Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1531

## Introduced by

Representatives Schreiber-Beck, Beltz, Fisher, Hagert, Kiefert, Monson Senators Luick, Myrdal, Wanzek, Weber

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner to conduct an
- 2 irrigation expansion study; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

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

4 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL FUND - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER -5 IRRIGATION EXPANSION STUDY - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE

## 6 MANAGEMENT.

- There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
  otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$75,000, or so much of the sum as may be
  necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of contracting with a
  consultant to study the potential benefits of expanding irrigation throughout the state,
  for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding is
  considered a one-time funding item.
- 13 2. The consultant shall study:
- 14 a. The potential economic benefits of increased irrigation and improved water
  15 conveyance in rural communities of the state;
- b. The ramifications of failing to construct and implement irrigation infrastructure as
  originally designed under the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 [Pub. L.
  78-534; 58 Stat. 887];
- 19 c. The economic contribution between irrigated land and nonirrigated land;
- 20 d. The economic contribution between using subsurface water management 21 systems and land not using subsurface water management systems; and
- e. Any other factors that would improve and expand irrigation in the state along withany perceived benefits from expanded irrigation.

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- 1 3. Before July 1, 2026, the agriculture commissioner shall present the findings and
- 2 recommendations of the study, and any proposed legislation necessary to implement
- 3 the recommendations, to the legislative management.