

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1531  
with Senate Amendments**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1531**

Introduced by

Representatives Schreiber-Beck, Beltz, Fisher, Hagert, Kiefert, Monson

Senators Luick, Myrdal, Wanzek, Weber

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner to conduct an  
2 irrigation expansion study; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL FUND - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER -**  
5 **IRRIGATION EXPANSION STUDY - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE**  
6 **MANAGEMENT.**

7 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not  
8 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$75,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
9 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of contracting with a  
10 consultant to study the potential benefits of expanding irrigation throughout the state,  
11 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation  
12 in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

13 2. The consultant shall study:

14 a. The potential economic benefits of increased irrigation and improved water  
15 conveyance in rural communities of the state;

16 b. The ramifications of failing to construct and implement irrigation infrastructure as  
17 originally designed under the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 [Pub. L.  
18 78-534; 58 Stat. 887];

19 c. A comparison of the economic contribution between irrigated land and  
20 nonirrigated land;

- 1           d.   A comparison of the economic contribution between using subsurface water
- 2           management systems and land not using subsurface water management
- 3           systems; and
- 4           e.   Any other factors that would improve and expand irrigation in the state along with
- 5           any perceived benefits from expanded irrigation.
- 6       3.   The agriculture commissioner is exempt from the state purchasing practices under
- 7           chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for services to accomplish the study.
- 8       4.   Before July 1, 2026, the agriculture commissioner shall present the findings and
- 9           recommendations of the study, and any proposed legislation necessary to implement
- 10          the recommendations, to the legislative management.