

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with House Amendments**

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2308**

Introduced by

Senators Roers, Hogue

Representatives Lefor, Louser

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23.1-01, a new section to chapter  
2 54-07, and a new section to chapter 61-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to  
3 standards for well drilling and installation of water well pumps, pitless units, and monitoring  
4 wells, a boards review task force, and requirements for firms engaged in water well work,  
5 installation of water well pump and pitless units, monitoring well work, and drilling of geothermal  
6 systems; to amend and reenact section 6-09-43, subdivision j of subsection 2 of section  
7 15.1-01-04, sections 15.1-07-33 and 23-35-02.2, subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4, sections  
8 52-02-02 and 52-02-08, subsection 1 of section 54-07-01.2, sections 54-54-05, 54-59-26,  
9 54-59-27, 54-59-34, 54-59-36, 54-59-37, 54-59-39, 61-03-01.3, 61-04.1-03, 61-04.1-08,  
10 61-04.1-09, 61-04.1-12, 61-04.1-14, 61-04.1-15, 61-04.1-16, 61-04.1-17, 61-04.1-18,  
11 61-04.1-19, 61-04.1-20, 61-04.1-21, 61-04.1-33, 61-04.1-34, 61-04.1-37, 61-04.1-38, and  
12 61-04.1-39, and subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 65-02-03.1 of the North Dakota  
13 Century Code, relating to the wastewater recycling treatment guide, boards and commissions,  
14 the unemployment insurance advisory council, gubernatorial appointments, the committee on  
15 aging, health information technology advisory committee, statewide longitudinal data system  
16 committee, atmospheric resource board, the department of health and human services, the  
17 council on the arts, the state engineer, the superintendent of public instruction, job service North  
18 Dakota, and workforce safety and insurance coordinating committee; to repeal chapter 8-11.1,  
19 sections 12-48-06.1, 15.1-37-05, 15.1-37-06, and 15.1-37-08, chapter 17-07, sections  
20 19-24.1-38, 19-24.1-39, and 23-35-02.3, chapters 34-16 and 43-35, sections 50-06-05.6,  
21 50-06.4-10, 50-11.1-25, 50-11.1-26, 50-11.1-27, 52-02-07, 54-34.3-10, 54-54-10, 54-59-25,  
22 54-59-33, 54-59-35, 54-59-38, 54-60-25, 55-01-13, 55-01-14, 61-04.1-04, 61-04.1-05,  
23 61-04.1-06, 61-04.1-07, and 61-04.1-10, and chapter 61-36 of the North Dakota Century Code,

1 relating to occupational and professional boards, the midwest interstate passenger rail compact,  
2 prison industry advisory committee, energy policy commission, medical marijuana advisory  
3 committee, onsite wastewater recycling technical committee, state board of water well  
4 contractors, committee on aging, brain injury advisory council, early childhood council,  
5 unemployment insurance advisory council, commission on the status of women, health  
6 information technology advisory committee, poet laureate nominating board, rural development  
7 council, America 250 commission, atmospheric resource board, and Devils Lake outlet  
8 management advisory committee; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an  
9 effective date; and to provide an expiration date.

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

11 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09-43 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended  
12 and reenacted as follows:

13 **6-09-43. Health information technology planning loan fund - Appropriation.**

- 14 1. The health information technology planning loan fund is established in the Bank for the  
15 purpose of providing low-interest loans to health care entities to assist those entities in  
16 improving health information technology infrastructure. This fund is a revolving loan  
17 fund. All moneys transferred into the fund, interest upon moneys in the fund, and  
18 collections of interest and principal on loans made from the fund are appropriated for  
19 disbursement according to this section.
- 20 2. The Bank shall make loans from this fund to health care entities as approved by the  
21 health information technology office director, ~~in collaboration with the health-~~  
22 ~~information technology advisory committee,~~ in accordance with the criteria established  
23 by the health information technology director under section 54-59-26.
- 24 3. The Bank shall administer the health information technology planning loan fund. Funds  
25 in the loan fund may be used for loans as provided under this section and the costs of  
26 administration of the fund. Annually, the Bank may deduct a service fee for  
27 administering the revolving loan fund maintained under this section.
- 28 4. An application for a loan under this section must be made to the health information  
29 technology office. The health information technology office director, ~~in collaboration-~~  
30 ~~with the health information technology advisory committee,~~ may approve the

1 application of a qualified applicant that meets the criteria established by the health  
2 information technology office director. The health information technology office shall  
3 forward approved applications to the Bank. Upon approval of the application by the  
4 Bank, the Bank shall make the loan from the revolving loan fund as provided under  
5 this section.

- 6 5. The Bank may do all acts necessary to negotiate loans and preserve security as  
7 deemed necessary, to exercise any right of redemption, and to bring suit in order to  
8 collect interest and principal due the revolving loan fund under mortgages, contracts,  
9 and notes executed to obtain loans under this section. If the applicant's plan for  
10 financing provides for a loan of funds from sources other than the state of North  
11 Dakota, the Bank may make a loan subordinate security interest. The Bank may  
12 recover from the revolving loan fund amounts actually expended by the Bank for legal  
13 fees and to effect a redemption.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision j of subsection 2 of section 15.1-01-04 of the North  
15 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16 j. The following gubernatorial appointees:

- 17 (1) ~~An individual representing the statewide longitudinal data system~~  
18 ~~committee;~~  
19 (2) An individual representing tribal school interests;  
20 (3)(2) An individual employed as a public school administrator;  
21 (4)(3) An individual employed as a public school principal;  
22 (5)(4) An individual employed as a public elementary school teacher;  
23 (6)(5) An individual employed as a public secondary school teacher;  
24 (7)(6) A director of a special education unit; and  
25 (8)(7) A director of a regional education association.

26 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-07-33 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **15.1-07-33. Student information system - Exemption.**

- 29 1. Notwithstanding any other technology requirements imposed by the superintendent of  
30 public instruction or the information technology department, each school district shall  
31 implement the state student information system administered by the ~~information-~~

1           ~~technology departments~~superintendent of public instruction and use it as its principal  
2           student information system. Each school district shall use a state course code,  
3           assigned by the department of public instruction, to identify all local classes in the  
4           state student information system.

