

Introduced by

Workforce Development Committee

(At the request of the Department of Environmental Quality)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 23.1-07-04 and sections
2 23.1-07-05, 23.1-07-06, and 23.1-07-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
3 certification and penalization of water distribution and wastewater systems operators; and to
4 provide a penalty.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 23.1-07-04 of the North Dakota
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 1. A certificate issued under this chapter is valid for only one year and expires on the first
9 day of ~~July~~January of the year after which it was issued.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 23.1-07-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **23.1-07-05. Fees.**

13 ~~The department may charge a fee for certificates issued under this chapter, but the fees-~~
14 ~~may not exceed fifty dollars for the initial certificate, or twenty-five dollars for the annual renewal-~~
15 ~~certificate~~by rule may prescribe and provide for the payment and collection of reasonable fees
16 for certificates issued under this chapter. The fees must be based on the anticipated cost of
17 filing and processing applications for operator certification, preparing and administering
18 examinations, and the annual renewal of certificates. All receipts from the fees must be
19 deposited in the state treasury to be credited to a special fund to be known as the "operators'
20 certification fund" to be used by the department to administer and enforce this chapter and
21 financially assist the department in conducting operator training programs. Any surplus at the
22 end of the fiscal year must be retained by the department for future expenditures.

23 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 23.1-07-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **23.1-07-06. Duties of the department.**

2 The department shall:

- 3 1. Hold at least one examination each year, administered by the department or a third-
4 party examination service, at a designated time and place for the purpose of
5 examining candidates for certification.
- 6 2. Promote the program of certification of water supply and wastewater disposal system
7 operators.
- 8 3. Distribute notices and applications and to receive and evaluate applications.
- 9 4. Collect fees for initial certification and annual renewal.
- 10 5. Prepare, conduct, and grade examinations. The department may use a third-party
11 examination service to prepare, conduct, and grade examinations.
- 12 6. Maintain records of operator qualifications, certification examination results, and a
13 register of certified operators.
- 14 7. Promote and schedule regular training schools and programs.
- 15 8. Adopt rules necessary to carry out this chapter.

16 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 23.1-07-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **23.1-07-08. Violations - Penalty.**

19 Any

- 20 1. A person that violates this chapter, a rule implementing this chapter, or an order issued
21 by the department under this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five
22 thousand dollars per day of violation.
- 23 2. A person violating that willfully violates this chapter or the rules adopted under this
24 chapter, after written notice of the violation by the department, is guilty of a class A
25 misdemeanor.
- 26 3. A person that willfully makes a false statement, representation, or certification in an
27 application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained
28 under this chapter or any rule, order, limitation, or other applicable requirement
29 implementing this chapter or that falsifies, tampers with, or willfully renders inaccurate
30 any monitoring device or sample is guilty of a class A misdemeanor, unless the penalty

- 1 for the violation is otherwise specifically provided for and made exclusive in this
- 2 chapter.