

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1332**

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Brandenburg, Grueneich, Headland, Ista, Lefor, O'Brien, K.  
Anderson

Senators Meyer, Myrdal, Patten, Thomas

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 4.1-01.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to a value-added agriculture facility incentive program; ~~and~~ to provide a transfer; and to  
3 provide an expiration date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **4.1-01.1-07. Agriculture diversification and development fund - Continuing**  
8 **appropriation.**

9 1. There is created in the state treasury the agriculture diversification and development  
10 fund. The fund consists of all moneys transferred to the fund by the legislative  
11 assembly, interest upon moneys in the fund, and payments of interest and principal on  
12 loans made from the fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the Bank of North  
13 Dakota on a continuing basis for loan disbursements and administrative costs  
14 pursuant to this section, and moneys in the fund are appropriated to the agriculture  
15 commissioner on a continuing basis for grants and value-added agriculture facility  
16 incentive funding pursuant to this section and section 4.1-01-27. The agriculture  
17 diversification and development committee shall designate the amount available from  
18 the fund for loans, interest rate buydowns, ~~and~~ grants, and value-added agriculture  
19 facility incentive funding.

- 1           2.   Loans, interest rate buydowns, or grants under subsections 3 and 4 may be issued  
2                   from the fund to support new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses that  
3                   demonstrate financial feasibility, enhance profitability for farmers and ranchers, create  
4                   jobs, and grow the state's economy. Grants under section 4.1-01-27 may be issued  
5                   from the fund for infrastructure improvements necessary for the development or  
6                   expansion of new or existing value-added agriculture businesses. Value-added  
7                   agriculture businesses include food production or processing facilities; feed or pet food  
8                   processing facilities; commodity processing facilities; agriculture product  
9                   manufacturers; and animal agriculture production facilities, including swine, poultry,  
10                  dairy, and feed lot production facilities.
- 11           3.   The Bank of North Dakota shall develop policies for loans and interest rate buydowns  
12                  from the fund in consultation with the agriculture diversification and development  
13                  committee. The Bank shall review loan applications. To be eligible for a loan under this  
14                  section, an entity shall agree to provide the Bank with information as requested. The  
15                  Bank may develop policies for loan participation with local financial institutions. The  
16                  Bank shall deposit in the fund all principal and interest paid on the outstanding loans.  
17                  The Bank may use a portion of the interest paid as a servicing fee to pay for  
18                  administrative costs, which may not exceed one-half of one percent of the amount of  
19                  the outstanding loans. The fund must be audited annually pursuant to section 6-09-29,  
20                  and the cost of the audit must be paid from the fund.
- 21           4.   The agricultural diversification and development committee shall develop policies for  
22                  grants from the fund to support new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses,  
23                  including eligibility criteria, maximum grant amounts, and reporting requirements.  
24                  Based on recommendations from the agricultural diversification and development  
25                  committee, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute the grant funding.
- 26           5.   The agricultural diversification and development committee shall develop a value-  
27                  added agriculture production facility incentive program to provide grants. Grant award  
28                  funding for the value-added agriculture production facility incentive program under this  
29                  subsection is limited to thirty million dollars.
- 30           a.   To be eligible for a grant award under the value-added agriculture production  
31                  facility incentive program, the production facility must:

- 1           (1) Be located within the state;
- 2           (2) Be a new construction project on an industrial-ready site with access to
- 3                 existing municipal infrastructure;
- 4           (3) Have capital investment of at least three hundred fifty million dollars and
- 5                 leverage regional agricultural producer capital investment to support the
- 6                 facility's operations;
- 7           (4) Have a competing offer from at least one other midwestern state;
- 8           (5) Produce a new agriculture product or variant of an existing agriculture
- 9                 product to provide a domestic supply of the product and to diversify the
- 10                 market for agriculture products; and
- 11           (6) Have an estimated economic contribution of at least twenty million dollars
- 12                 when fully operational based on an economic analysis conducted by the
- 13                 Bank.
- 14         b. Grant funding under the program is a reimbursement for infrastructure, site
- 15                 acquisition, or other capital expenditures necessary for the value-added
- 16                 agriculture facility construction, including natural gas supply, electricity supply,
- 17                 roads, water lines, wastewater lines, storm water conveyance, or rail lines.
- 18         c. Upon issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the value-added agriculture
- 19                 production facility, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute a grant equal to
- 20                 fifty percent of the total grant award from funding available in the agriculture
- 21                 diversification and development fund.
- 22         d. Upon achieving fifty percent of the production capacity of the value-added
- 23                 agriculture production facility, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute the
- 24                 remainder of the grant award from funding available in the agriculture
- 25                 diversification and development fund.
- 26         e. The Bank of North Dakota may extend a line of credit of up to thirty million dollars
- 27                 to the agriculture commissioner to support a grant from the fund under this
- 28                 subsection. The interest rate associated with the line of credit must be the
- 29                 prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota governmental entities.
- 30         f. If the agriculture diversification and development committee approves a grant
- 31                 under this subsection, the agriculture commissioner may access the line of credit

1                   under this subsection through June 30, 2029, to provide funding for the grant.  
2                   Any moneys borrowed from the Bank pursuant to this subsection must be  
3                   transferred to the fund. If the agriculture commissioner accesses the line of  
4                   credit, the commissioner shall request from the legislative assembly ~~during the~~  
5                   ~~next regular or special session, a transfer from the strategic investment and~~  
6                   ~~improvements fund to the agriculture diversification and development fund, to~~  
7                   ~~provide grant funding in an amount equal to the amount approved by the~~  
8                   ~~committee~~ a deficiency appropriation to repay the line of credit.

9                   **SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through June 30, 2029, and after that  
10                   date is ineffective.