

Fifty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Natural Resources Committee

(At the request of the State Engineer)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 11-33.2, a new subsection to  
2 section 61-16.2-02, and a new section to chapter 61-16.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
3 relating to identifying the floodplain on plats, definition of community, and state engineer review  
4 of uses in floodways; to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 11-33-03, subsection 2 of  
5 section 40-47-03, subsection 11 of section 40-50.1-01, sections 58-03-12, 61-16.2-04,  
6 61-16.2-08, and 61-16.2-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to emergency  
7 management, identifying floodplain on plats, delineation of the floodway for lakes, elevation of  
8 structure in the floodway, and mandatory community participation in the flood insurance  
9 program; and to provide an effective date.

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

11 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 11-33-03 of the North Dakota  
12 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13 2. ~~To secure safety from fire, flood, and other dangers~~ provide for emergency  
14 management. "Emergency management" means a comprehensive integrated  
15 system at all levels of government and in the private sector which provides for the  
16 development and maintenance of an effective capability to mitigate, prepare for,  
17 respond to, and recover from known and unforeseen hazards or situations, caused  
18 by an act of nature or man, which may threaten, injure, damage, or destroy lives,  
19 property, or our environment.

20 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 11-33.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 created and enacted as follows:

22 **Contents of plat - Location and elevation of lakes, rivers, or streams - Notification**  
23 **of floodplain.** Whenever land, subject to regulation under this chapter, abutting upon any  
24 lake, river, or stream is subdivided, the subdivider must show on the plat or other document

1 containing the subdivision a contour line denoting the present shoreline, water elevation, and  
2 the date of the survey. If any part of a plat or other document lies within the one hundred year  
3 floodplain of a lake, river, or stream as designated by the state engineer or a federal agency,  
4 the mean sea level elevation of that one hundred year flood must be denoted on the plat by  
5 numerals. Topographic contours at a two-foot [60.96-centimeter] contour interval referenced to  
6 mean sea level must be shown for the portion of the plat lying within the floodplain. All  
7 elevations must be referenced to a durable bench mark described on the plat with its location  
8 and elevation to the nearest hundredth of a foot [0.3048 centimeters], which must be given in  
9 mean sea level datum.

10 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 40-47-03 of the North Dakota  
11 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12 2. ~~Secure safety from fire, panic, and other dangers~~ Provide for emergency  
13 management. "Emergency management" means a comprehensive integrated  
14 system at all levels of government and in the private sector which provides for the  
15 development and maintenance of an effective capability to mitigate, prepare for,  
16 respond to, and recover from known and unforeseen hazards or situations, caused  
17 by an act of nature or man, which may threaten, injure, damage, or destroy lives,  
18 property, or our environment;

19 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 11 of section 40-50.1-01 of the 1997  
20 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21 11. Any plat which includes lands abutting upon any lake, river, or stream must show;  
22 ~~for the purpose of information only,~~ a contour line denoting the present shoreline,  
23 water elevation, and the date of survey. If any part of a plat lies within the one  
24 hundred year floodplain of a lake, river, or stream as designated by the state ~~water~~  
25 ~~commission~~ engineer or a federal ~~emergency management~~ agency, the mean sea  
26 level elevation of that one hundred year flood must be denoted on the plat by  
27 numerals. Topographic contours at a two-foot [60.96-centimeter] contour interval  
28 referenced to mean sea level must be shown for the portion of the plat lying within  
29 the floodplain. All elevations must be referenced to a durable bench mark  
30 described on the plat ~~together~~ with its location and elevation to the nearest

1           hundredth of a foot [0.3048 centimeters], which must be given in mean sea level  
2           datum.

3           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 58-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5           **58-03-12. Basis for township zoning regulations and restrictions.** The regulations  
6 and restrictions established in any township zoning district must be made in accordance with a  
7 comprehensive plan with reasonable consideration as to the character of such district, its  
8 peculiar suitability for particular uses, the normal growth of the municipality, and the various  
9 types of occupations, industries, and land uses within the area, and must be designed to  
10 facilitate traffic movement, encourage orderly growth and development of the municipality and  
11 adjacent areas, ~~and promote health, safety, and general welfare, and provide for emergency~~  
12 management. "Emergency management" means a comprehensive integrated system at all  
13 levels of government and in the private sector which provides for the development and  
14 maintenance of an effective capability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from  
15 known and unforeseen hazards or situations, caused by an act of nature or man, which may  
16 threaten, injure, damage, or destroy lives, property, or our environment. The comprehensive  
17 plan must be a statement in documented text setting forth explicit goals, objectives, policies,  
18 and standards of the jurisdiction to guide public and private development within its control.

19           **SECTION 6.** A new subsection to section 61-16.2-02 of the North Dakota Century  
20 Code is created and enacted as follows:

21           "Community" means any political subdivision that has the authority to zone.