5           2. The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committees~~superintendent of public instruction  
6           may exempt a school district from having to implement and utilize the state student  
7           information system if the school district demonstrates ~~that~~:

8           a. The district has acquired and is using a student information system determined to  
9           be compatible with the statewide longitudinal data system; or

10          b. In accordance with requirements of the bureau of Indian education, the district  
11          has acquired and is utilizing a student information system that is determined to  
12          be comparable by the superintendent.

13          **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-35-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14          amended and reenacted as follows:

15          **23-35-02.2. Public health units to adopt onsite wastewater recycling treatment guide.**

16          Each public health unit shall adopt the statewide technical guide for onsite wastewater  
17          recycling treatment technologies and sewage distribution technologies established by the ~~onsite-~~  
18          ~~wastewater recycling technical committee~~department of environmental quality.

19          **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 23.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
20          and enacted as follows:

21          **Standards for well drilling and installation of water well pumps, pitless units, and**  
22          **monitoring wells - Reports required.**

23          1. All construction of water wells must comply with the rules adopted by the department  
24          of environmental quality.

25          2. All installation of water well pumps and pitless units must comply with the rules  
26          adopted by the department of environmental quality.

27          3. All monitoring wells constructed must comply with the rules adopted by the department  
28          of environmental quality. Each monitoring well contractor shall furnish all reports  
29          required by the rules of the department.

30          4. All drilling of geothermal systems must comply with the rules adopted by the  
31          department of environmental quality and the state geologist.

1       **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3       1. The department includes the state hospital, the regional human service centers, a  
4 vocational rehabilitation unit, public health division, and other units or offices and  
5 administrative and fiscal support services as the commissioner of the department  
6 determines necessary. The department must be structured to promote efficient and  
7 effective operations and, consistent with fulfilling its prescribed statutory duties, shall  
8 act as the official agency of the state in the discharge of the following functions not  
9 otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency:

- 10       a. (1) Administration of programs for children and families, including adoption  
11                services and the licensure of child-placing agencies, foster care services  
12                and the licensure of foster care arrangements, certification of shelter care  
13                services, child protection services, children's trust fund, licensure of early  
14                childhood programs, refugee services, in-home community-based services,  
15                quality control, and administration of the interstate compacts on the  
16                placement of children and juveniles, and the early childhood services  
17                advisory board.
- 18       (2) Administration of programs to identify all available options for effectively  
19                maximizing the provision of early childhood services within the state and  
20                address the coordinated utilization of facilities and personnel for the  
21                provision of early childhood services within the state.
- 22       b. Administration of programs for individuals with developmental disabilities,  
23 including licensure of facilities and services, the establishment funding for family  
24 members and corporate guardianships, and the design and implementation of a  
25 community-based service system for persons in need of habilitation.
- 26       c. Administration of aging service programs, including nutrition, transportation,  
27 advocacy, social, ombudsman, recreation, and related services funded under the  
28 Older Americans Act of 1965 [42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.], home and  
29 community-based services, licensure of adult foster care homes, and the  
30 committee on aging.

- 1           d. Administration of behavioral health programs, including reviewing and identifying  
2           service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system in an effort to  
3           ensure health and safety, access to services, and quality of services; establishing  
4           quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program  
5           services and facilities; providing policy leadership in partnership with public and  
6           private entities; and providing chronic disease management, regional intervention  
7           services, and twenty-four-hour crisis services for individuals with behavioral  
8           health disorders.
- 9           e. Administration of economic assistance programs, including temporary assistance  
10          for needy families, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, home energy  
11          assistance, child care assistance, refugee assistance, work experience, work  
12          incentive, and quality control.
- 13          f. Administration of medical service programs, including medical assistance for  
14          children's health insurance program, Medicaid waivers, early and periodic  
15          screening, diagnosis and treatment, utilization control, autism services, and  
16          claims processing.
- 17          g. Administration of general assistance.
- 18          h. Administration of child support.
- 19          i. Administration of program, services, and licensing outlined in title 23 and other  
20          previous duties of the state department of health and state health council.
- 21          j. Administration of a program to improve the quality of life for an individual with  
22          brain injury and the individual's family through brain injury awareness, prevention,  
23          research, education, collaboration, support services, and advocacy.

24           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 52-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26           **52-02-02. Powers, duties, organization, and methods of procedure of bureau - Seal.**

27           The bureau may adopt, amend, or rescind ~~such~~ rules and regulations, make ~~such~~  
28 expenditures, require ~~such~~ reports, make ~~such~~ investigations, and take ~~such~~ other action as it  
29 deems necessary or suitable in the administration of the North Dakota unemployment  
30 compensation law. ~~Such rules~~All rules and regulations are effective upon publication in the  
31 manner, not inconsistent with the provisions of the North Dakota unemployment compensation

1 law, which the bureau shall prescribe. The bureau shall determine its own organization and  
2 methods of procedure in accordance with the provisions of the North Dakota unemployment  
3 compensation law and shall have an official seal which shall be noticed judicially.

4 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 52-02-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **52-02-08. Bureau and advisory councils to take steps to stabilize employment.**

7 The bureau, ~~with the advice and aid of its advisory councils,~~ and through its appropriate  
8 divisions, shall take appropriate steps to:

- 9 1. Reduce and prevent unemployment.
- 10 2. Encourage and assist in the adoption of practical methods of career and technical  
11 education training, retraining, and career development counseling.
- 12 3. Investigate, recommend, advise, and assist in the establishment and operation, by  
13 municipalities, counties, school districts, and the state, of reserves for public works to  
14 be used in times of business depression and unemployment.
- 15 4. Promote the re-employment of unemployed workers throughout the state in every  
16 other way that may be feasible.
- 17 5. Carry on and publish the results of investigations and research studies.

