

Introduced by

Senators Kessel, Patten

Representatives Kempenich, J. Olson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a grasslands grazing grant program.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Grasslands grazing grant program.**

7 1. The agriculture commissioner shall administer a grasslands grazing grant program to
8 provide grants to organizations representing cooperative grazing associations in the
9 state.

10 2. a. An organization that receives a grant under this program may distribute the
11 funding to cooperative grazing associations for eligible infrastructure projects,
12 which must be located on national grasslands within the state.

13 b. Eligible infrastructure projects include:

14 (1) Water development.

15 (2) Fencing.

16 (3) Conservation initiatives.

17 (4) Compliance with federal permitting requirements, including fees for
18 professional services.

19 (5) Other projects to enhance wildlife habitat or capture carbon, or to increase
20 the health of grasslands.

21 c. Program participants shall develop and implement a grazing land plan in
22 compliance with local soil conservation district guidance, and the plan must be
23 approved by the local soil conservation district.

- 1 3. To be eligible for a grant, an organization shall provide one dollar of matching funds
- 2 from nonstate sources for every four dollars of grant funding. The agriculture
- 3 commissioner shall establish additional guidelines for the program.