2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2157

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2157
1/16/2025

A bill for an act to provide for a legislative management study relating to the creation of a farm safety insurance discount program.

2:15 p.m. Chairman Luick called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

Discussion Topics:

- Farm accident examples
- Insurance premium discount
- Broadness of topic
- ND Insurance Commissioner and Ag Commissioner
- Possible appropriations
- Interim committee
- Subcommittee
- Community
- Fewer claims

2:16 p.m. Senator Donald Schaible, District 31, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29472.

2:20 p.m. Keith Kempenich, State Representative District 39, testified in favor.

2:23 p.m. Kristi Schlosser Carlson Chief Legal Advisor, ND Farmer's Union Insurance testified in favor.

2:24 p.m. Dan Wogsland, Executive Director, North Dakota Grain Grower's Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29459.

2:25 p.m. John Arnold, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, testified in favor.

2: 28 p.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

2:28 p.m. Senator Myrdal moved a Do Pass on SB 2157.

2:29 p.m. Senator Weber seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y

Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

2:31 p.m. Chairman Luick adjourned the meeting.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2157 (25.0715.01000)

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2157 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of SB 2157
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 16, 2025

Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland and I represent the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I appear before you today in support of SB 2157.

SB 2157 represents a proactive and forward-thinking approach to addressing critical challenges in North Dakota's agricultural sector. The proposed study will evaluate the feasibility and benefits of a program that incentivizes farmers and ranchers to prioritize safety while also providing financial relief through reduced insurance premiums. Allow me to outline why this initiative deserves your support:

1. Promoting Safety in Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries, with high rates of workplace injuries and fatalities. A structured safety course designed specifically for farmers and ranchers can equip them with the knowledge and tools to prevent accidents. By reducing risks, this initiative will not only save lives but also promote long-term sustainability within our agricultural communities.

2. Reducing Financial Strain

Insurance costs are a significant expense for farmers and ranchers. Offering a premium discount as an incentive for completing a safety course provides a tangible financial benefit while encouraging participation. This approach creates a win-win scenario: improved safety outcomes and lower costs for agricultural producers.

3. Collaboration Across Sectors

The study mandates input from key stakeholders, including the insurance commissioner, agriculture commissioner, North Dakota State University Extension Service, and insurance agencies. This ensures a well-rounded analysis that considers the diverse perspectives and

expertise necessary to design an effective program. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen partnerships across sectors that are vital to North Dakota's economy.

4. Support for Rural Communities

Our farmers and ranchers form the backbone of North Dakota's rural communities. By investing in their safety and well-being, we are investing in the long-term health and prosperity of our state. This study could pave the way for a program that enhances the quality of life for agricultural workers and their families.

5. Economic and Legislative Prudence

Conducting a study before implementing a program demonstrates fiscal responsibility and due diligence. By exploring the feasibility, costs, and potential benefits, the legislative assembly can make informed decisions that ensure effective use of state resources.

In conclusion, this bill is a thoughtful step toward creating a safer and more economically secure environment for North Dakota's agricultural producers. Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that you to support SB 2157 and allow the study to move forward. The findings and recommendations will provide the foundation for a program that could have far-reaching positive impacts on our state's agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Senator Donald Schaible
District 31
9115 Highway 21
Mott, ND 58646-9200
dgschaible@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

January 16,2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Luick and the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee. I am pleased to be here to introduce SB 2157. This idea started over a year ago as I was visiting with some patrons about all the farm accidents that have occurred in our county over the last few years. The number is quite staggering. We have lost a high school worker to a power wire entanglement with a sprayer, we have lost several farmers to tractor mishaps, we have lost several farmers to grain bin entrapments, and also loss of life from well falls, balers and other large equipment entanglements. We have also suffered a variety of injuries from auger entanglements, skid steer accidents, chemical inhalations and NH3 inhalations with most of these causing permeant disabilities or further health issues. After much thought I thought in may be a good idea to promote safety programs that could provide insurance discounts much like our defensive driving course do with auto insurance.
I ran this idea by the Insurance Commissioner, Jon Godfried, Agriculture Commissioner, Doug Gohring, several of our large farm insurance companies and even the Farm Safety Coordinator from NDSU Extension.

All thought this would be a reasonable idea, but the more we talked, the more we realized that It was not as easy as we thought. One of the biggest challenges is that farm safety covers so many different aspects from equipment operation, PTO and transmission driven equipment, chemical and fertilizer application and grain movement and storage aspects. With so many different types of safety training and awareness that would be needed, it is apparent a single course would not suffice to warrant an insurance premium discount.

Eventually, I came to the conclusion that a "shall" study might be the best solution to find the right way to find meaningful safety training and awareness that would be worthy of an insurance premium discount and provide value to our insurance companies that may allow for that discount. Mr. Chairman I believe this committee can find the best way to implement that study. I would offer a few suggestions for this committee to consider when you discuss this. First, I would hope that the Insurance Commissioner and Agriculture Commissioner would be included as members of that study. It may also be a good idea to appropriate money for an institution like NDSU to aid in the study and/or to do some research into this study. One other idea that I have used in interim committees is to appoint industry experts as non-voting members to the committee. Chairman Luick, that is SB2157 intent is and I would be happy to answer any questions if I could.

2025 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SB 2157

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

SB 2157
3/13/2025

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

9:40 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Discussion Topics:

- Farm safety
- Study or shall study
- Research
- Implementation
- Land Grant University

9:41 a.m. Senator Donald Schaible, District 31, Mott, ND, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41109

9:49 a.m. Lesley Icenogle, North Dakota Corn Growers Association, testified in favor and

submitted testimony #41143.

