

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2308

Introduced by

Senators Roers, Hogue

Representatives Lefor, Louser

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter ~~34-16~~23.1-01, a new section to
2 chapter 54-07, and a new section to chapter 61-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
3 to standards for well drilling and installation of water well pumps, pitless units, and monitoring
4 wells, a boards review task force, and requirements for firms engaged in water well work,
5 installation of water well pump and pitless units, monitoring well work, and drilling of geothermal
6 systems; to amend and reenact section 6-09-43, subdivision j of subsection 2 of section
7 15.1-01-04, sections ~~15.1-02-04~~, 15.1-07-33, and 23-35-02.2, ~~34-16-01~~, and ~~34-16-02~~,
8 subsection 30 of section 38-14.1-02, subdivision t of subsection 1 of section 38-14.1-14,
9 subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4, ~~section~~sections 52-02-02, and 52-02-08, subsection 1 of
10 section 54-07-01.2, sections 54-54-05, 54-59-26, 54-59-27, ~~54-59-34~~, ~~54-59-36~~, ~~54-59-37~~,
11 54-59-39, 61-03-01.3, 61-04.1-03, 61-04.1-08, 61-04.1-09, 61-04.1-12, 61-04.1-14, 61-04.1-15,
12 61-04.1-16, 61-04.1-17, 61-04.1-18, 61-04.1-19, 61-04.1-20, 61-04.1-21, 61-04.1-33,
13 61-04.1-34, 61-04.1-37, 61-04.1-38, and 61-04.1-39, and subdivision a of subsection 2 of
14 section 65-02-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the wastewater recycling
15 treatment guide, boards and commissions, soil classifiers, the unemployment insurance
16 advisory council, gubernatorial appointments, the committee on aging, health information
17 technology advisory committee, statewide longitudinal data system committee, atmospheric
18 resource board, the department of health and human services, the council on the arts, the state
19 engineer, the superintendent of public instruction, job service North Dakota, and workforce
20 safety and insurance coordinating committee; to repeal chapter 8-11.1, section 12-48-06.1,
21 chapter 17-07, sections 15.1-37-05, 15.1-37-06, 15.1-37-08, 19-24.1-38, 19.1-24.1-39, and
22 23-35-02.3, chapters 34-16, 43-35, and 43-36, sections 50-06-05.6, 50-06.4-10, 50-11.1-25,

1 50-11.1-26, 50-11.1-27, 52-02-07, 54-34.3-10, 54-54-10, 54-59-25, 54-59-33, ~~54-59-34,~~
2 54-59-35, ~~54-59-36, 54-59-37,~~ 54-59-38, 54-60-25, 55-01-13, 55-01-14, 61-04.1-04, 61-04.1-05,
3 61-04.1-06, 61-04.1-07, ~~61-04.1-08,~~ and 61-04.1-10, and chapter 61-36 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating to occupational and professional boards, the midwest interstate
5 passenger rail compact, prison industry advisory committee, energy policy commission, medical
6 marijuana advisory committee, onsite wastewater recycling technical committee, state board of
7 water well contractors, state board of registration for professional soil classifiers, committee on
8 aging, brain injury advisory council, early childhood council, unemployment insurance advisory
9 council, commission on the status of women, health information technology advisory committee,
10 ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~, poet laureate nominating board, rural
11 development council, America 250 commission, atmospheric resource board, and Devils Lake
12 outlet management advisory committee; to provide for a legislative management report; to
13 provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date.

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

15 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09-43 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended
16 and reenacted as follows:

17 **6-09-43. Health information technology planning loan fund - Appropriation.**

- 18 1. The health information technology planning loan fund is established in the Bank for the
19 purpose of providing low-interest loans to health care entities to assist those entities in
20 improving health information technology infrastructure. This fund is a revolving loan
21 fund. All moneys transferred into the fund, interest upon moneys in the fund, and
22 collections of interest and principal on loans made from the fund are appropriated for
23 disbursement according to this section.
- 24 2. The Bank shall make loans from this fund to health care entities as approved by the
25 health information technology office director, ~~in collaboration with the health-~~
26 ~~information technology advisory committee~~, in accordance with the criteria established
27 by the health information technology director under section 54-59-26.
- 28 3. The Bank shall administer the health information technology planning loan fund. Funds
29 in the loan fund may be used for loans as provided under this section and the costs of

1 administration of the fund. Annually, the Bank may deduct a service fee for
2 administering the revolving loan fund maintained under this section.

3 4. An application for a loan under this section must be made to the health information
4 technology office. The health information technology office director, ~~in collaboration~~
5 ~~with the health information technology advisory committee~~, may approve the
6 application of a qualified applicant that meets the criteria established by the health
7 information technology office director. The health information technology office shall
8 forward approved applications to the Bank. Upon approval of the application by the
9 Bank, the Bank shall make the loan from the revolving loan fund as provided under
10 this section.

11 5. The Bank may do all acts necessary to negotiate loans and preserve security as
12 deemed necessary, to exercise any right of redemption, and to bring suit in order to
13 collect interest and principal due the revolving loan fund under mortgages, contracts,
14 and notes executed to obtain loans under this section. If the applicant's plan for
15 financing provides for a loan of funds from sources other than the state of North
16 Dakota, the Bank may make a loan subordinate security interest. The Bank may
17 recover from the revolving loan fund amounts actually expended by the Bank for legal
18 fees and to effect a redemption.

19 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision j of subsection 2 of section 15.1-01-04 of the North
20 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21 j. The following gubernatorial appointees:

22 (1) ~~An individual representing the statewide longitudinal data system~~
23 ~~committee;~~

24 (2) An individual representing tribal school interests;

25 ~~(3)~~(2) An individual employed as a public school administrator;

26 ~~(4)~~(3) An individual employed as a public school principal;

27 ~~(5)~~(4) An individual employed as a public elementary school teacher;

28 ~~(6)~~(5) An individual employed as a public secondary school teacher;

29 ~~(7)~~(6) A director of a special education unit; and

30 ~~(8)~~(7) A director of a regional education association.

1 ~~— **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is-~~
2 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

3 ~~— **15.1-02-04. Superintendent of public instruction – Duties.**~~

4 ~~— The superintendent of public instruction:~~

5 ~~— 1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students-~~
6 ~~of this state.~~

7 ~~— 2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and~~
8 ~~counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.~~

9 ~~— 3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.~~

10 ~~— 4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.~~

11 ~~— 5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.~~

12 ~~— 6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.~~

13 ~~— 7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.~~

14 ~~— 8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and~~
15 ~~compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education~~
16 ~~to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization,~~
17 ~~and dissolution.~~

18 ~~— 9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten~~
19 ~~through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and~~
20 ~~participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level~~
21 ~~entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each~~
22 ~~steering committee member entity receiving state education funds shall provide~~
23 ~~components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic~~
24 ~~vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic~~
25 ~~plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The~~
26 ~~superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic~~
27 ~~vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the~~
28 ~~education standing committees during each regular legislative session.~~

29 ~~— 10. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning~~
30 ~~continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education,~~

1 upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education
2 coordination council.