18 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 54-07-01.2 of the North Dakota  
19 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 20 1. Notwithstanding sections 2-05-01, 4.1-05-02, 4.1-26-02, 6-01-03, 6-09-02.1,  
21 12-55.1-02, 12-59-01, 15-39.1-05.1, 15.1-01-01, 15.1-13-02, 20.1-02-23, 23.1-01-02,  
22 36-01-01, 37-18.1-01, ~~50-06-05.6, 54-34.3-10,~~ 54-54-02, 55-01-01, and 61-02-04, all  
23 members of the following boards and commissions must, subject to the limitations of  
24 this section, be considered to have resigned from such boards and commissions  
25 effective January first of the first year of each four-year term of the governor:
  - 26 a. The aeronautics commission.
  - 27 b. The milk marketing board.
  - 28 c. The dairy promotion commission.
  - 29 d. The state banking board.
  - 30 e. The state credit union board.
  - 31 f. The advisory board of directors to the Bank of North Dakota.

- 1 g. The pardon advisory board.
- 2 h. The state parole board.
- 3 i. The state board of public school education.
- 4 j. The education standards and practices board.
- 5 k. The board of trustees of the teachers' fund for retirement.
- 6 l. The state game and fish advisory board.
- 7 m. The environmental review advisory council.
- 8 n. The board of animal health.
- 9 o. The administrative committee on veterans' affairs.
- 10 ~~p. The committee on aging.~~
- 11 ~~q. The commission on the status of women.~~
- 12 r. The North Dakota council on the arts.
- 13 ~~s-q.~~ The state historical board.
- 14 ~~t-r.~~ The state water commission.

15 **SECTION 10.** A new section to chapter 54-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
16 and enacted as follows:

17 **Boards review task force - Report to legislative management.**

- 18 1. The office of the governor shall provide staffing and administrative services to the  
19 boards review task force. The task force shall:
  - 20 a. Review and assess all boards, commissions, committees, councils, and task  
21 forces for inefficiencies and duplication of responsibilities; and
  - 22 b. Make recommendations to the legislative assembly regarding minimizing and  
23 streamlining government operations through the consolidation or elimination of  
24 boards, commissions, committees, councils, and task forces.
- 25 2. In addition to the governor or the governor's designee, who shall serve as the  
26 presiding officer of the task force, the task force must include:
  - 27 a. A member of the senate, appointed by the senate majority leader.
  - 28 b. A member of the house of representatives, appointed by the house of  
29 representatives majority leader.
  - 30 c. A representative of an organization representing cities, appointed by the  
31 governor.



- 1           d. A representative of an organization representing counties, appointed by the  
2           governor.
- 3           e. A representative of the business community, appointed by the governor.
- 4           f. A representative of an occupational licensing board, appointed by the governor.
- 5           g. A member at large, appointed by the governor.
- 6        3. A member of the task force who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement  
7        for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees, to be  
8        paid by the office of the governor. A state employee who is a member of the task force  
9        is entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement  
10       for mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency. A member of the task  
11       force who is a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive per diem  
12       compensation at the rate provided under section 54-35-10 for each day performing  
13       official duties of the task force. The legislative council shall pay the per diem  
14       compensation and reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by law for any  
15       member of the task force who is a member of the legislative assembly.
- 16       4. Before October 1, 2026, the task force shall provide a report of its findings and  
17       recommendations and any proposed legislation necessary to implement the  
18       recommendations to the legislative management.

19       **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-54-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21       **54-54-05. Duties of council.**

22       The duties of the council are:

- 23       1. To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and presentation of the  
24       performing and fine arts and public interest and participation therein.
- 25       2. To make such surveys as may be deemed advisable of public and private institutions  
26       engaged within the state in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to,  
27       music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and allied arts and crafts, and  
28       to make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation  
29       in and appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons  
30       in all parts of the state.

- 1       3. To take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage public interest
- 2           in the cultural heritage of our state and to expand the state's cultural resources.
- 3       4. To encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of
- 4           the arts.
- 5       5. To determine the artistic value of property as provided by section 1-08-04.1.
- 6       6. To administer a poet laureate program that selects the poet laureate and requires the
- 7           poet laureate to participate in at least four public events around the state each year.

8       **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10       **54-59-26. Health information technology office - Duties - Loan and grant programs.**

- 11       1. ~~The health information technology office is created in the department. The health-~~
- 12           ~~information technology advisory committee shall make recommendations to the health-~~
- 13           ~~information technology office for implementing an interoperable health information-~~
- 14           ~~infrastructure that is consistent with emerging national standards; promote the~~
- 15           ~~adoption and use of electronic health records and other health information-~~
- 16           ~~technologies; and promote interoperability of health information systems for the~~
- 17           ~~purpose of improving health care quality, patient safety, and the overall efficiency of~~
- 18           ~~health care and public health services.~~
- 19       2. The health information technology office director, ~~in collaboration with the health-~~
- 20           ~~information technology advisory committee,~~ shall:
  - 21           a. Apply for federal funds that may be available to assist the state and health care
  - 22                providers in implementing and improving health information technology.
  - 23           b. Implement and administer a health information exchange that utilizes information
  - 24                infrastructure and systems in a secure and cost-effective manner to facilitate the
  - 25                collection, storage, and transmission of health records.
  - 26           c. Adopt rules under chapter 28-32 for the use of health information, use of the
  - 27                health information exchange, and participation in the health information
  - 28                exchange.
  - 29           d. Adopt rules under chapter 28-32 for accessing the health information exchange
  - 30                to ensure appropriate and required privacy and security protections and relating

- 1 to the authority of the director to suspend, eliminate, or terminate the right to  
2 participate in the health information exchange.
- 3 e. Establish a health information technology planning loan program to provide  
4 low-interest loans to health care entities to assist those entities in improving their  
5 health information technology infrastructure under section 6-09-43.
- 6 f. Facilitate and expand electronic health information exchange in the state, directly  
7 or by awarding grants.
- 8 g. Establish an application process and eligibility criteria for and accept and process  
9 applications for loans and grants under subdivisions e and f. The eligibility criteria  
10 must be consistent with federal requirements associated with federal funds  
11 received under subdivision a. The eligibility criteria for loans under subdivision f  
12 must include a requirement that the recipient's approved health information  
13 technology be strategically aligned with the state's health information technology  
14 plan and the associated federal standards and that the recipient has passed an  
15 onsite electronic medical record readiness assessment conducted by an  
16 assessment team determined by ~~the health information technology advisory~~  
17 ~~committee~~ and the health information technology office director.
- 18 h. Determine fees and charges for access and participation in the health information  
19 exchange. Any moneys collected under this subdivision must be deposited in the  
20 electronic health information exchange fund.
- 21 i. Consult and coordinate with the department of health and human services to  
22 facilitate the collection of health information from health care providers and state  
23 agencies for public health purposes, including identifiable health information that  
24 may be used by state agencies, departments, or institutions to comply with  
25 applicable state or federal laws.
- 26 3. ~~If the health information technology advisory committee determines that establishing a~~  
27 ~~health information exchange with another state or states will assist in providing health~~  
28 ~~information exchange services in a cost-effective manner, the~~The health information  
29 technology office director, ~~in collaboration with the health information technology~~  
30 ~~advisory committee~~, may join with another state or states to establish, implement, and

1           administer a health information exchange consistent with other provisions of this  
2           chapter.

