

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the  
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

SENATE BILL NO. 2260  
(Senators Traynor, Thompson)  
(Representatives D. Johnson, Kunkel)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 61-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to removal, modification, or destruction of dangers in, on the bed of, or adjacent to a navigable lake; to amend and reenact section 57-28-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to tax deeds issued to the state; and to declare an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 61-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Removal, modification, or destruction of dangers in, on the bed of, or adjacent to a navigable lake.**

1. If the state engineer finds that buildings, structures, boat docks, debris, or other manmade objects, except a fence or corral, situated in, on the bed of, or adjacent to a lake that has been determined to be navigable by a court are, or are imminently likely to be, a menace to life or property or public health or safety, the state engineer shall issue an order to the person responsible for the object. The order must specify the nature and extent of the conditions, the action necessary to alleviate, avert, or minimize the danger, and a date by which that action must be taken. If the state engineer determines that an object covered by flood insurance is imminently likely to be a menace to life or property or public health or safety, the date specified in the order for action to be taken may not precede the date on which the person is eligible to receive flood insurance proceeds. The person responsible is the person who owns or has control of the property on which the object is located, or if the property is inundated with water, the person who owned or had control of the property immediately before it became inundated with water.
2. If the action is not taken by the date specified, but not less than twenty days from the date of service of the notice, the state engineer may cause the action to be taken. The state engineer may require the action to be taken in less than twenty days if an emergency exists.
3. The state engineer may bring an action to enforce an order of the state engineer, or if the state engineer causes the action to be taken, the state engineer may:
  - a. Assess the costs of taking such action, or such portion as the state engineer determines, against any property of the person responsible; or
  - b. Bring a civil action against the person responsible to recover the costs incurred in taking the action.

If the state engineer chooses to recover costs by assessing the cost against property of the person responsible and the property is insufficient to cover the costs incurred, the state engineer may bring a civil action to recover any costs not recovered through the assessment process. Any assessments levied under this section must be collected in the same manner as other real estate taxes are collected and paid. Any costs recovered must be deposited in the fund from which the expenses were paid.

4. A person who receives an order, within ten days of the date of service of the order, may demand, in writing, a hearing on the matter. The demand for a hearing must state with

particularity the issues, facts, and points of law to be presented at the hearing. If the state engineer determines the issues, facts, and law to be presented are well-founded and not frivolous, and the request for a hearing was not made merely to interpose delay, the state engineer shall set a hearing date without undue delay.

5. In the event of an emergency, the state engineer may immediately apply to the district court of the county in which the property is located for an injunction ordering the person responsible to modify, remove, abate, or otherwise eliminate the dangerous condition.
6. Any person aggrieved by the action of the state engineer may appeal the decision to the district court of the county in which the land is located in accordance with chapter 28-32. A hearing as provided for in this section is a prerequisite to an appeal unless the hearing was denied by the state engineer.
7. If the state engineer has issued an order under this section with regard to a building, structure, boat dock, debris, or other manmade object that the state engineer has determined is imminently likely to be a menace to life or property or public health or safety, and it later becomes known that the object would not have become a menace, a person who has taken action required by the state engineer's order is entitled to compensation in an amount equal to the value of any property destroyed and reasonable costs incurred as a result of complying with the state engineer's notice.
8. Any person claiming compensation for the destruction of property or costs incurred under subsection 7 must file a claim with the state engineer in the form and manner required by the state engineer. Unless the amount of compensation is agreed to between the claimant and the state engineer, the amount of compensation must be calculated in the same manner as compensation due for taking of property pursuant to the condemnation laws of this state. In determining compensation, the proceeds of any flood or other insurance or any other kind of compensatory payments must be subtracted from the amount paid.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-28-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**57-28-09. Tax deed to be issued.** After the expiration of the period of redemption for property that was sold to the county for taxes, and which has not been assigned or redeemed, the county auditor shall issue a tax deed to the county, or in cases in which the state engineer has made an assessment against the property under section 1 of this Act, the county auditor shall issue a tax deed to the state. The tax deed passes the property in fee to the county or the state, free from all encumbrances except installments of special assessments certified to the county auditor or which may become due after the service of the notice of expiration of the period of redemption and except for a homestead credit for special assessments lien provided for in section 57-02-08.3. While the county or the state holds title under a tax deed, it is not liable for the payment of any installments of special assessments which become due unless the board of county commissioners or the state has leased or contracted to sell the property. A deed issued under this section is prima facie evidence of the truth and regularity of all facts and proceedings before the execution of the deed.

**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2260 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas          46              Nays          0              Absent        3

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas          88              Nays          4              Absent        5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997,  
at \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State