3 ~~11. Shall:~~

4 ~~a. Establish the terms and conditions under which a person may be authorized to~~
5 ~~access data through the statewide longitudinal data system;~~

6 ~~b. Require all statewide longitudinal data system administrators to implement~~
7 ~~approved data protection practices to ensure the security of electronic and~~
8 ~~physical data which must include requirements for encryption and staff training;~~

9 ~~c. Provide for biennial privacy and security audits of the statewide longitudinal data~~
10 ~~system;~~

11 ~~d. Establish protocols, including procedures, for the notification of students and~~
12 ~~parents in the event of a data breach involving the statewide longitudinal data~~
13 ~~system;~~

14 ~~e. Require that data retention and disposition by the statewide longitudinal data~~
15 ~~system be governed by the same policies as those instituted for the information~~
16 ~~technology department;~~

17 ~~f. Require the provision of annual training regarding data protection to any~~
18 ~~individuals who have access to the statewide longitudinal data system, including~~
19 ~~school district employees, employees of the North Dakota university system~~
20 ~~office and institutions under the control of the state board of higher education,~~
21 ~~and elected or appointed state or local governmental officials; and~~

22 ~~g. Provide a report regarding the statewide longitudinal data system outlining~~
23 ~~recommendations for further development, cost proposals, proposals for~~
24 ~~legislation, and recommendations for data sharing governance.~~

25 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-07-33 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **15.1-07-33. Student information system - Exemption.**

- 28 1. Notwithstanding any other technology requirements imposed by the superintendent of
29 public instruction or the information technology department, each school district shall
30 implement the state student information system administered by the information
31 technology department and use it as its principal student information system. Each

1 school district shall use a state course code, assigned by the department of public
2 instruction, to identify all local classes in the state student information system.

3 2. ~~The statewide longitudinal data system committees~~superintendent of public instruction
4 may exempt a school district from having to implement and utilize the state student
5 information system if the school district demonstrates that:

6 a. The district has acquired and is using a student information system determined to
7 be compatible with the statewide longitudinal data system; or

8 b. In accordance with requirements of the bureau of Indian education, the district
9 has acquired and is utilizing a student information system that is determined to
10 be comparable by the superintendent.

11 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-35-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **23-35-02.2. Public health units to adopt onsite wastewater recycling treatment guide.**

14 Each public health unit shall adopt the statewide technical guide for onsite wastewater
15 recycling treatment technologies and sewage distribution technologies established by the onsite-
16 wastewater recycling technical committee ~~department of health and human~~
17 ~~services~~environmental equality.

18 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 23.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
19 and enacted as follows:

20 **Standards for well drilling and installation of water well pumps, pitless units, and**
21 **monitoring wells - Reports required.**

22 1. All construction of water wells must comply with the rules adopted by the department
23 of environmental quality. Within thirty days after the completion of each well, each
24 water well contractor shall furnish to the department on forms provided by the
25 department any information required by the department, including a log of formations
26 penetrated, well depth, and casing size and weight. A copy of each report also must be
27 furnished to the customer. All information submitted must remain the property of the
28 department.

29 2. All installation of water well pumps and pitless units must comply with the rules
30 adopted by the department of environmental quality.

1 3. All monitoring wells constructed must comply with the rules adopted by the department
2 of environmental quality. Each monitoring well contractor shall furnish all reports
3 required by the rules of the department.

4 4. All drilling of geothermal systems must comply with the rules adopted by the
5 department of environmental quality and the state geologist.

6 ~~— **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 34-16-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **34-16-01. Definitions.**~~

9 ~~— 1. "Board" means an occupational or professional board established under title 43 and~~
10 ~~any other statutorily created board, commission, or council.~~

11 ~~— 2. "Commissioner" means the labor commissioner.~~

12 ~~— **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 34-16-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
13 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

14 ~~— **34-16-02. Duties of commissioner.**~~

15 ~~— The commissioner shall gather information regarding the continuing education requirements~~
16 ~~and the practice of licensing out-of-state practitioners for each licensing board under title 43, the~~
17 ~~education standards and practices board, and the state board of law examiners. The~~
18 ~~commissioner shall analyze the information to develop and update a strategy for more efficient~~
19 ~~continuing education requirements and more efficient practices for licensing out-of-state~~
20 ~~practitioners. As necessary, the commissioner may recommend introduction of legislation to~~
21 ~~implement this strategy.~~

22 ~~— **SECTION 8.** A new section to chapter 34-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
23 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

24 ~~— **Boards review task force.**~~

25 ~~— 1. The commissioner shall provide staffing and administrative services to the boards~~
26 ~~review task force. The task force shall:~~

27 ~~— a. Review and assess all boards for inefficiencies and duplication of responsibilities;~~

28 ~~— b. Issue performance evaluations; and~~

29 ~~— c. Make recommendations to the legislative assembly regarding minimizing and~~
30 ~~streamlining government operations through the consolidation or elimination of~~
31 ~~boards.~~

- 1 ~~2. In addition to the commissioner, who shall serve as the presiding officer of the task-~~
2 ~~force, the task force must include:~~
- 3 ~~a. A member of the senate, appointed by the senate majority leader.~~
4 ~~b. A member of the house of representatives, appointed by the house of~~
5 ~~representatives majority leader.~~
6 ~~c. A representative of an organization representing cities, appointed by the~~
7 ~~governor.~~
8 ~~d. A representative of an organization representing counties, appointed by the~~
9 ~~governor.~~
10 ~~e. A representative of the business community, appointed by the governor.~~
11 ~~f. A member at large, appointed by the governor.~~
- 12 ~~3. A member of the task force who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement~~
13 ~~for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees, to be~~
14 ~~paid by the labor commissioner. A state employee who is a member of the task force is~~
15 ~~entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement for~~
16 ~~mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency. A member of the task~~
17 ~~force who is a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive per diem~~
18 ~~compensation at the rate provided under section 54-35-10 for each day performing~~
19 ~~official duties of the task force. The legislative council shall pay the per diem~~
20 ~~compensation and reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by law for any~~
21 ~~member of the task force who is a member of the legislative assembly.~~
- 22 ~~4. Before October 1, 2026, the task force shall provide a report of its findings and~~
23 ~~recommendations and any proposed legislation necessary to implement the~~
24 ~~recommendations to the legislative management and the governor.~~

25 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 30 of section 38-14.1-02 of the North Dakota
26 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 27 30. "Soil classifier" means a professional soil classifier as defined in subsection 4 of
28 section 43-36-01 an individual who by reason of that individual's special knowledge of
29 the physical, chemical, and biological sciences applicable to soils as natural bodies
30 and of the methods and principles of soil classification as acquired by soils education

1 and soil classification experience in the formation, morphology, description, and
2 mapping of soils is qualified to practice soil classifying.