3           **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5           **54-59-27. Health information technology office - Electronic health information**  
6 **exchange fund.**

- 7           1. There is created an electronic health information exchange fund. The fund consists of  
8           moneys deposited in the fund from federal or other sources or moneys transferred into  
9           the fund as directed by the legislative assembly. The health information technology  
10          office shall administer this fund and shall distribute moneys in the fund accordingly.  
11          The moneys in the fund must be used to facilitate and expand electronic health  
12          information exchange. Moneys in the fund may be used, subject to legislative  
13          appropriations, to provide services directly, for grants as provided under this section,  
14          and for the costs of administration of the fund.
- 15          2. A grant applicant shall submit an application to the health information technology  
16          office, which shall determine the applicant's eligibility based upon criteria established  
17          by the health information technology office director ~~in collaboration with the health-~~  
18          ~~information technology advisory committee.~~
- 19          3. This section does not create an entitlement to any funds available for grants under this  
20          section. The health information technology office may award these grants to the extent  
21          funds are available and, within the office's discretion, to the extent such applications  
22          are approved.

23          **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25          **54-59-34. Statewide longitudinal data system ~~committee~~ - Information technology**  
26 **department - Duties.**

- 27          1. The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall manage a  
28          statewide longitudinal data system among education, workforce, and training entities  
29          that:
- 30          a. Provides for the dissemination of management information to stakeholders and  
31          partners of state education, training, and employment systems;

- 1           b. Is required to provide on an annual basis to education and workforce  
2           development programs, to the extent permitted by federal law, the wage record  
3           interchange system 2 data sharing agreement and the state wage interchange  
4           system data sharing agreement and state performance reports that measure the  
5           aggregate outcomes of participants in the workforce and continuing education  
6           programs, including private workforce and education programs that request the  
7           reports; and
- 8           c. Uses data from educational and workforce systems as central sources of  
9           statewide longitudinal data.
- 10          2. The department may, subject to federal and state privacy laws, enter interagency  
11          agreements, including agreements designating authorized representatives of the  
12          educational agencies participating in the system, under the Family Educational Rights  
13          and Privacy Act [20 U.S.C. 1232(g); 34 CFR 99].
- 14          3. ~~The statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall establish policies  
15          and adopt rules addressing access to and the collection, storage, and sharing of  
16          information and the systems necessary to perform those functions, subject to  
17          applicable federal and state privacy laws and interagency agreements and restrictions  
18          relating to confidential information required to conform to applicable federal and state  
19          privacy laws.
- 20          3.4. ~~The statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall provide operational  
21          oversight for information sharing activities and make recommendations for and provide  
22          oversight of information sharing budgets.
- 23          4.5. ~~The statewide longitudinal data system committee in consultation with the information-~~  
24          ~~technology~~ department shall:
- 25               a. Establish the terms and conditions under which a person may be authorized to  
26               access data through the statewide longitudinal data system;
- 27               b. Direct that all statewide longitudinal data system administrators implement  
28               approved data protection practices to ensure the security of electronic and  
29               physical data, provided that the practices include requirements for encryption and  
30               staff training;

- 1 c. Provide for biennial privacy and security audits of the statewide longitudinal data  
2 system;
- 3 d. Establish protocols, including procedures, for the notification of students and  
4 parents in the event of a data breach involving the statewide longitudinal data  
5 system;
- 6 e. Require that data retention and disposition by the statewide longitudinal data  
7 system be governed by the same policies as those instituted for the information  
8 technology department; and
- 9 f. Require the provision of annual training regarding data protection to any  
10 individuals who have access to the statewide longitudinal data system, including  
11 school district employees, employees of the North Dakota university system  
12 office and institutions under the control of the state board of higher education,  
13 and elected or appointed state or local governmental officials.

14 6. The department may authorize studies to benefit and improve workforce training and  
15 education.

16 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **54-59-36. Statewide longitudinal data system ~~committee~~ - Report to legislative**  
19 **management.**

20 During each interim the ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall  
21 provide a report regarding the statewide longitudinal data system to one or more committees  
22 designated by the legislative management and shall provide recommendations for further  
23 development, cost proposals, proposals for legislation, and recommendations for data sharing  
24 governance.

25 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **54-59-37. Statewide longitudinal data system ~~committee~~ - Continuing appropriation.**

28 The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department may solicit and receive gifts,  
29 grants, and donations from public and private sources. Any moneys received in accordance with  
30 this section are appropriated on a continuing basis for the support of the statewide longitudinal  
31 data system.

1       **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-39 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **54-59-39. State agencies - Mandatory provision of information - Confidentiality.**

- 4       1. The information technology department may request from any state agency:
- 5           a. All information required by 20 U.S.C. 9871(e)(2)(D);
- 6           b. Any other educational information ~~the statewide longitudinal data system~~  
7 ~~committee determines~~ is required for a longitudinal data system to comply with  
8 state or federal law; and
- 9           c. Unemployment insurance wage data from job service North Dakota for education  
10 and workforce development program evaluations, except that the information  
11 technology department may not redisclose any data identifying an individual  
12 unless the redisclosure is expressly permitted by a written agreement between  
13 job service North Dakota and the department or is otherwise expressly permitted  
14 or required by federal or state law.
- 15       2. A state agency providing information requested under subsection 1 shall enter an  
16 interagency agreement with the department which identifies applicable federal and  
17 state privacy laws and agency-established restrictions relating to its confidential  
18 information the agency has determined is required to comply with federal and state  
19 privacy laws.
- 20       3. Subject to applicable restrictions on the use and disclosure of confidential information  
21 required to comply with federal and state privacy laws and the terms of the  
22 interagency agreement, any state agency receiving a request for information under  
23 subsection 1 shall provide the information at the time and in the manner required by  
24 the information technology department.

