

HOUSE BILL NO. 1249

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Christy, Headland, Mitskog, Nathe, O'Brien, Schreiber-Beck,
Stemen

Senators Barta, Bekkedahl, Sickler, Thomas

1 A BILL for an Act to provide appropriations to the attorney general, the department of career and
2 technical education, the department of health and human services, the agriculture
3 commissioner, and the department of transportation for autonomous technology grants; to
4 provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a report.

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

6 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - AUTONOMOUS**
7 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
8 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 9 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
10 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
11 necessary, to the attorney general for the purpose of providing autonomous
12 technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the bureau of criminal investigation
13 in conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
14 enforcement first response operations, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
15 ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time
16 funding item.
- 17 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
18 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
19 technologies.
- 20 3. The attorney general shall develop an application process and guidelines for the
21 grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant
22 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity
23 shall certify to the attorney general that the operation of the autonomous technology is

1 related to conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
2 enforcement first response operations. The attorney general may require an individual
3 or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the
4 state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology
5 operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible
6 uses as determined by the attorney general.

7 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the attorney general shall provide at least one report to the
8 legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the
9 amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

10 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL**
11 **EDUCATION - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT**
12 **TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

13 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
14 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
15 necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of
16 providing autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the
17 northwest area of the state for providing workforce training to address workforce
18 shortages in the state, including shortages in the oil and gas industry, and for the
19 development of a drone racing course, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
20 ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time
21 funding item.

22 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
23 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
24 technologies.

25 3. The department of career and technical education shall develop an application
26 process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching
27 requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be
28 eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career
29 and technical education that the operation of the autonomous technology is related to
30 workforce training to address workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in
31 the oil and gas industry, and the development of a drone racing course. The

1 department of career and technical education may require a workforce training center
2 to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. A
3 workforce training center may use grant funding for education or training curriculum
4 expenses related to autonomous technology, autonomous technology operations,
5 contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as
6 determined by the department of career and technical education.

7 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of career and technical education shall
8 provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,
9 including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use
10 of the grant funding.

11 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
12 **AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**
13 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

14 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
15 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
16 necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of
17 providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the functions
18 and operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation, for the biennium
19 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
20 section is considered a one-time funding item.

21 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
22 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
23 technologies.

24 3. The department of health and human services shall develop an application process
25 and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements,
26 eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant,
27 an individual or entity shall certify to the department of health and human services that
28 the operation of the autonomous technology is related to aiding the functions and
29 operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation. The department of
30 health and human services may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of
31 matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual or entity may

1 use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services
2 related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the
3 department of health and human services.

4 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall
5 provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,
6 including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use
7 of the grant funding.

8 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - AUTONOMOUS**
9 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
10 **MANAGEMENT.**

11 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
12 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
13 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of providing autonomous
14 technology grants to individuals or entities in the agriculture industry, for the biennium
15 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
16 section is considered a one-time funding item.

17 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
18 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
19 technologies.

20 3. The agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and guidelines for
21 the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant
22 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity
23 shall certify to the agriculture commissioner that the operation of the autonomous
24 technology is related to the inspection, operation, maintenance, or construction of
25 agriculture property or infrastructure. The agriculture commissioner may require an
26 individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars
27 awarded by the state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous
28 technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or
29 other eligible uses as determined by the agriculture commissioner.

- 1 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the agriculture commissioner shall provide at least one
2 report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant
3 recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

4 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION -**
5 **AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**
6 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 7 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
8 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
9 necessary, to the department of transportation for the purpose of providing
10 autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that monitor the United States
11 highway 2 corridor within the state to assist local and state law enforcement agencies,
12 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding
13 provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 14 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
15 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
16 technologies.
- 17 3. The department of transportation shall develop an application process and guidelines
18 for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant
19 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity
20 shall certify to the department of transportation that the operation of the autonomous
21 technology is related to monitoring the United States highway 2 corridor within the
22 state to assist local and state law enforcement agencies. The department of
23 transportation may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching
24 funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual or entity may use grant
25 funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services related to
26 autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the department of
27 transportation.
- 28 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of transportation shall provide at least one
29 report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant
30 recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

1 **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY.**

2 During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the costs and
3 benefits of investing in autonomous technology infrastructure in the state. The study must
4 include an analysis of the industries using autonomous technology, future industries that may
5 use autonomous technology, the economic impact of autonomous technology, and the return on
6 investment to the state. The legislative management shall report its findings and
7 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
8 the seventieth legislative assembly.