3 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision t of subsection 1 of section 38-14.1-14 of the North
4 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5 t. A soil survey of all the suitable plant growth material within the permit area. Such
6 survey must also locate and identify prime soils in the permit area. The survey
7 must be made by a ~~professional~~ soil classifier as described in ~~subsection 4 of~~
8 ~~section 43-36-01~~section 38-14.1-02.

9 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4 of the North Dakota
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 1. The department includes the state hospital, the regional human service centers, a
12 vocational rehabilitation unit, public health division, and other units or offices and
13 administrative and fiscal support services as the commissioner of the department
14 determines necessary. The department must be structured to promote efficient and
15 effective operations and, consistent with fulfilling its prescribed statutory duties, shall
16 act as the official agency of the state in the discharge of the following functions not
17 otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency:

18 a. (1) Administration of programs for children and families, including adoption
19 services and the licensure of child-placing agencies, foster care services
20 and the licensure of foster care arrangements, certification of shelter care
21 services, child protection services, children's trust fund, licensure of early
22 childhood programs, refugee services, in-home community-based services,
23 quality control, ~~and~~ administration of the interstate compacts on the
24 placement of children and juveniles, and the early childhood services
25 advisory board.

26 (2) Administration of programs to identify all available options for effectively
27 maximizing the provision of early childhood ~~education~~ services within the
28 state; and address the coordinated utilization of facilities; and personnel;—
29 and transportation; for the provision of early childhood ~~education~~ services
30 within the state.

1 ~~(3) — Distribute grants, in the amount of two thousand dollars for each child~~
2 ~~enrolled in a program of early childhood education, if the child is eligible for~~
3 ~~free lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act~~
4 ~~[42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.], and one thousand dollars for each child enrolled~~
5 ~~in a program of early childhood education, if the child is eligible for reduced~~
6 ~~lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C.~~
7 ~~1751, et seq.].~~

- 8 b. Administration of programs for individuals with developmental disabilities,
9 including licensure of facilities and services, the establishment funding for family
10 members and corporate guardianships, and the design and implementation of a
11 community-based service system for persons in need of habilitation.
- 12 c. Administration of aging service programs, including nutrition, transportation,
13 advocacy, social, ombudsman, recreation, and related services funded under the
14 Older Americans Act of 1965 [42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.], home and
15 community-based services, ~~and~~ licensure of adult foster care homes, ~~and the~~
16 committee on aging.
- 17 d. Administration of behavioral health programs, including reviewing and identifying
18 service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system in an effort to
19 ensure health and safety, access to services, and quality of services; establishing
20 quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program
21 services and facilities; providing policy leadership in partnership with public and
22 private entities; and providing chronic disease management, regional intervention
23 services, and twenty-four-hour crisis services for individuals with behavioral
24 health disorders.
- 25 e. Administration of economic assistance programs, including temporary assistance
26 for needy families, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, home energy
27 assistance, child care assistance, refugee assistance, work experience, work
28 incentive, and quality control.
- 29 f. Administration of medical service programs, including medical assistance for
30 children's health insurance program, Medicaid waivers, early and periodic

- 1 screening, diagnosis and treatment, utilization control, autism services, and
2 claims processing.
- 3 g. Administration of general assistance.
- 4 h. Administration of child support.
- 5 i. Administration of program, services, and licensing outlined in title 23 and other
6 previous duties of the state department of health and state health council.
- 7 j. Administration of a program to improve the quality of life for an individual with
8 brain injury and the individual's family through brain injury awareness, prevention,
9 research, education, collaboration, support services, and advocacy.

10 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 52-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **52-02-02. Powers, duties, organization, and methods of procedure of bureau - Seal.**

13 The bureau may adopt, amend, or rescind ~~such~~ rules and regulations, make ~~such~~
14 expenditures, require ~~such~~ reports, make ~~such~~ investigations, and take ~~such~~ other action as it
15 deems necessary or suitable in the administration of the North Dakota unemployment
16 compensation law. ~~Such rules~~All rules and regulations are effective upon publication in the
17 manner, not inconsistent with the provisions of the North Dakota unemployment compensation
18 law, which the bureau shall prescribe. The bureau shall determine its own organization and
19 methods of procedure in accordance with the provisions of the North Dakota unemployment
20 compensation law and shall have an official seal which shall be noticed judicially.

21 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 52-02-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **52-02-08. Bureau and ~~advisory councils~~ to take steps to stabilize employment.**

24 The bureau, ~~with the advice and aid of its advisory councils,~~ and through its appropriate
25 divisions, shall take appropriate steps to:

- 26 1. Reduce and prevent unemployment.
- 27 2. Encourage and assist in the adoption of practical methods of career and technical
28 education training, retraining, and career development counseling.
- 29 3. Investigate, recommend, advise, and assist in the establishment and operation, by
30 municipalities, counties, school districts, and the state, of reserves for public works to
31 be used in times of business depression and unemployment.

1 4. Promote the re-employment of unemployed workers throughout the state in every
2 other way that may be feasible.

3 5. Carry on and publish the results of investigations and research studies.

4 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 54-07-01.2 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 1. Notwithstanding sections 2-05-01, 4.1-05-02, 4.1-26-02, 6-01-03, 6-09-02.1,
7 12-55.1-02, 12-59-01, 15-39.1-05.1, 15.1-01-01, 15.1-13-02, 20.1-02-23, 23.1-01-02,
8 36-01-01, 37-18.1-01, ~~50-06-05.6, 54-34.3-10~~, 54-54-02, 55-01-01, and 61-02-04, all
9 members of the following boards and commissions must, subject to the limitations of
10 this section, be considered to have resigned from such boards and commissions
11 effective January first of the first year of each four-year term of the governor:

12 a. The aeronautics commission.

13 b. The milk marketing board.

14 c. The dairy promotion commission.

15 d. The state banking board.

16 e. The state credit union board.

17 f. The advisory board of directors to the Bank of North Dakota.

18 g. The pardon advisory board.

19 h. The state parole board.

20 i. The state board of public school education.

21 j. The education standards and practices board.

22 k. The board of trustees of the teachers' fund for retirement.

23 l. The state game and fish advisory board.

24 m. The environmental review advisory council.

25 n. The board of animal health.

26 o. The administrative committee on veterans' affairs.

27 p. ~~The committee on aging.~~

28 q. ~~The commission on the status of women.~~

29 r. The North Dakota council on the arts.

30 ~~s-q.~~ The state historical board.

31 ~~t-r.~~ The state water commission.

