

February 19, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED 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, and the agriculture  
3 commissioner, ~~and the department of emergency services~~ 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~~ \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may  
11 be 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.

- 1       3.   The attorney general shall develop an application process and guidelines for the  
2           grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant  
3           funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity  
4           shall certify to the attorney general that the operation of the autonomous technology is  
5           related to conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law  
6           enforcement first response operations. The attorney general may require an individual  
7           or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the  
8           state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology  
9           operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible  
10          uses as determined by the attorney general.
- 11       4.   During the 2025-26 interim, the attorney general shall provide at least one report to the  
12          legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the  
13          amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

14       **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL**  
15       **EDUCATION - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT**  
16       **TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 17       1.   There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not  
18          otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$750,000~~\$500,000, or so much of the sum as may  
19          be necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of  
20          providing autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the  
21          northwest area of the state for providing workforce training to address workforce  
22          shortages in the state, including shortages in the oil and gas industry for the biennium  
23          beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this  
24          section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 25       2.   For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft  
26          systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or  
27          technologies.
- 28       3.   The department of career and technical education shall develop an application  
29          process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching  
30          requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be  
31          eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career

1 and technical education that the operation of the autonomous technology is related to  
2 workforce training to address workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in  
3 the oil and gas industry. The department of career and technical education may  
4 require a workforce training center to provide one dollar of matching funds for every  
5 four dollars awarded by the state. A workforce training center may use grant funding  
6 for education or training curriculum expenses related to autonomous technology,  
7 autonomous technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous  
8 technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the department of career and  
9 technical education.

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

14 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**  
15 **AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**  
16 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

17 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not  
18 otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$750,000~~\$250,000, or so much of the sum as may  
19 be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of  
20 providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the functions  
21 and operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation, for the biennium  
22 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this  
23 section is considered a one-time funding item.

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

27 3. The department of health and human services shall develop an application process  
28 and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements,  
29 eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant,  
30 an individual or entity shall certify to the department of health and human services that  
31 the operation of the autonomous technology is related to aiding the functions and

1 operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation. The department of  
2 health and human services may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of  
3 matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual or entity may  
4 use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services  
5 related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the  
6 department of health and human services.

- 7 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services 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 4. APPROPRIATION - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - AUTONOMOUS**  
12 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**  
13 **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~~\$500,000, or so much of the sum as may  
16 be necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of providing  
17 autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities in the agriculture industry, for  
18 the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided  
19 in this section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 20 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft  
21 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or  
22 technologies.
- 23 3. The agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and guidelines for  
24 the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant  
25 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity  
26 shall certify to the agriculture commissioner that the operation of the autonomous  
27 technology is related to the inspection, operation, maintenance, or construction of  
28 agriculture property or infrastructure. The agriculture commissioner may require an  
29 individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars  
30 awarded by the state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous

1 technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or  
2 other eligible uses as determined by the agriculture commissioner.

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

6 ~~SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION -- DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES --~~  
7 ~~AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS -- ONE-TIME FUNDING -- REPORT TO~~  
8 ~~LEGISLATIVE 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 department of emergency services for the purpose of providing~~  
12 ~~autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that monitor the United States~~  
13 ~~highway 2 corridor within the state to assist local and state law enforcement agencies,~~  
14 ~~for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding~~  
15 ~~provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.~~

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

19 ~~3. The department of emergency services shall develop an application process and~~  
20 ~~guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible~~  
21 ~~uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an~~  
22 ~~individual or entity shall certify to the department of emergency services that the~~  
23 ~~operation of the autonomous technology is related to monitoring the United States~~  
24 ~~highway 2 corridor within the state to assist local and state law enforcement agencies.~~  
25 ~~The department of emergency services may require an individual or entity to provide~~  
26 ~~one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual~~  
27 ~~or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for~~  
28 ~~services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by~~  
29 ~~the department of emergency services.~~

30 ~~4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of emergency services shall provide at~~  
31 ~~least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of~~

1                   ~~grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant~~  
2                   ~~funding.~~

3                   **SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY.**

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