may expend the moneys appropriated under this section only if matching funds are obtained on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

**SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UTILIZATION COMMISSION - CONSIDERATION OF GRANT PROPOSAL.** It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the agricultural products utilization commission

consider making a grant available under section 4-14.1-03.1 to assist with the requirement for matching funds as provided under section 3 of this Act."

Renumber accordingly