1 **SECTION 12.** A new section to chapter 54-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
2 and enacted as follows:

3 **Boards review task force - Report to legislative management.**

- 4 1. The ~~commissioner~~office of the governor shall provide staffing and administrative
5 services to the boards review task force. The task force shall:
- 6 a. Review and assess all boards for inefficiencies and duplication of responsibilities;
 - 7 b. Issue performance evaluations; and
 - 8 c. Make recommendations to the legislative assembly regarding minimizing and
9 streamlining government operations through the consolidation or elimination of
10 boards.
 - 11 2. In addition to the ~~commissioner~~governor or the governor's designee, who shall serve
12 as the presiding officer of the task force, the task force must include:
 - 13 a. A member of the senate, appointed by the senate majority leader.
 - 14 b. A member of the house of representatives, appointed by the house of
15 representatives majority leader.
 - 16 c. A representative of an organization representing cities, appointed by the
17 governor.
 - 18 d. A representative of an organization representing counties, appointed by the
19 governor.
 - 20 e. A representative of the business community, appointed by the governor.
 - 21 f. A member of an occupational licensing board, appointed by the governor.
 - 22 g. A member at large, appointed by the governor. - 23 3. A member of the task force who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement
24 for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees, to be
25 paid by the ~~labor commissioner~~office of the governor. A state employee who is a
26 member of the task force is entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is
27 entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing
28 agency. A member of the task force who is a member of the legislative assembly is
29 entitled to receive per diem compensation at the rate provided under section 54-35-10
30 for each day performing official duties of the task force. The legislative council shall
31 pay the per diem compensation and reimbursement for travel and expenses as

1 provided by law for any member of the task force who is a member of the legislative
2 assembly.

3 4. Before October 1, 2026, the task force shall provide a report of its findings and
4 recommendations and any proposed legislation necessary to implement the
5 recommendations to the legislative management and the governor.

6 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-54-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **54-54-05. Duties of council.**

9 The duties of the council are:

- 10 1. To stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and presentation of the
11 performing and fine arts and public interest and participation therein.
- 12 2. To make such surveys as may be deemed advisable of public and private institutions
13 engaged within the state in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to,
14 music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and allied arts and crafts, and
15 to make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation
16 in and appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons
17 in all parts of the state.
- 18 3. To take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage public interest
19 in the cultural heritage of our state and to expand the state's cultural resources.
- 20 4. To encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of
21 the arts.
- 22 5. To determine the artistic value of property as provided by section 1-08-04.1.
- 23 6. To administer a poet laureate program that selects the poet laureate and requires the
24 poet laureate to participate in at least four public events around the state each year.

25 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **54-59-26. Health information technology office - Duties - Loan and grant programs.**

- 28 1. The health information technology office is created in the department. ~~The health-~~
29 ~~information technology advisory committee shall make recommendations to the health-~~
30 ~~information technology office for implementing an interoperable health information-~~
31 ~~infrastructure that is consistent with emerging national standards; promote the-~~

1 ~~adoption and use of electronic health records and other health information~~
2 ~~technologies; and promote interoperability of health information systems for the~~
3 ~~purpose of improving health care quality, patient safety, and the overall efficiency of~~
4 ~~health care and public health services.~~

5 2. The health information technology office director, ~~in collaboration with the health-~~
6 ~~information technology advisory committee,~~ shall:

- 7 a. Apply for federal funds that may be available to assist the state and health care
8 providers in implementing and improving health information technology.
- 9 b. Implement and administer a health information exchange that utilizes information
10 infrastructure and systems in a secure and cost-effective manner to facilitate the
11 collection, storage, and transmission of health records.
- 12 c. Adopt rules under chapter 28-32 for the use of health information, use of the
13 health information exchange, and participation in the health information
14 exchange.
- 15 d. Adopt rules under chapter 28-32 for accessing the health information exchange
16 to ensure appropriate and required privacy and security protections and relating
17 to the authority of the director to suspend, eliminate, or terminate the right to
18 participate in the health information exchange.
- 19 e. Establish a health information technology planning loan program to provide
20 low-interest loans to health care entities to assist those entities in improving their
21 health information technology infrastructure under section 6-09-43.
- 22 f. Facilitate and expand electronic health information exchange in the state, directly
23 or by awarding grants.
- 24 g. Establish an application process and eligibility criteria for and accept and process
25 applications for loans and grants under subdivisions e and f. The eligibility criteria
26 must be consistent with federal requirements associated with federal funds
27 received under subdivision a. The eligibility criteria for loans under subdivision f
28 must include a requirement that the recipient's approved health information
29 technology be strategically aligned with the state's health information technology
30 plan and the associated federal standards and that the recipient has passed an
31 onsite electronic medical record readiness assessment conducted by an

- 1 assessment team determined by the health information technology advisory
2 committee and the health information technology office director.
- 3 h. Determine fees and charges for access and participation in the health information
4 exchange. Any moneys collected under this subdivision must be deposited in the
5 electronic health information exchange fund.
- 6 i. Consult and coordinate with the department of health and human services to
7 facilitate the collection of health information from health care providers and state
8 agencies for public health purposes, including identifiable health information that
9 may be used by state agencies, departments, or institutions to comply with
10 applicable state or federal laws.
- 11 3. ~~If the health information technology advisory committee determines that establishing a~~
12 ~~health information exchange with another state or states will assist in providing health~~
13 ~~information exchange services in a cost-effective manner, the~~ The health information
14 technology office director, ~~in collaboration with the health information technology~~
15 ~~advisory committee,~~ may join with another state or states to establish, implement, and
16 administer a health information exchange consistent with ~~other provisions of this~~
17 chapter.

18 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **54-59-27. Health information technology office - Electronic health information**
21 **exchange fund.**

- 22 1. There is created an electronic health information exchange fund. The fund consists of
23 moneys deposited in the fund from federal or other sources or moneys transferred into
24 the fund as directed by the legislative assembly. The health information technology
25 office shall administer this fund and shall distribute moneys in the fund accordingly.
26 The moneys in the fund must be used to facilitate and expand electronic health
27 information exchange. Moneys in the fund may be used, subject to legislative
28 appropriations, to provide services directly, for grants as provided under this section,
29 and for the costs of administration of the fund.
- 30 2. A grant applicant shall submit an application to the health information technology
31 office, which shall determine the applicant's eligibility based upon criteria established

1 by the health information technology office director in collaboration with the health-
2 information technology advisory committee.

3 3. This section does not create an entitlement to any funds available for grants under this
4 section. The health information technology office may award these grants to the extent
5 funds are available and, within the office's discretion, to the extent such applications
6 are approved.

7 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **54-59-34. Statewide longitudinal data system ~~committee~~ - Information technology**
10 **department - Duties.**

- 11 1. The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall manage a
12 statewide longitudinal data system among education, workforce, and training entities
13 that:
- 14 a. Provides for the dissemination of management information to stakeholders and
15 partners of state education, training, and employment systems;
 - 16 b. Is required to provide on an annual basis to education and workforce
17 development programs, to the extent permitted by federal law, the wage record
18 interchange system 2 data sharing agreement and the state wage interchange
19 system data sharing agreement and state performance reports that measure the
20 aggregate outcomes of participants in the workforce and continuing education
21 programs, including private workforce and education programs that request the
22 reports; and
 - 23 c. Uses data from educational and workforce systems as central sources of
24 statewide longitudinal data.
- 25 2. The department may, subject to federal and state privacy laws, enter interagency
26 agreements, including agreements designating authorized representatives of the
27 educational agencies participating in the system, under the Family Educational Rights
28 and Privacy Act [20 U.S.C. 1232(g); 34 CFR 99].
- 29 3. The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall establish policies
30 and adopt rules addressing access to and the collection, storage, and sharing of
31 information and the systems necessary to perform those functions, subject to

1 applicable federal and state privacy laws and interagency agreements and restrictions
2 relating to confidential information required to conform to applicable federal and state
3 privacy laws.