25       **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-03-01.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27       **61-03-01.3. Director - State engineer - Powers and duties.**

- 28       1. The director shall:
- 29           a. Enforce all rules adopted by the department;
- 30           b. Hire a state engineer who is a qualified professional engineer, has appropriate  
31 hydrology experience, and will report to the director;

- 1 c. Hire other employees as necessary to carry out the duties of the department and
- 2 director;
- 3 d. Organize the department in an efficient manner; and
- 4 e. Take any other action necessary and appropriate for administration of the
- 5 department.
- 6 f. Adopt rules to license water well contractors, water well pump and pitless unit
- 7 installers, monitoring well contractors, and geothermal system drillers.
- 8 g. Advise the governor and the state water commission regarding operations of
- 9 Devils Lake outlets.
- 10 h. Recommend an operational plan for the Devils Lake outlet based on Sheyenne
- 11 River capacity and water quality considerations.
- 12 2. The state engineer is responsible for and shall manage the department's oversight of
- 13 dam safety, water appropriations, and construction and drainage permits, and
- 14 associated technical duties related to public safety and property protection.

15 **SECTION 19.** A new section to chapter 61-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
16 and enacted as follows:

17 **Requirements for firms engaged in water well work, installation of water well pumps**  
18 **and pitless units, monitoring well work, and drilling of geothermal systems - Exceptions.**

- 19 1. A person, partnership, association, corporation, or limited liability company may not  
20 engage in the business of constructing a water well in this state unless at all times a  
21 certified water well contractor, who is responsible for the proper construction or  
22 alteration of a water well, is in charge. This section does not prohibit any person,  
23 partnership, association, corporation, or limited liability company from constructing any  
24 water well on the person's or entity's own premises for the person's or entity's own  
25 use.
- 26 2. A person may not engage in the business of installing water well pumps and pitless  
27 units in the state after July 1, 1986, unless a certified installer, who is responsible for  
28 the proper installation of the pump and pitless unit, is in charge of the installation. This  
29 chapter does not prohibit any person from installing water well pumps and pitless units  
30 on that person's own premises for that person's own use.



- 1        3. A person may not engage in the business of constructing a monitoring well in this state  
2            unless at all times a certified monitoring well contractor, who is responsible for the  
3            proper construction or alteration of the monitoring well, is in charge. This section does  
4            not prohibit any person from installing a monitoring well on that person's own premises  
5            for that person's own use.
- 6        4. A person may not engage in the business of drilling geothermal systems in the state  
7            after July 1, 2008, unless a certified driller, who is responsible for the proper drilling of  
8            the geothermal system, is in charge of the drilling. This section does not prohibit a  
9            person from drilling geothermal systems on that person's own premises for that  
10           person's own use.
- 11       5. Within thirty days after the completion of each well, each water well contractor shall  
12           report to the department, on forms provided by the department, any information  
13           required by the department, including a log of formations penetrated, well depth, and  
14           casing size and weight. The water well contractor shall provide a copy of the report to  
15           the customer. All information submitted to the department must remain the property of  
16           the department.

17        **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19        **61-04.1-03. Definitions.**

20        As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 21        1. ~~"Board" means the North Dakota atmospheric resource board which, in the exercise of~~  
22           ~~the powers granted under this chapter, has all of the powers of an administrative~~  
23           ~~agency as defined in chapter 28-32.~~
- 24        2. "Controller" refers to any licensee duly authorized in this state to engage in weather  
25           modification operations.
- 26        ~~3-2.~~ "Geographical region" means a geographical area with a contiguous boundary that  
27           may enclose a portion of any county or counties.
- 28        ~~4-3.~~ "Hail suppression" refers to the activation of any process that will reduce, modify,  
29           suppress, eliminate, or soften hail formed in clouds or storms.

1     ~~5.4.~~ "Increasing precipitation" refers to the activation of any process that will actually result  
2           in greater amounts of moisture reaching the ground in any area from a cloud or cloud  
3           system than would have occurred naturally.

4     ~~6.5.~~ "Initiating precipitation" refers to the process of causing precipitation from clouds which  
5           could not otherwise have occurred naturally or inducing precipitation significantly  
6           earlier than would have occurred naturally.

7     ~~7.6.~~ "Operation" means the performance of any weather modification activity undertaken  
8           for the purpose of producing or attempting to produce any form of modifying effect  
9           upon the weather within a limited geographical area or within a limited period of time.

10    ~~8.7.~~ "Research and development" means exploration, field experimentation, and extension  
11           of investigative findings and theories of a scientific or technical nature into practical  
12           application for experimental and demonstration purposes, including the experimental  
13           production of models, devices, equipment, materials, and processes.

14    ~~9.8.~~ "Weather modification" means and extends to the control, alteration, and amelioration  
15           of weather elements, including man-caused changes in the natural precipitation  
16           process, hail suppression or modification, and alteration of other weather phenomena,  
17           including clouds, temperature, wind direction, and velocity, and the initiating,  
18           increasing, decreasing, and otherwise modifying by artificial methods of precipitation in  
19           the form of rain, snow, hail, mist, or fog through cloud seeding, electrification, or by  
20           other means to provide immediate practical benefits.

21    ~~10.9.~~ "Weather modification authority" means the governing body created by a board of  
22           county commissioners under section 61-04.1-22.1, 61-04.1-23, 61-04.1-27,  
23           61-04.1-29, or 61-04.1-31.

