

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1531
with Senate Amendments**

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.**

7 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
8 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$75,000, or so much of the sum as may be
9 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of contracting with a
10 consultant to study the potential benefits of expanding irrigation throughout the state,
11 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding is
12 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;

16 b. The ramifications of failing to construct and implement irrigation infrastructure as
17 originally designed under the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 [Pub. L.
18 78-534; 58 Stat. 887];

19 c. A comparison of the economic contribution between irrigated land and
20 nonirrigated land;

- 1 d. A comparison of the economic contribution between using subsurface water
- 2 management systems and land not using subsurface water management
- 3 systems; and
- 4 e. Any other factors that would improve and expand irrigation in the state along with
- 5 any perceived benefits from expanded irrigation.
- 6 3. The agriculture commissioner is exempt from the state purchasing practices under
- 7 chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for services to accomplish the study.
- 8 4. Before July 1, 2026, the agriculture commissioner shall present the findings and
- 9 recommendations of the study, and any proposed legislation necessary to implement
- 10 the recommendations, to the legislative management.