4 ~~3.4.~~ The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~ department shall provide operational
5 oversight for information sharing activities and make recommendations for and provide
6 oversight of information sharing budgets.

7 ~~4.5.~~ The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee in consultation with the information~~
8 ~~technology~~ department shall:

- 9 a. Establish the terms and conditions under which a person may be authorized to
10 access data through the statewide longitudinal data system;
- 11 b. Direct that all statewide longitudinal data system administrators implement
12 approved data protection practices to ensure the security of electronic and
13 physical data, provided that the practices include requirements for encryption and
14 staff training;
- 15 c. Provide for biennial privacy and security audits of the statewide longitudinal data
16 system;
- 17 d. Establish protocols, including procedures, for the notification of students and
18 parents in the event of a data breach involving the statewide longitudinal data
19 system;
- 20 e. Require that data retention and disposition by the statewide longitudinal data
21 system be governed by the same policies as those instituted for the information
22 technology department; and
- 23 f. Require the provision of annual training regarding data protection to any
24 individuals who have access to the statewide longitudinal data system, including
25 school district employees, employees of the North Dakota university system
26 office and institutions under the control of the state board of higher education,
27 and elected or appointed state or local governmental officials.

28 6. The department may authorize studies to benefit and improve workforce training and
29 education.

30 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 | **54-59-36. Statewide longitudinal data system ~~committee~~ - Report to legislative**
2 | **management.**

3 | During each interim the ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department shall
4 | provide a report regarding the statewide longitudinal data system to one or more committees
5 | designated by the legislative management and shall provide recommendations for further
6 | development, cost proposals, proposals for legislation, and recommendations for data sharing
7 | governance.

8 | **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 | amended and reenacted as follows:

10 | **54-59-37. Statewide longitudinal data system ~~committee~~ - Continuing appropriation.**

11 | The ~~statewide longitudinal data system committee~~department may solicit and receive gifts,
12 | grants, and donations from public and private sources. Any moneys received in accordance with
13 | this section are appropriated on a continuing basis for the support of the statewide longitudinal
14 | data system.

15 | **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-39 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 | amended and reenacted as follows:

17 | **54-59-39. State agencies - Mandatory provision of information - Confidentiality.**

- 18 | 1. The information technology department may request from any state agency:
- 19 | a. All information required by 20 U.S.C. 9871(e)(2)(D);
- 20 | b. Any other educational information ~~the statewide longitudinal data system~~
21 | ~~committee determines~~ is required for a longitudinal data system to comply with
22 | state or federal law; and
- 23 | c. Unemployment insurance wage data from job service North Dakota for education
24 | and workforce development program evaluations, except that the information
25 | technology department may not redisclose any data identifying an individual
26 | unless the redisclosure is expressly permitted by a written agreement between
27 | job service North Dakota and the department or is otherwise expressly permitted
28 | or required by federal or state law.
- 29 | 2. A state agency providing information requested under subsection 1 shall enter an
30 | interagency agreement with the department which identifies applicable federal and
31 | state privacy laws and agency-established restrictions relating to its confidential

1 information the agency has determined is required to comply with federal and state
2 privacy laws.

3 3. Subject to applicable restrictions on the use and disclosure of confidential information
4 required to comply with federal and state privacy laws and the terms of the
5 interagency agreement, any state agency receiving a request for information under
6 subsection 1 shall provide the information at the time and in the manner required by
7 the information technology department.

8 **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-03-01.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **61-03-01.3. Director - State engineer - Powers and duties.**

- 11 1. The director shall:
- 12 a. Enforce all rules adopted by the department;
 - 13 b. Hire a state engineer who is a qualified professional engineer, has appropriate
14 hydrology experience, and will report to the director;
 - 15 c. Hire other employees as necessary to carry out the duties of the department and
16 director;
 - 17 d. Organize the department in an efficient manner; and
 - 18 e. Take any other action necessary and appropriate for administration of the
19 department.
 - 20 f. Adopt rules to ~~regulate~~ license water well contractors, water well pump and pitless
21 unit installers, monitoring well contractors, and geothermal system drillers.
 - 22 g. Advise the governor and the state water commission regarding operations of
23 Devils Lake outlets.
 - 24 h. Recommend ~~criteria for operation of each outlet based~~ an operational plan for the
25 Devils Lake outlet based on ~~outflow volumes, Sheyenne River capacity and water~~
26 quality considerations, ~~and the risk of an overflow of Devils Lake.~~
- 27 2. The state engineer is responsible for and shall manage the department's oversight of
28 dam safety, water appropriations, and construction and drainage permits, and
29 associated technical duties related to public safety and property protection.

30 **SECTION 21.** A new section to chapter 61-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
31 and enacted as follows:

1 Requirements for firms engaged in water well work, installation of water well pumps
2 and pitless units, monitoring well work, and drilling of geothermal systems - Exceptions.

3 1. A person, partnership, association, corporation, or limited liability company may not
4 engage in the business of constructing a water well in this state unless at all times a
5 certified water well contractor, who is responsible for the proper construction or
6 alteration of a water well, is in charge. This section does not prohibit any person,
7 partnership, association, corporation, or limited liability company from constructing any
8 water well on the person's or entity's own premises for the person's or entity's own
9 use.

10 2. A person may not engage in the business of installing water well pumps and pitless
11 units in the state after July 1, 1986, unless a certified installer, who is responsible for
12 the proper installation of the pump and pitless unit, is in charge of the installation. This
13 chapter does not prohibit any person from installing water well pumps and pitless units
14 on that person's own premises for that person's own use.

15 3. A person may not engage in the business of constructing a monitoring well in this state
16 unless at all times a certified monitoring well contractor, who is responsible for the
17 proper construction or alteration of the monitoring well, is in charge. This section does
18 not prohibit any person from installing a monitoring well on that person's own premises
19 for that person's own use.

20 4. A person may not engage in the business of drilling geothermal systems in the state
21 after July 1, 2008, unless a certified driller, who is responsible for the proper drilling of
22 the geothermal system, is in charge of the drilling. This section does not prohibit a
23 person from drilling geothermal systems on that person's own premises for that
24 person's own use.

