Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1577

Introduced by

Representatives Mitskog, Kempenich, Kiefert, Martinson, Nelson, Stemen

Senators Kessel, Weber

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23.1-07 and a new subsection to
- 2 section 23.1-07-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a wastewater infrastructure
- 3 grant program and the duties of the department of environmental quality; and to provide an
- 4 appropriation.

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

- 6 SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 23.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
 7 and enacted as follows:
- 8 <u>Wastewater infrastructure grant program.</u>
- 9 <u>1.</u> <u>The department shall award wastewater infrastructure grants to eligible entities</u>
- 10 identified in subsection 2 to upgrade, replace, or construct infrastructure for a
- 11 <u>wastewater collection system, wastewater disposal system, or wastewater treatment</u>
 12 plant.
- 132.Cities, counties, townships, water resource districts, recreation service districts, and14water districts operating wastewater systems in the state may receive a grant under
- 15 this section for an eligible project, subject to the availability of funds.
- 16 <u>3.</u> <u>An eligible wastewater system must be in compliance with current wastewater</u>
- 17 regulations unless the project will return the system to compliance. Eligible projects
 18 may not include operations and maintenance costs.
- 194.The department may not award a grant in excess of sixty percent of the total cost of a20project and shall ensure no community receives a grant for more than one project per21biennium.

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- 1 SECTION 2. A new subsection to section 23.1-07-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
- 2 created and enacted as follows:
- 3 <u>Administer the wastewater infrastructure grant program.</u>

4 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY -

5 WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND

6 **IMPROVEMENTS FUND - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in

- 7 the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
- 8 appropriated, the sum of \$50,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the
- 9 department of environmental quality for the purpose of providing wastewater infrastructure
- 10 grants, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. No more than
- 11 \$12,500,000 may be awarded for a project. Of the funding appropriated in this section, at least
- 12 \$12,500,000 must be awarded to cities with a population less than twelve thousand five
- 13 hundred, based on the most recent federal decennial census. If less than \$12,500,000 has
- 14 been awarded to cities with a population less than twelve thousand five hundred by April 1,
- 15 2027, the department may award the remaining funds to other eligible projects. The funding
- 16 provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.