

HOUSE BILL NO. 1112

Introduced by

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

(At the request of the Adjutant General)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-17.1-22, subsection 1 of section 37-17.1-23,
2 and section 37-17.1-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the funding of state
3 disaster or emergency response and recovery.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **37-17.1-22. Disaster or emergency response and recovery costs.**

8 Whenever the governor declares a state of disaster or emergency in accordance with
9 section 37-17.1-05, or when the governor enters into an agreement with the federal government
10 following a disaster or emergency declared by the president of the United States, the director of
11 the division of homeland security shall determine and record the costs of the state and local
12 response and recovery operations in accordance with an agreement with the federal
13 government or, in accordance with procedures established by the governor in the case of a
14 state-declared disaster or emergency, and in accordance with procedures established by the
15 state emergency response plan. If the event has met the Stafford Act minimum for a presidential
16 disaster declaration and for which the request is denied, the governor shall make application to
17 the state emergency commission for a grant of funds in an amount equal to the response and
18 recovery costs of the state and fifty percent of the public infrastructure recovery costs above
19 statutorily maintained emergency funds for counties that exceeds twice the individual county
20 federal declaration eligibility threshold, limited to a maximum amount available per disaster of
21 one million dollars. Immediately following the response or recovery operations, or prior thereto if
22 determined necessary by the governor, the governor shall make application to the state
23 emergency commission for a grant of funds in an amount equal to the response and recovery
24 costs of the state. Notwithstanding other provisions of chapter 54-16, it must be conclusively

1 presumed upon receipt by the emergency commission of such application from the governor
2 that a disaster or emergency exists, and the commission immediately shall grant and direct the
3 transfer to the department of the governor's designated representative of an amount equal to
4 that certified in such application by the governor.

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 37-17.1-23 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 7 1. When approved by the emergency commission, the office of the adjutant general is
8 authorized to borrow from the Bank of North Dakota, to respond and recover from
9 state disasters if the event has met the Stafford Act minimum for a presidential
10 disaster declaration for which the request is denied, and to match federal funds under
11 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Emergency Assistance Act [Public Law 93-288, as
12 amended]. In addition to the principal repayment, the Bank of North Dakota shall
13 receive interest on the loan at a rate equal to other state agency borrowings. On
14 behalf of the state, the office of the adjutant general shall administer the disaster or
15 emergency recovery program according to state procedures based on federal laws or
16 regulations. After a county or group of counties have been declared a major disaster or
17 emergency area by the governor or president, the office of the adjutant general shall
18 submit a request to the emergency commission for:
- 19 a. Approval to make an application for a loan from the Bank of North Dakota;
 - 20 b. Approval for additional personnel required to perform the anticipated recovery
21 activities; and
 - 22 c. Authority to spend additional state and federal funds for the recovery program.

23 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **37-17.1-27. State disaster relief fund - Creation - Uses.**

26 There is created in the state treasury a state disaster relief fund. Moneys in the fund are to
27 be used subject to legislative appropriations and emergency commission and budget section
28 approval for providing the required state share of funding for expenses associated with
29 governor-declared or presidential-declared disasters in the state and for the purposes of
30 reimbursing costs under section 37-17.1-28. Any interest or other fund earnings must be
31 deposited in the fund.