25 **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **61-04.1-03. Definitions.**

28 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 29 1. ~~"Board" means the North Dakota atmospheric resource board which, in the exercise of~~
30 ~~the powers granted under this chapter, has all of the powers of an administrative~~
31 ~~agency as defined in chapter 28-32.~~

- 1 2. "Controller" refers to any licensee duly authorized in this state to engage in weather
2 modification operations.
- 3 ~~3.2.~~ "Geographical region" means a geographical area with a contiguous boundary that
4 may enclose a portion of any county or counties.
- 5 ~~4.3.~~ "Hail suppression" refers to the activation of any process that will reduce, modify,
6 suppress, eliminate, or soften hail formed in clouds or storms.
- 7 ~~5.4.~~ "Increasing precipitation" refers to the activation of any process that will actually result
8 in greater amounts of moisture reaching the ground in any area from a cloud or cloud
9 system than would have occurred naturally.
- 10 ~~6.5.~~ "Initiating precipitation" refers to the process of causing precipitation from clouds which
11 could not otherwise have occurred naturally or inducing precipitation significantly
12 earlier than would have occurred naturally.
- 13 ~~7.6.~~ "Operation" means the performance of any weather modification activity undertaken
14 for the purpose of producing or attempting to produce any form of modifying effect
15 upon the weather within a limited geographical area or within a limited period of time.
- 16 ~~8.7.~~ "Research and development" means exploration, field experimentation, and extension
17 of investigative findings and theories of a scientific or technical nature into practical
18 application for experimental and demonstration purposes, including the experimental
19 production of models, devices, equipment, materials, and processes.
- 20 ~~9.8.~~ "Weather modification" means and extends to the control, alteration, and amelioration
21 of weather elements, including man-caused changes in the natural precipitation
22 process, hail suppression or modification, and alteration of other weather phenomena,
23 including clouds, temperature, wind direction, and velocity, and the initiating,
24 increasing, decreasing, and otherwise modifying by artificial methods of precipitation in
25 the form of rain, snow, hail, mist, or fog through cloud seeding, electrification, or by
26 other means to provide immediate practical benefits.
- 27 ~~10.9.~~ "Weather modification authority" means the governing body created by a board of
28 county commissioners under section 61-04.1-22.1, 61-04.1-23, 61-04.1-27,
29 61-04.1-29, or 61-04.1-31.

30 **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **61-04.1-08. Powers and duties of ~~board~~the department.**

2 The ~~board~~department has the following powers and duties:

- 3 1. ~~The board shall appoint an executive director to serve at the board's discretion and to~~
4 ~~perform duties assigned by the board.~~
- 5 ~~2.~~ ~~The board shall authorize the employment of staff the board deems necessary to carry~~
6 ~~out the provisions of this chapter. The executive director shall hire the staff, subject to~~
7 ~~the approval of the board.~~
- 8 ~~3.~~ The ~~board~~department shall adopt rules concerning qualifications, procedures, and
9 conditions for issuance, revocation, suspension, and modification of licenses and
10 permits; standards and instructions governing weather modification operations,
11 including monitoring and evaluation, recordkeeping, and reporting, and the
12 ~~board~~department shall establish procedures and forms for this recordkeeping and
13 reporting. The ~~board~~department may adopt all other rules necessary to the
14 administration of this chapter. The provisions of chapter 28-32 apply to this chapter
15 and rules of the ~~board~~department must be published in the North Dakota
16 Administrative Code.
- 17 4.2. The ~~board~~department may contract with any person to carry out weather modification
18 operations and, in connection with regulated weather modification operations in a
19 county or geographical region, shall carry on monitoring and evaluation activities.
- 20 5.3. The ~~board~~department may order any person who is conducting weather modification
21 operations in violation of this chapter or any rules adopted to implement this chapter,
22 to cease and desist from those operations and the order is enforceable in any court of
23 competent jurisdiction within this state.
- 24 6.4. The ~~board~~department may cooperate and contract with any person engaged in
25 activities similar to the work of the ~~board~~department and may make contracts and
26 agreements to carry out programs consistent with the purpose and intent of this
27 chapter. The ~~board~~department may request and accept any grants of funds or services
28 from any person and expend these funds or use these services to carry out this
29 chapter.

1 | **7.5.** The ~~board~~department shall monitor the current state of knowledge regarding the
2 | magnitude and impacts of possible regional and global climatic changes and shall
3 | provide information to other state agencies that may benefit from this knowledge.

4 | **8.6.** The ~~board~~department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and
5 | do all things reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

6 | **9.7.** The ~~board~~department may plan and study a hail suppression pilot program that would
7 | provide urban and rural hail suppression operations statewide or to any portion of the
8 | state.

9 | **SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 | amended and reenacted as follows:

11 | **61-04.1-09. BoardDepartment of water resources to establish research and**
12 | **development program - Hail suppression pilot program.**

- 13 | 1. The ~~board~~department of water resources shall establish a program of weather
14 | modification research and development in this state. The ~~board~~department shall
15 | supervise and coordinate all research and development activities in the state or
16 | research and development activities outside of the state participated in or conducted
17 | by any state institution or state or county agency.
- 18 | 2. If the ~~board~~department plans and studies a hail suppression pilot program, the
19 | ~~board~~department may conduct a planning phase that includes studying the impact on
20 | the environment, providing public education, and formulating an operations plan.

21 | **SECTION 25. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 | amended and reenacted as follows:

23 | **61-04.1-12. Exemptions.**

24 | The ~~board~~department of water resources may provide by rule for exemption of the following
25 | activities from the license and permit requirements of section 61-04.1-11:

- 26 | 1. Research and development conducted by the state, political subdivisions of the state,
27 | colleges and universities of the state, agencies of the federal government, or bona fide
28 | research corporations.
- 29 | 2. Weather modification operations of an emergency nature taken against fire, frost, or
30 | fog.

1 Exempted activities ~~shall~~must be conducted so as not to unduly interfere with weather
2 modification operations conducted under a permit issued in accordance with this chapter.

3 **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **61-04.1-14. Issuance of license - Fee.**

6 The ~~board~~department of water resources shall provide, by rule, the procedure and criteria
7 for the issuance of a license. The ~~board~~department, in accordance with its rules, shall issue a
8 weather modification license to each applicant who:

- 9 1. Pays a license fee of fifty dollars.
- 10 2. Demonstrates competence to engage in weather modification operations, to the
11 satisfaction of the ~~board~~department.
- 12 3. Designates an agent for the service of process pursuant to section 61-04.1-13 or
13 chapter 10-19.1.

14 Each license issued by the ~~board~~department is nontransferable and ~~shall expire~~expires
15 on December thirty-first of the year of issuance. A license ~~shall be~~is revocable for cause at any
16 time prior to such date if, after holding a hearing upon due notice, the ~~board~~department
17 ~~determines~~determines that cause for revocation exists. License fees collected by the
18 ~~board~~department must be paid into the general fund in the state treasury.

19 **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **61-04.1-15. Revocation or suspension of license.**

22 The ~~board~~department of water resources may suspend or revoke a license for any of the
23 following reasons:

- 24 1. Incompetency.
- 25 2. Dishonest practice.
- 26 3. False or fraudulent representations made in obtaining a license or permit under this
27 chapter.
- 28 4. Failure to comply with any provisions of this chapter or any rules adopted by the
29 ~~board~~department pursuant to this chapter.