22           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-16.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24           **61-16.2-04. Delineation of floodplains and floodways.** The state engineer shall  
25 assist communities in preparing and obtaining data and other necessary information for the  
26 delineation of floodplains and floodways. When the state engineer determines that sufficient  
27 technical information is available for the delineation of floodplains and floodways on a  
28 watercourse or lake, the state engineer shall then consult with the appropriate district and each  
29 affected community. The state engineer, the affected community, and the appropriate district  
30 shall consider flooding experiences, plans to avoid potential hazards, estimates of economic  
31 impacts of flooding on the community, both historical and prospective, and such other data as

1 the district and community may consider appropriate. Upon obtaining and developing the  
2 necessary information for delineation of the floodplain and floodway, the state engineer and the  
3 affected community shall notify the appropriate federal agency and request that such material  
4 be used to delineate the floodplain and floodway under the national flood insurance program  
5 [42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.]. The regulatory floodway must be able to carry the waters of the base  
6 flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation of the base flood more than  
7 one foot [30.48 centimeters] at any point.

8 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-16.2-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **61-16.2-08. Community standards - Permissible uses within flood fringe.**

- 11 1. Upon delineation of the floodplain or floodway under the national flood insurance  
12 program [42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.], the following uses shall be permitted within the  
13 flood fringe to the extent that they are not prohibited by any other ordinance,  
14 regulation, or statute:
- 15 ~~4.~~ a. Any use permitted in the designated floodway pursuant to section 61-16.2-06.  
16 ~~2.~~ b. Structures, including residential, commercial, and industrial structures;  
17 provided, that:
- 18 ~~a.~~ (1) Such structures meet the standards either adopted by the community  
19 or ~~under this chapter, whichever are more restrictive~~ if the community  
20 has not adopted standards, then the structures must meet the  
21 standards set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3.
- 22 ~~b.~~ (2) Residential structures are constructed on fill such that the lowest floor,  
23 including basements, is elevated to ~~or~~ at least one foot  
24 [30.48 centimeters] above the base flood level unless granted a  
25 residential floodproof exception under the national flood insurance  
26 program.
- 27 ~~e.~~ (3) Commercial and industrial structures are either constructed on fill as  
28 specified in ~~subdivision b~~ paragraph 2 or are adequately floodproofed  
29 up to an elevation no lower than one foot [30.48 centimeters] above the  
30 base flood level. Such floodproofing shall be in accordance with the  
31 standards either adopted by the community under the national flood

1 insurance program [42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.] or under this chapter,  
2 whichever are more restrictive.

3 2. a. Standards adopted by the community for structures in the flood fringe must  
4 meet or exceed the following:

5 (1) Residential structures must be constructed on fill so that the lowest  
6 floor, including basements, is elevated to or above the base flood level  
7 unless granted a residential floodproof exception under the national  
8 flood insurance program [Pub. L. 90-448; 82 Stat. 572; 42 U.S.C. 4001  
9 et seq.].

10 (2) Commercial and industrial structures must be constructed on fill as  
11 specified in subdivision a or must be adequately floodproofed up to an  
12 elevation no lower than the base flood level. The floodproofing must be  
13 in accordance with the standards adopted by the community under the  
14 national flood insurance program [Pub. L. 90-448; 82 Stat. 572; 42  
15 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.] or under this chapter, whichever are more  
16 restrictive.

17 b. Communities are encouraged to adopt standards that require residential  
18 structures to be constructed so that the lowest floor is elevated to at least one  
19 foot [30.48 centimeters] above the base flood level and commercial and  
20 industrial structures are constructed so that the lowest floor is elevated to at  
21 least one foot [30.48 centimeters] above the base flood level or the structures  
22 are adequately floodproofed up to an elevation no lower than one foot [30.48  
23 centimeters] above the base flood level.

24 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-16.2-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **61-16.2-13. Flood insurance –~~State policy.~~** It is the policy of this state that all All  
27 communities that have residential, commercial, or industrial structures in areas subject to  
28 excessive flooding, as determined by the state engineer, shall participate in the national flood  
29 insurance program [Pub. L. 90-448] and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, so  
30 that the people of North Dakota may have the opportunity to indemnify themselves from future  
31 flood losses through the purchase of this insurance. A community is not required to participate

1 in the program if all of the land under the jurisdiction of the community is enrolled as a result of  
2 another community's participation in the program.

3         **SECTION 10.** A new section to chapter 61-16.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 created and enacted as follows:

5         **State engineer review of development in mapped floodways - Exceptions.** Before  
6 issuing a permit or authorization to allow a use in a mapped regulatory floodway, the  
7 community responsible for permitting or authorizing such use shall submit to the state engineer  
8 for review all technical documentation, including a functioning hydraulic model and other  
9 information analyzing the proposed use and identifying its proposed impact. Upon the request  
10 of the state engineer, the community shall provide additional information needed by the state  
11 engineer for the state engineer's review. The state engineer shall complete the state  
12 engineer's review within thirty days after receiving the technical documentation. Upon  
13 completion of the state engineer's review, the state engineer shall notify the community whether  
14 the proposed use is in compliance with state and federal law. A community may apply to the  
15 state engineer for an exemption from this section. The state engineer may grant the exemption  
16 if the state engineer determines that the community has the technical hydraulic expertise to  
17 determine if the proposed use is in compliance with state and federal law.

18         **SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 8 of this Act becomes effective on  
19 August 1, 2000.