24           **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25    amended and reenacted as follows:

26           **61-04.1-08. Powers and duties of ~~board~~the department.**

27           The ~~board~~department has the following powers and duties:

28           1.    ~~The board shall appoint an executive director to serve at the board's discretion and to~~  
29           ~~perform duties assigned by the board.~~

- 1       2.    ~~The board shall authorize the employment of staff the board deems necessary to carry~~  
2           ~~out the provisions of this chapter. The executive director shall hire the staff, subject to~~  
3           ~~the approval of the board.~~
- 4       3.    The ~~board~~department shall adopt rules concerning qualifications, procedures, and  
5           conditions for issuance, revocation, suspension, and modification of licenses and  
6           permits; standards and instructions governing weather modification operations,  
7           including monitoring and evaluation, recordkeeping, and reporting, and the  
8           ~~board~~department shall establish procedures and forms for this recordkeeping and  
9           reporting. The ~~board~~department may adopt all other rules necessary to the  
10          administration of this chapter. The provisions of chapter 28-32 apply to this chapter  
11          and rules of the ~~board~~department must be published in the North Dakota  
12          Administrative Code.
- 13      4.2.   The ~~board~~department may contract with any person to carry out weather modification  
14           operations and, in connection with regulated weather modification operations in a  
15           county or geographical region, shall carry on monitoring and evaluation activities.
- 16      5.3.   The ~~board~~department may order any person who is conducting weather modification  
17           operations in violation of this chapter or any rules adopted to implement this chapter,  
18           to cease and desist from those operations and the order is enforceable in any court of  
19           competent jurisdiction within this state.
- 20      6.4.   The ~~board~~department may cooperate and contract with any person engaged in  
21           activities similar to the work of the ~~board~~department and may make contracts and  
22           agreements to carry out programs consistent with the purpose and intent of this  
23           chapter. The ~~board~~department may request and accept any grants of funds or services  
24           from any person and expend these funds or use these services to carry out this  
25           chapter.
- 26      7.5.   The ~~board~~department shall monitor the current state of knowledge regarding the  
27           magnitude and impacts of possible regional and global climatic changes and shall  
28           provide information to other state agencies that may benefit from this knowledge.
- 29      8.6.   The ~~board~~department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and  
30           do all things reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

1     ~~9-7.~~   The ~~board~~department may plan and study a hail suppression pilot program that would  
2             provide urban and rural hail suppression operations statewide or to any portion of the  
3             state.

4             **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6             **61-04.1-09. ~~Board~~Department of water resources to establish research and**  
7 **development program - Hail suppression pilot program.**

8             1.   The ~~board~~department of water resources shall establish a program of weather  
9             modification research and development in this state. The ~~board~~department shall  
10            supervise and coordinate all research and development activities in the state or  
11            research and development activities outside of the state participated in or conducted  
12            by any state institution or state or county agency.

13            2.   If the ~~board~~department plans and studies a hail suppression pilot program, the  
14            ~~board~~department may conduct a planning phase that includes studying the impact on  
15            the environment, providing public education, and formulating an operations plan.

16            **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18            **61-04.1-12. Exemptions.**

19            The ~~board~~department of water resources may provide by rule for exemption of the following  
20 activities from the license and permit requirements of section 61-04.1-11:

21            1.   Research and development conducted by the state, political subdivisions of the state,  
22            colleges and universities of the state, agencies of the federal government, or bona fide  
23            research corporations.

24            2.   Weather modification operations of an emergency nature taken against fire, frost, or  
25            fog.

26 Exempted activities shallmust be conducted so as not to unduly interfere with weather  
27 modification operations conducted under a permit issued in accordance with this chapter.

28            **SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **61-04.1-14. Issuance of license - Fee.**

2           The ~~board~~department of water resources shall provide, by rule, the procedure and criteria  
3 for the issuance of a license. The ~~board~~department, in accordance with its rules, shall issue a  
4 weather modification license to each applicant who:

- 5           1. Pays a license fee of fifty dollars.
- 6           2. Demonstrates competence to engage in weather modification operations, to the  
7           satisfaction of the ~~board~~department.
- 8           3. Designates an agent for the service of process pursuant to section 61-04.1-13 or  
9           chapter 10-19.1.

10 Each license issued by the ~~board~~department is nontransferable and ~~shall expire~~expires  
11 on December thirty-first of the year of issuance. A license ~~shall be~~is revocable for cause at any  
12 time prior to such date if, after holding a hearing upon due notice, the ~~board~~shall-  
13 ~~determine~~department determines that cause for revocation exists. License fees collected by the  
14 ~~board~~department must be paid into the general fund in the state treasury.

15           **SECTION 25. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17           **61-04.1-15. Revocation or suspension of license.**

18           The ~~board~~department of water resources may suspend or revoke a license for any of the  
19 following reasons:

- 20           1. Incompetency.
- 21           2. Dishonest practice.
- 22           3. False or fraudulent representations made in obtaining a license or permit under this  
23           chapter.
- 24           4. Failure to comply with any provisions of this chapter or any rules adopted by the  
25           ~~board~~department pursuant to this chapter.

26           **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28           **61-04.1-16. Permit required - Issuance of permit - Fee.**

- 29           1. A weather modification permit ~~shall be~~is required for each geographical area, as set  
30           out in the operational plan required by subdivision b, in which a person intends to  
31           conduct weather modification operations. Each permit issued by the ~~board~~shall-

1           ~~expire~~department of water resources expires on December thirty-first of the year of  
2           issuance. A person applying for a weather modification operational permit shall file an  
3           application with the ~~board~~department, in such form as the ~~board shall~~  
4           ~~prescribe~~department prescribes, which application ~~shall~~must be accompanied by an  
5           application fee of twenty-five dollars and contain such information as the  
6           ~~board~~department, by rule, may require, and in addition, each applicant for a permit  
7           shall:

- 8           a.    Furnish proof of financial responsibility as provided by section 61-04.1-19.  
9           b.    Set forth a complete operational plan for the proposed operation which ~~shall~~must  
10           include a specific statement of its nature and object, a map of the proposed  
11           operating area which specifies the primary target area for the proposed operation  
12           and shows the area that is reasonably expected to be affected by such operation,  
13           a statement of the approximate time during which the operation is to be  
14           conducted, a list of the materials and methods to be used in conducting the  
15           operation, and such other detailed information as may be needed to describe the  
16           operation.