30 **SECTION 28. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **61-04.1-16. Permit required - Issuance of permit - Fee.**

2 1. A weather modification permit ~~shall be~~is required for each geographical area, as set
3 out in the operational plan required by subdivision b, in which a person intends to
4 conduct weather modification operations. Each permit issued by the ~~board shall~~
5 ~~expire~~department of water resources expires on December thirty-first of the year of
6 issuance. A person applying for a weather modification operational permit shall file an
7 application with the ~~board~~department, in such form as the ~~board shall~~
8 ~~prescribe~~department prescribes, which application ~~shall~~must be accompanied by an
9 application fee of twenty-five dollars and contain such information as the
10 ~~board~~department, by rule, may require, and in addition, each applicant for a permit
11 shall:

- 12 a. Furnish proof of financial responsibility as provided by section 61-04.1-19.
- 13 b. Set forth a complete operational plan for the proposed operation which ~~shall~~must
14 include a specific statement of its nature and object, a map of the proposed
15 operating area which specifies the primary target area for the proposed operation
16 and shows the area that is reasonably expected to be affected by such operation,
17 a statement of the approximate time during which the operation is to be
18 conducted, a list of the materials and methods to be used in conducting the
19 operation, and such other detailed information as may be needed to describe the
20 operation.

21 2. The ~~board~~department may issue the permit if it determines that:

- 22 a. The applicant holds a valid weather modification license issued under this
23 chapter.
- 24 b. The applicant has furnished satisfactory proof of financial responsibility in
25 accordance with section 61-04.1-19.

26 c. The applicant has paid the required application fee.

27 d. The operation:

- 28 (1) Is reasonably conceived to improve water quantity or quality, reduce loss
29 from weather hazards, provide economic benefits for the people of this
30 state, advance scientific knowledge, or otherwise carry out the purposes of
31 this chapter.

- 1 (2) Is designed to include adequate safeguards to minimize or avoid possible
2 damage to the public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.
- 3 (3) Will not adversely affect another operation for which a permit has been
4 issued.
- 5 e. The applicant has North Dakota workforce safety and insurance coverage for all
6 employees working in this state.
- 7 f. The applicant has furnished a performance bond as required by section
8 61-04.1-34.
- 9 g. The applicant has complied with such other requirements for the issuance of
10 permits as may be required by the rules and regulations of the ~~board~~department.
- 11 h. The applicant has furnished a bid bond.
- 12 i. The applicant has registered, with the North Dakota aeronautics commission, any
13 aircraft intended to be used in connection with the operation.

14 To carry out the objectives and purposes of this chapter, the ~~board~~department may
15 condition and limit permits as to primary target areas, time of the operation, materials,
16 equipment, and methods to be used in conducting the operation, emergency shutdown
17 procedure, emergency assistance, and such other operational requirements as may
18 be established by the ~~board~~department.

- 19 3. The ~~board shall~~department may issue only one permit at a time for operations in any
20 geographical area if two or more operations conducted in such an area according to
21 permit limitations might adversely interfere with one another.
- 22 4. All permit fees collected by the ~~board shall~~department must be paid into the general
23 fund of the state treasury.

24 **SECTION 29. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **61-04.1-17. Hearings.**

27 The ~~board~~department of water resources shall give public notice, in the official county
28 newspaper or newspapers in the area of the state reasonably expected to be affected by
29 operations conducted under a permit, that it is considering an application for such permit, and, if
30 objection to the issuance of the permit is received by the ~~board~~department within twenty days,
31 the ~~board~~department may hold a public hearing for the purpose of obtaining information from

1 the public concerning the effects of issuing the permit. The ~~board~~department may also hold
2 such hearings upon its own motion.

3 **SECTION 30. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **61-04.1-18. Revocation, suspension, or modification of permit.**

6 The ~~board~~department of water resources may suspend or revoke a permit if it appears that
7 the permittee no longer has the qualifications necessary for the issuance of an original permit or
8 has violated any provision of this chapter, or any of the rules adopted under it.

9 The ~~board~~department may revise the conditions and limits of a permit if:

- 10 1. The permittee is given notice and a reasonable opportunity for a hearing, to be held in
11 accordance with chapter 28-32.
- 12 2. It appears to the ~~board~~department that a modification of the conditions and limits of a
13 permit is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, welfare, or the environment.

14 If it appears to the ~~board~~department that an emergency situation exists or is impending which
15 could endanger the public's health, safety, welfare, or the environment, the ~~board~~department
16 may, without prior notice or hearing, immediately modify the conditions or limits of a permit, or
17 order temporary suspension of a permit. The issuance of such an order ~~shall~~must include notice
18 of a hearing to be held within ten days thereafter on the question of permanently modifying the
19 conditions and limits or continuing the suspension of the permit. Failure to comply with an order
20 temporarily suspending an operation or modifying the conditions and limits of a permit ~~shall be~~is
21 grounds for immediate revocation of the license and permit of the person controlling or engaged
22 in the operation.

23 **SECTION 31. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **61-04.1-19. Proof of financial responsibility.**

26 Proof of financial responsibility is made by showing to the satisfaction of the
27 ~~board~~department of water resources that the permittee has the ability to respond in damages to
28 liability which might reasonably result from the operation for which the permit is sought. ~~Such~~
29 ~~proof~~Proof of financial responsibility may be shown by:

- 30 1. Presentation to the ~~board~~department of proof of a prepaid noncancelable insurance
31 policy against such liability, in an amount approved by the ~~board~~department.

- 1 2. Filing with the boarddepartment a corporate surety bond, cash, or negotiable
2 securities in an amount approved by the boarddepartment.

3 **SECTION 32. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **61-04.1-20. BoardDepartment of water resources may create operating districts -**
6 **Representation of noncontracting counties.**

7 The boarddepartment of water resources may place any county or geographical region for
8 which a person contracts with the state for weather modification operations in any operational
9 district the boarddepartment determines necessary to best provide that county or geographical
10 region with the benefits of weather modification. In determining the boundaries of an operating
11 district, the boarddeparatment shall consider the patterns of crops within the state, climatic
12 patterns, and the limitations of aircraft and other technical equipment. The boarddepartment
13 may assign any county that has not created a weather modification authority under this chapter
14 to an operating district solely for the purpose of representation on the operations committee of
15 that district.

