

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1531
(Representatives Schreiber-Beck, Beltz, Fisher, Hagert, Kiefert, Monson)
(Senators Luick, Myrdal, Wanzek, Weber)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner to conduct an irrigation expansion study; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$75,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of contracting with a consultant to study the potential benefits of expanding irrigation throughout the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.
2. The consultant shall study:
 - a. The potential economic benefits of increased irrigation and improved water conveyance in rural communities of the state;
 - b. The ramifications of failing to construct and implement irrigation infrastructure as originally designed under the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 [Pub. L. 78-534; 58 Stat. 887];
 - c. A comparison of the economic contribution between irrigated land and nonirrigated land;
 - d. A comparison of the economic contribution between using subsurface water management systems and land not using subsurface water management systems; and
 - e. Any other factors that would improve and expand irrigation in the state along with any perceived benefits from expanded irrigation.
3. The agriculture commissioner is exempt from the state purchasing practices under chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for services to accomplish the study.
4. Before July 1, 2026, the agriculture commissioner shall present the findings and recommendations of the study, and any proposed legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the legislative management.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1531.

House Vote: Yeas 83 Nays 9 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 1 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State