

February 18, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1603

Introduced by

Representatives Brown, Davis, Finley-DeVilleville, 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 compliance efforts.

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 COMPLIANCE.**

6 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
7 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be
8 necessary, to the state historical society for the purpose of providing compliance 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 shall use the funds provided under this section to establish
12 a compliance committee consisting of tribal historic preservation officers or their
13 designees from each North Dakota tribe with an agreement pursuant to chapter
14 54-40.2. The committee must consist of representatives from the state historical
15 society, Indian affairs commission, and the attorney general's office. Each tribe
16 participating on the committee **may** shall provide matching funds of up to \$100,000 for
17 committee efforts. All funds received for compliance efforts under this section must be
18 placed into a separate account with oversight by the office of management and
19 budget.

- 1 3. The committee must identify and prioritize compliance efforts for the repatriation of
2 culturally significant human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of
3 cultural patrimony, including funding for staffing, training, and consultation with the
4 tribal historic preservation offices. The compliance committee shall develop policies to
5 facilitate meetings, grant usage, training, consultation, compliance timelines, training,
6 and documentation requirements that directly address the repatriation of culturally
7 significant items to North Dakota tribal nations.
- 8 4. The appropriation provided in this section does not authorize any new scientific study
9 of Native American ancestral remains or burial property, as outlined in the federal
10 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, nor may the funds be
11 appropriated for such studies.