16 **SECTION 33. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **61-04.1-21. District operations advisory committees created - Duties.**

- 19 1. There must be a district operations advisory committee in each operations district
20 created in accordance with section 61-04.1-20. Each committee must be composed of
21 one commissioner of the weather modification authority, if a weather modification
22 authority exists, from each county within the district; a representative of each person
23 contracting for a geographical region assigned to the district; and one member of the
24 board of county commissioners from each county assigned to the district. Each
25 advisory committee, upon majority vote, with the concurrence of the boarddepartment
26 of water resources, shall adopt rules and bylaws necessary to govern that committee's
27 procedures and meetings. Each committee shall evaluate weather modification
28 operations within that committee's district and make recommendations and proposals
29 to the boarddepartment concerning these operations.
- 30 2. The weather modification authority of any county authorized to contract for weather
31 modification operations under this chapter which is not assigned to an operations

1 district shall assume the functions of the district operations committee and may
2 exercise the powers and duties assigned to the operations committees by this chapter
3 and by the rules of the ~~board~~department.

4 **SECTION 34. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-33 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **61-04.1-33. Bids required - When.**

7 ~~Whenever~~if the ~~board~~ ~~shall undertake to contract~~department of water resources contracts
8 with any licensed controller in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars in any one year, the
9 ~~board~~department shall advertise for proposals for such weather modification activities and, in its
10 proceedings with respect to bids therefor, shall substantially follow the manner and form
11 required by the laws of this state for the purchase of supplies by the office of management and
12 budget. The ~~board~~ ~~shall~~department may not enter into ~~no~~a contract or agreement for weather
13 modification services except with a controller, holding the permit as required by this chapter,
14 except for the purpose of gathering technical information, and making studies or surveys.

15 **SECTION 35. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **61-04.1-34. Performance bond, cash, or negotiable securities required.**

18 Before the ~~board~~ ~~shall contract~~department of water resources contracts with any controller,
19 ~~it~~the department shall require the controller to furnish a surety bond or cash or negotiable
20 securities for the faithful performance of the contract in such amount as determined by the
21 ~~board~~department, conditioned that the licensee and the licensee's agents will in all respects
22 faithfully perform all weather modification contracts undertaken with the ~~board~~department and
23 will comply with all provisions of this chapter and the contract entered into by the
24 ~~board~~department and the licensee.

25 **SECTION 36. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **61-04.1-37. Liability of controller.**

28 1. An operation conducted under the license and permit requirements of this chapter is
29 not an ultrahazardous or abnormally dangerous activity which makes the permittee
30 subject to liability without fault.

1 2. Dissemination of materials and substances into the atmosphere by a permittee acting
2 within the conditions and limits of the permittee's permit ~~shall do~~ not constitute
3 trespass.

4 3. Except as provided in this section and in section 61-04.1-36, ~~nothing in~~ this chapter
5 ~~shall do~~ does not prevent any person adversely affected by a weather modification
6 operation from recovering damages resulting from negligent or intentionally harmful
7 conduct by a permittee.

8 4. The fact that a person holds a license or was issued a permit under this chapter, or
9 that the person has complied with the rules adopted by the ~~board pursuant~~
10 ~~to~~ department of water resources under this chapter, is not admissible as a defense in
11 any legal action which may be brought against the person.

12 **SECTION 37. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **61-04.1-38. BoardDepartment of water resources may receive and expend funds.**

15 1. The ~~board~~ department of water resources may receive and accept in the name of the
16 state any funds that are offered or become available from any federal grant or
17 appropriation, private gift, donation, or bequest, county funds, or funds from any other
18 source except license and permit fees, and to expend these funds for the expense of
19 administering this chapter, and, with the exception of county funds and funds from any
20 other person contracting with the ~~board~~ department for weather modification
21 operations, for the encouragement of research and development in weather
22 modification by any private person, the North Dakota state university, the university of
23 North Dakota, or any other appropriate state, county, or public agency in this state by
24 direct grant, contract, or other means.

25 2. All federal grants, federal appropriations, private gifts, donations, or bequests, county
26 funds, or funds from any other source except license and permit fees, received by the
27 ~~board~~ department must be paid over to the state treasurer, who shall credit this amount
28 to ~~a special fund in the state treasury known as the state weather modification fund~~ the
29 water commission fund. All proceeds deposited by the state treasurer in the ~~state-~~
30 ~~weather modification~~ water commission fund are appropriated to the ~~board~~ department
31 and, if expended, must be disbursed by warrant-check prepared by the office of

1 management and budget upon vouchers submitted by the ~~board~~department and must
2 be used for the purpose of paying for the expense of administration of this chapter
3 and, with the exception of county funds or funds from any other person contracting
4 with the ~~board~~department for weather modification operations, for the encouragement
5 of research and development in weather modification by any private person, the North
6 Dakota state university, the university of North Dakota, or any other appropriate state,
7 county, or public agency by direct grant, contract, or other means.

8 **SECTION 38. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04.1-39 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **61-04.1-39. Payment for weather modification - State to provide funds.**

11 Any weather modification authority or person that contracted with the ~~board~~department of
12 water resources for weather modification operations under this chapter shall appropriate to the
13 ~~state weather modification~~water commission fund the amount determined by the
14 ~~board~~department to be necessary to provide that weather modification authority or person with
15 weather modification operations. The ~~board~~department may expend, from the ~~state weather-~~
16 ~~modification~~water commission fund, the funds the ~~board~~department deems necessary to
17 provide a contracting weather modification authority or person with weather modification
18 operations.

19 **SECTION 39. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 65-02-03.1 of the
20 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 21 a. A departing member representing an employer must be replaced by a member
22 representing an employer, most of whose employees are in a different rate
23 classification than those of the employer represented by the departing member.
24 The governor shall appoint the member for an employer representative from a list
25 of three potential candidates submitted by a coordinating committee appointed by
26 the governor, composed of an organization of business associations. The
27 organization shall accept qualified candidate recommendations received from
28 representatives from the associated general contractors of North Dakota, the
29 North Dakota petroleum council, the greater North Dakota chamber of
30 commerce, the North Dakota motor carriers association, the North Dakota

1 hospital association, the national federation of independent business, the lignite
2 energy council, and other statewide business interests.

3 **SECTION 40. REPEAL.** Chapter 8-11.1, section 12-48-06.1, chapter 17-07, sections
4 15.1-37-05, 15.1-37-06, 15.1-37-08, 19-24.1-38, 19.1-24.1-39, and 23-35-02.3, chapters 34-16,
5 43-35, and 43-36, sections 50-06-05.6, 50-06.4-10, 50-11.1-25, 50-11.1-26, 50-11.1-27,
6 52-02-07, 54-34.3-10, 54-54-10, 54-59-25, 54-59-33, ~~54-59-34,~~ 54-59-35, ~~54-59-36,~~ ~~54-59-37,~~
7 54-59-38, 54-60-25, 61-04.1-04, 61-04.1-05, 61-04.1-06, 61-04.1-07, ~~61-04.1-08,~~ and
8 61-04.1-10, and chapter 61-36 of the North Dakota Century Code are repealed.

9 **SECTION 41. REPEAL.** Sections 55-01-13 and 55-01-14 of the North Dakota Century
10 Code are repealed.

11 **SECTION 42. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section ~~38~~41 of this Act is effective December 31, 2026.

12 **SECTION 43. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section ~~8~~12 of this Act is effective through December 1,
13 2026, and after that date is ineffective.