17        2.    The ~~board~~department may issue the permit if it determines that:

- 18           a.    The applicant holds a valid weather modification license issued under this  
19           chapter.  
20           b.    The applicant has furnished satisfactory proof of financial responsibility in  
21           accordance with section 61-04.1-19.  
22           c.    The applicant has paid the required application fee.  
23           d.    The operation:  
24                (1)   Is reasonably conceived to improve water quantity or quality, reduce loss  
25                from weather hazards, provide economic benefits for the people of this  
26                state, advance scientific knowledge, or otherwise carry out the purposes of  
27                this chapter.  
28                (2)   Is designed to include adequate safeguards to minimize or avoid possible  
29                damage to the public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.  
30                (3)   Will not adversely affect another operation for which a permit has been  
31                issued.

- 1 e. The applicant has North Dakota workforce safety and insurance coverage for all
- 2 employees working in this state.
- 3 f. The applicant has furnished a performance bond as required by section
- 4 61-04.1-34.
- 5 g. The applicant has complied with such other requirements for the issuance of
- 6 permits as may be required by the rules and regulations of the ~~board~~department.
- 7 h. The applicant has furnished a bid bond.
- 8 i. The applicant has registered, with the North Dakota aeronautics commission, any
- 9 aircraft intended to be used in connection with the operation.

10 To carry out the objectives and purposes of this chapter, the ~~board~~department may  
11 condition and limit permits as to primary target areas, time of the operation, materials,  
12 equipment, and methods to be used in conducting the operation, emergency shutdown  
13 procedure, emergency assistance, and such other operational requirements as may  
14 be established by the ~~board~~department.

- 15 3. The ~~board shall~~department may issue only one permit at a time for operations in any
- 16 geographical area if two or more operations conducted in such an area according to
- 17 permit limitations might adversely interfere with one another.
- 18 4. All permit fees collected by the ~~board shall~~department must be paid into the general
- 19 fund of the state treasury.

20 **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **61-04.1-17. Hearings.**

23 The ~~board~~department of water resources shall give public notice, in the official county  
24 newspaper or newspapers in the area of the state reasonably expected to be affected by  
25 operations conducted under a permit, that it is considering an application for such permit, and, if  
26 objection to the issuance of the permit is received by the ~~board~~department within twenty days,  
27 the ~~board~~department may hold a public hearing for the purpose of obtaining information from  
28 the public concerning the effects of issuing the permit. The ~~board~~department may also hold  
29 such hearings upon its own motion.

30 **SECTION 28. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **61-04.1-18. Revocation, suspension, or modification of permit.**

2           The ~~board~~department of water resources may suspend or revoke a permit if it appears that  
3 the permittee no longer has the qualifications necessary for the issuance of an original permit or  
4 has violated any provision of this chapter, or any of the rules adopted under it.

5           The ~~board~~department may revise the conditions and limits of a permit if:

6           1.    The permittee is given notice and a reasonable opportunity for a hearing, to be held in  
7               accordance with chapter 28-32.

8           2.    It appears to the ~~board~~department that a modification of the conditions and limits of a  
9               permit is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, welfare, or the environment.

10          If it appears to the ~~board~~department that an emergency situation exists or is impending which  
11          could endanger the public's health, safety, welfare, or the environment, the ~~board~~department  
12          may, without prior notice or hearing, immediately modify the conditions or limits of a permit, or  
13          order temporary suspension of a permit. The issuance of such an order ~~shall~~must include notice  
14          of a hearing to be held within ten days thereafter on the question of permanently modifying the  
15          conditions and limits or continuing the suspension of the permit. Failure to comply with an order  
16          temporarily suspending an operation or modifying the conditions and limits of a permit ~~shall be~~is  
17          grounds for immediate revocation of the license and permit of the person controlling or engaged  
18          in the operation.

19          **SECTION 29. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20          amended and reenacted as follows:

21          **61-04.1-19. Proof of financial responsibility.**

22          Proof of financial responsibility is made by showing to the satisfaction of the  
23          ~~board~~department of water resources that the permittee has the ability to respond in damages to  
24          liability which might reasonably result from the operation for which the permit is sought. ~~Such~~  
25          ~~proof~~Proof of financial responsibility may be shown by:

26          1.    Presentation to the ~~board~~department of proof of a prepaid noncancelable insurance  
27               policy against such liability, in an amount approved by the ~~board~~department.

28          2.    Filing with the ~~board~~department a corporate surety bond, cash, or negotiable  
29               securities in an amount approved by the ~~board~~department.

30          **SECTION 30. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31          amended and reenacted as follows:



1           **61-04.1-20. Board Department of water resources may create operating districts -**  
2 **Representation of noncontracting counties.**

3           The ~~board~~department of water resources may place any county or geographical region for  
4 which a person contracts with the state for weather modification operations in any operational  
5 district the ~~board~~department determines necessary to best provide that county or geographical  
6 region with the benefits of weather modification. In determining the boundaries of an operating  
7 district, the ~~board~~deparatment shall consider the patterns of crops within the state, climatic  
8 patterns, and the limitations of aircraft and other technical equipment. The ~~board~~department  
9 may assign any county that has not created a weather modification authority under this chapter  
10 to an operating district solely for the purpose of representation on the operations committee of  
11 that district.

12           **SECTION 31. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14           **61-04.1-21. District operations advisory committees created - Duties.**

- 15           1. There must be a district operations advisory committee in each operations district  
16 created in accordance with section 61-04.1-20. Each committee must be composed of  
17 one commissioner of the weather modification authority, if a weather modification  
18 authority exists, from each county within the district; a representative of each person  
19 contracting for a geographical region assigned to the district; and one member of the  
20 board of county commissioners from each county assigned to the district. Each  
21 advisory committee, upon majority vote, with the concurrence of the ~~board~~department  
22 of water resources, shall adopt rules and bylaws necessary to govern that committee's  
23 procedures and meetings. Each committee shall evaluate weather modification  
24 operations within that committee's district and make recommendations and proposals  
25 to the ~~board~~department concerning these operations.
- 26           2. The weather modification authority of any county authorized to contract for weather  
27 modification operations under this chapter which is not assigned to an operations  
28 district shall assume the functions of the district operations committee and may  
29 exercise the powers and duties assigned to the operations committees by this chapter  
30 and by the rules of the ~~board~~department.

