

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1232**

Introduced by

Representatives Monson, Headland, Kilichowski

Senators Miller, Olafson, Dotzenrod

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 24-06-28 and 24-06-29 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to obstructions and traffic safety hazards on section line roads.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 24-06-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **24-06-28. Obstruction of section lines prohibited - Exception - Certain fences not**  
7 **considered obstructions - Obstructions and traffic safety hazards - Penalty.**

8 1. A person may not place or cause to be placed any permanent obstruction, ~~stone, tree~~  
9 ~~or portion of a tree, or rubbish~~ within the vertical plane of thirty-three feet [10.06  
10 meters] of any section line or within the right of way of any highway, unless written  
11 permission is first secured from the board of county commissioners or the board of  
12 township supervisors, ~~as the case may be appropriate~~. The permission must be  
13 granted where the section line has been closed pursuant to section 24-07-03 or where  
14 the topography of the land along the section line is such that in the opinion of the  
15 board of county commissioners or board of township supervisors, as the case may be,  
16 the construction of a road on the section line is impracticable.

17 2. A person may not place or cause to be placed any obstruction or traffic safety hazard  
18 within the vertical plane of thirty-three feet [10.06 meters] of any section line or within  
19 the right of way of any highway, unless written permission is first secured from the  
20 board of county commissioners or board of township supervisors, as appropriate.

21 3. Subsection 1 may not be construed to prohibit construction of fences:

22 a. Along or across section lines which have been closed pursuant to section  
23 24-07-03 or which have not been opened because construction of a road is

1 impracticable due to the topography of the land along the section line, but such  
2 fences are subject to removal as provided in section 24-06-30.

3 b. Across section lines which have not been closed pursuant to section 24-07-03 if  
4 cattle guards are provided in accordance with chapter 24-10 where fences cross  
5 the section lines.

6 ~~3.4.~~ The construction of fences pursuant to subsection ~~23~~ may not be considered an  
7 obstruction of section lines and any person who damages any fence or who opens and  
8 fails to close any gate constructed under subsection ~~23~~ is guilty of an infraction.

9 5. Subsection 2 does not apply to a railroad company performing maintenance and  
10 repair work of railroad track, crossings, or other railroad facilities.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 24-06-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **24-06-29. Removal of permanent obstructions when section lines opened - Removal**  
14 **of obstructions and traffic safety hazards - Cost.**

15 1. If a person places or causes to be placed a ~~stone, tree or portion of a tree, or~~  
16 ~~rubbish~~permanent obstruction within the vertical plane of thirty-three feet [10.06  
17 meters] of any section line or within the right of way of any highway, the board of  
18 county commissioners or board of township supervisors, as ~~the case may~~  
19 ~~be appropriate~~, when a public highway is opened, shall notify the owners of adjacent  
20 property to remove the ~~stone, tree or portion of a tree, or rubbish~~permanent  
21 obstruction. Written notice by registered mail to the record owner of the adjacent  
22 property mailed to the owner's last-known address and to any other persons in  
23 possession of the property constitutes valid notice. If the owners fail to remove the  
24 ~~stone, tree or portion of a tree, or rubbish~~permanent obstruction within thirty days after  
25 the notice is mailed, the board of county commissioners or the board of township  
26 supervisors, as ~~the case may be appropriate~~, shall remove the ~~stone, tree or portion of~~  
27 ~~a tree, or rubbish~~permanent obstruction. The cost of removal must be entered the  
28 same as taxes against the adjacent property and paid in the same manner as taxes.

29 2. If a person places or causes to be placed an obstruction or traffic safety hazard within  
30 the vertical plane of thirty-three feet [10.06 meters] of any section line or within the  
31 right of way of any highway road surface, the board of county commissioners or board

1           of township supervisors, as appropriate, shall issue a written order to the person who  
2           caused the obstruction or traffic safety hazard to be placed there to remove the  
3           obstruction or traffic safety hazard. If the person notified fails to remove the obstruction  
4           or traffic safety hazard as soon as practical after the notice is received, the board of  
5           county commissioners or board of township supervisors, as appropriate, shall remove  
6           the obstruction or traffic safety hazard. The person responsible for placement of the  
7           obstruction or traffic safety hazard is responsible and may be billed for any costs  
8           incurred by the county or township for removal of the obstruction or traffic safety  
9           hazard.

10       3. Subsection 2 does not apply to railroad facilities.