

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2194

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter ~~15-02~~4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a post-production royalty oversight program; to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-44.4-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to procurement exemptions; and to provide an appropriation.

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter ~~15-02~~4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Post-production royalty oversight program.

1. The agriculture commissioner ~~of university and school lands, in cooperation with the industrial commission~~, shall establish a program providing technical assistance and support to ~~landowners~~ mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies relating to royalty payment issues.
2. The commissioner may contract for ombudsmen to be a resource for technical assistance and followup on royalty payment issues.
3. The program may provide technical education, support, and outreach on royalty payment related matters in coordination with other entities.
4. The commissioner may contract with local individuals, deemed trustworthy by the ~~landowners~~ mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies, to be ombudsmen. The commissioner is not subject to the provisions of chapter 54 - 44.4 when contracting for the services of ombudsmen.
5. The names of ~~landowners~~ mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies that receive assistance under the program are not subject to section 44 - 04 - 18 and section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota.
6. The commissioner shall submit expenses related to the implementation of the program to the industrial commission for reimbursement.

SECTION 2. A new subsection to section 54-44.4-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Contracts for ombudsmen by the agriculture commissioner, related to post-production royalty technical assistance under chapter 15-02.

SECTION ~~23~~. APPROPRIATION - ~~INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION~~
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION - ROYALTY OVERSIGHT PROGRAM. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the ~~industrial commission~~ ombudsman program fund for the purpose of implementing a post-production royalty oversight program ~~administered through the department of trust lands~~, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.