1       **SECTION 32. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-33 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **61-04.1-33. Bids required - When.**

4       ~~Whenever~~if the board shall undertake to contract department of water resources contracts  
5 with any licensed controller in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars in any one year, the  
6 ~~board~~department shall advertise for proposals for such weather modification activities and, in its  
7 proceedings with respect to bids therefor, shall substantially follow the manner and form  
8 required by the laws of this state for the purchase of supplies by the office of management and  
9 budget. The ~~board shall~~department may not enter into ~~nea~~ contract or agreement for weather  
10 modification services except with a controller, holding the permit as required by this chapter,  
11 except for the purpose of gathering technical information, and making studies or surveys.

12       **SECTION 33. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14       **61-04.1-34. Performance bond, cash, or negotiable securities required.**

15       Before the ~~board shall contract~~department of water resources contracts with any controller,  
16 ~~it~~the department shall require the controller to furnish a surety bond or cash or negotiable  
17 securities for the faithful performance of the contract in such amount as determined by the  
18 ~~board~~department, conditioned that the licensee and the licensee's agents will in all respects  
19 faithfully perform all weather modification contracts undertaken with the ~~board~~department and  
20 will comply with all provisions of this chapter and the contract entered ~~into~~ by the  
21 ~~board~~department and the licensee.

22       **SECTION 34. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24       **61-04.1-37. Liability of controller.**

- 25       1. An operation conducted under the license and permit requirements of this chapter is  
26 not an ultrahazardous or abnormally dangerous activity which makes the permittee  
27 subject to liability without fault.
- 28       2. Dissemination of materials and substances into the atmosphere by a permittee acting  
29 within the conditions and limits of the permitte's permit ~~shall do~~ not constitute  
30 trespass.

1           3.    Except as provided in this section and in section 61-04.1-36, ~~nothing~~ in this chapter  
2            ~~shall~~does not prevent any person adversely affected by a weather modification  
3            operation from recovering damages resulting from negligent or intentionally harmful  
4            conduct by a permittee.

5           4.    The fact that a person holds a license or was issued a permit under this chapter, or  
6            that the person has complied with the rules adopted by the ~~board pursuant~~  
7            ~~to~~department of water resources under this chapter, is not admissible as a defense in  
8            any legal action which may be brought against the person.

9           **SECTION 35. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10          amended and reenacted as follows:

11          **61-04.1-38. ~~Board~~Department of water resources may receive and expend funds.**

12          1.    The ~~board~~department of water resources may receive and accept in the name of the  
13          state any funds that are offered or become available from any federal grant or  
14          appropriation, private gift, donation, or bequest, county funds, or funds from any other  
15          source except license and permit fees, and to expend these funds for the expense of  
16          administering this chapter, and, with the exception of county funds and funds from any  
17          other person contracting with the ~~board~~department for weather modification  
18          operations, for the encouragement of research and development in weather  
19          modification by any private person, the North Dakota state university, the university of  
20          North Dakota, or any other appropriate state, county, or public agency in this state by  
21          direct grant, contract, or other means.

22          2.    All federal grants, federal appropriations, private gifts, donations, or bequests, county  
23          funds, or funds from any other source except license and permit fees, received by the  
24          ~~board~~department must be paid over to the state treasurer, who shall credit this amount  
25          to a ~~special fund in the state treasury known as the state weather modification fund~~the  
26          water commission fund. All proceeds deposited by the state treasurer in the ~~state~~  
27          ~~weather modification~~water commission fund are appropriated to the ~~board~~department  
28          and, if expended, must be disbursed by warrant-check prepared by the office of  
29          management and budget upon vouchers submitted by the ~~board~~department and must  
30          be used for the purpose of paying for the expense of administration of this chapter  
31          and, with the exception of county funds or funds from any other person contracting

1 with the ~~board~~department for weather modification operations, for the encouragement  
2 of research and development in weather modification by any private person, the North  
3 Dakota state university, the university of North Dakota, or any other appropriate state,  
4 county, or public agency by direct grant, contract, or other means.

5 **SECTION 36. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-39 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **61-04.1-39. Payment for weather modification - State to provide funds.**

8 Any weather modification authority or person that contracted with the ~~board~~department of  
9 water resources for weather modification operations under this chapter shall appropriate to the  
10 ~~state weather modification~~water commission fund the amount determined by the  
11 ~~board~~department to be necessary to provide that weather modification authority or person with  
12 weather modification operations. The ~~board~~department may expend, from the ~~state weather-~~  
13 ~~modification~~water commission fund, the funds the ~~board~~department deems necessary to  
14 provide a contracting weather modification authority or person with weather modification  
15 operations.

16 **SECTION 37. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 65-02-03.1 of the  
17 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 a. A departing member representing an employer must be replaced by a member  
19 representing an employer, most of whose employees are in a different rate  
20 classification than those of the employer represented by the departing member.  
21 The governor shall appoint the member for an employer representative from a list  
22 of three potential candidates submitted by ~~a coordinating committee appointed by~~  
23 ~~the governor, composed of an organization of business associations.~~ The  
24 organization shall accept qualified candidate recommendations received from  
25 representatives from the associated general contractors of North Dakota, the  
26 North Dakota petroleum council, the greater North Dakota chamber of  
27 commerce, the North Dakota motor carriers association, the North Dakota  
28 hospital association, the national federation of independent business, the lignite  
29 energy council, and other statewide business interests.

30 **SECTION 38. REPEAL.** Chapter 8-11.1, sections 12-48-06.1, 15.1-37-05, 15.1-37-06, and  
31 15.1-37-08, chapter 17-07, sections 19-24.1-38, 19-24.1-39, and 23-35-02.3, chapters 34-16

1 and 43-35, sections 50-06-05.6, 50-06.4-10, 50-11.1-25, 50-11.1-26, 50-11.1-27, 52-02-07,  
2 54-34.3-10, 54-54-10, 54-59-25, 54-59-33, 54-59-35, 54-59-38, 54-60-25, 61-04.1-04,  
3 61-04.1-05, 61-04.1-06, 61-04.1-07, and 61-04.1-10, and chapter 61-36 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code are repealed.

5 **SECTION 39. REPEAL.** Sections 55-01-13 and 55-01-14 of the North Dakota Century  
6 Code are repealed.

7 **SECTION 40. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 39 of this Act is effective December 31, 2026.

8 **SECTION 41. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 10 of this Act is effective through December 1,  
9 2026, and after that date is ineffective.