

Introduced by

Senators Weber, Dwyer, Luick, Sorvaag

Representatives Brandenburg, Schreiber-Beck

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to the management of  
2 water based on watershed boundaries.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - WATER MANAGEMENT BASED**  
5 **ON WATERSHED BOUNDARIES.** During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management  
6 shall study the feasibility and desirability of assigning management authority for the waters of  
7 the state to the area located in the naturally occurring watershed, rather than assigning  
8 management authority based on political subdivision boundaries. The study must review the  
9 approaches used for managing water in surrounding states; the powers, duties, and  
10 organizational structure of watershed boards; dispute resolution procedures afforded to  
11 individuals residing within the boundaries of a watershed district; the mechanism to initiate,  
12 implement, and improve works projects within a watershed district; and the role of the  
13 department of water resources in mapping and establishing watershed boundaries. The  
14 legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any  
15 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.