

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1341  
(Representatives Griffin, S. Meyer, Uglem)  
(Senators Behm, Erbele, Taylor)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 6-09.10-03 and 6-09.10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to persons eligible for mediation.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.10-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**6-09.10-03. North Dakota agricultural mediation service - Powers - Compensation and expenses - Fees.** The board shall meet at the call of the chair, as is necessary to fulfill its duties under this chapter. The agriculture commissioner shall administer the agricultural mediation service. The commissioner shall establish an agricultural mediation service to disseminate information to farmers concerning farm credit problems and to provide assistance to seek to resolve farm credit problems. The commissioner shall appoint an administrator of the agricultural mediation service. The commissioner shall hire staff, negotiators, and mediators who may mediate disputes involving farmers and others, ~~either of whom may request assistance~~ or other persons eligible for mediation with an agency of the United States department of agriculture. The board may charge the farmer and others a reasonable fee for any assistance, provided the fees are used to continue the service. Fees charged to ~~the farmer's creditors~~ mediation participants are limited to twenty-five dollars per hour, each, for the time spent in mediation sessions. The board shall adopt policies governing the negotiators, staff, and mediators hired under this section. Board members are entitled to receive ~~sixty-five~~ seventy-five dollars for each day of official service, as directed by the board. The board members are entitled to expenses as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09. The expenses provided under this section may be paid from any funds available in the home-quarter purchase fund.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**6-09.10-04. Request for assistance - Negotiation - Mediation.** Any farmer, creditor, ~~or other person~~ person dealing with a farmer, or other person eligible for mediation with an agency of the United States department of agriculture may request assistance from the administrator. Upon receipt of the request, and upon consent of ~~the farmer and the other person~~ all parties to mediation, the negotiator or mediator shall encourage and assist the ~~farmer and the other person to reach~~ parties in reaching a voluntary settlement.

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Speaker of the House

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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 Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1341.

House Vote:      Yeas    93      Nays    0      Absent    1

Senate Vote:    Yeas    41      Nays    0      Absent    6

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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