

Introduced by

Representatives Brown, Davis, Finley-DeVill, Ista, Nelson

Senators Boschee, Braunberger, Mathern

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the state historical society for Native American
2 grave protection and repatriation projects.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NATIVE AMERICAN**
5 **GRAVE PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION PROJECTS.**

6 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
7 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be
8 necessary, to the state historical society for projects to allow the state to comply with
9 the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, for the biennium
10 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

11 2. The state historical society may use the funding provided under this section to:

12 a. Provide grants to tribal entities to consult with museums, federal agencies, and
13 institutions to facilitate the repatriation of Native American human remains,
14 funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

15 b. Provide grants to museums and cultural institutions for the purpose of improving
16 the identification, inventory, and repatriation of Native American cultural items.

17 c. Enhance state and tribal capacity to manage and oversee compliance efforts,
18 including funding for staffing, training, and consultation with affected
19 communities.

20 d. Conduct field surveys, inventories, and documentation of cultural items.

21 e. Pay for administrative, legal, and training costs related to compliance with federal
22 requirements and for the development of training materials and workshops.

23 3. The state historical society shall prioritize the use of funding for projects that directly
24 address the repatriation of culturally significant human remains and funerary objects,

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 provide consultation opportunities between tribes and institutions holding Native
- 2 American collections, and assist tribes in the development of long-term cultural
- 3 preservation plans.
- 4 4. The state historical society shall establish a timeline for the repatriation of identified
- 5 items to tribal communities.