9:50 a.m. Kristi Schlosser Carlson, General Counsel, ND Farm Bureau, testified in favor.

9:52 a.m. Pete Hanebutt, ND Farm Bureau, testified in favor.

9:55 a.m. Blaine Bergstedt, Division Director Property & Casualty, ND Insurance Department, testified as neutral.

Additional Written Testimony:
Dan Wogsland, Lobbyist, North Dakota Grain Gowers Association, submitted testimony in favor #41110.

9:56 a.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Senator Donald Schaible
District 31
9115 Highway 21
Mott, ND 58646-9200
dgschaible@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

March 13,2025

Good morning, Chairman Beltz and the House Agriculture Committee. I am pleased to be here to introduce SB 2157. This idea started over a year ago as I was visiting with some patrons about all the farm accidents that have occurred in our county. The number is quite staggering. We have lost a high school worker to a power wire entanglement with a sprayer, we have lost several farmers to tractor mishaps, we have lost several farmers to grain bin entrapments, and also loss of life from well fall, balers and other large equipment entanglements. We have also suffered a variety of injuries from auger entanglements, skid steer accidents, chemical inhalations and NH3 inhalations with most of these causing permeant disabilities or further health issues. These have all happen during the my time as a legislator which is 15 years. It seems to be a sad reality but when accidents effects young and old alike at what seems to an increasing rate, it may be time to look for better solutions. I thought in may be a good idea to promote farm safety programs that could provide insurance discounts much like our defensive driving course do with auto insurance. I fully intended to present a bill this session to do that and began to gather information to get something together to introduce.

I ran this idea by the Insurance Commissioner, Jon Godfried, Agriculture Commissioner, Doug Gohring, and several of our large farm insurance companies. They all seem to think the idea was doable but had concerns on how to implement it. Contacting the Farm Safety Coordinator, Angie Johnson, from NDSU Extension confirmed that this was a statewide problem and she also had concerns also that her work was not as effective as intended and was excited to see if future work could be improved.

All thought this would seem to be a reasonable idea, but the more we talked, the more we realized that It was not as easy as one might think. One of the biggest challenges is that farm safety covers so many different aspects like equipment operation, PTO and transmission driven equipment, working with livestock and livestock equipment, chemical and fertilizer application, grain movement and storage aspects. With so many different types of safety training and awareness that would be needed, it is apparent a single course would not suffice to warrant an insurance premium discount.

Eventually, I came to the conclusion that a study might be the best solution to find the right way to find meaningful safety training and awareness that it would be worthy of an insurance premium discount and provide value to our insurance companies that may allow for that discount. Mr. Chairman I believe this committee can find the

best way to implement that study. I would offer a few suggestions for this committee to consider when you discuss this. First, I would hope that the Insurance Commissioner and Agriculture Commissioner would be included as members of that study. I would also hope that our farm agencies and insurance companies would also be considered as non-voting members. This committee may even consider appropriate money for an institution like NDSU to provide research and provide valuable information for this study. Chairman Beltz, I believe that we can find solutions to farm safety that prevent more deaths or disabilities to the farming community. I also believe that this issue is important enough to force a "shall study" that would require Legislative Management to add SB2157 to this next interim work. Mr. Chairman, that is the intent is of SB 2157 and I would be happy to answer any questions.

North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Favor of SB 2157
House Agriculture Committee
March 13, 2025

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. I appear before you today in support of SB 2157.

SB 2157 represents a proactive and forward-thinking approach to addressing critical challenges in North Dakota's agricultural sector. The proposed study will evaluate the feasibility and benefits of a program that incentivizes farmers and ranchers to prioritize safety while also providing financial relief through reduced insurance premiums. Allow me to outline why this initiative deserves your support:

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The study mandates input from key stakeholders, including the insurance commissioner, agriculture commissioner, North Dakota State University Extension Service, and insurance agencies. This ensures a well-rounded analysis that considers the diverse perspectives and

expertise necessary to design an effective program. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen partnerships across sectors that are vital to North Dakota's economy.

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In conclusion, this bill is a thoughtful step toward creating a safer and more economically secure environment for North Dakota's agricultural producers. Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that you to support SB 2157 and allow the study to move forward. The findings and recommendations will provide the foundation for a program that could have far-reaching positive impacts on our state's agricultural sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.

In Favor of SB 2157

House Agriculture

March 13, 2025

Chairman Beltz and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA) in favor of Senate Bill 2157.

With agriculture being among the most dangerous professions, the study proposed in SB 2157 will look at developing a safety course to increase knowledge and awareness of safe practices for farmers and ranchers. An insurance premium discount would provide some financial relief to producers in a time of unprecedented high input costs and ongoing low commodity prices. Additionally, although work safety insurance is optional for farmers, it is required for the increasing number of North Dakota producers who employ H2A visa workers.

NDCGA urges a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2157. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

SB 2157
3/14/2025

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

11:16 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Dobervich, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:17 a.m. Representative Hoverson moved to amended by changing "shall study" to "shall consider study".

11:17 a.m. Representative Henderson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Beltz	N
Representative Dori Hauck	y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	N
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	AB
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	N
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	N
Representative Dennis Nehring	N
Representative SuAnn Olson	N
Representative Nico Rios	N
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	AB
Representative Bill Tveit	N
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	N

Motion failed 3-9-2.

11:20 a.m. Representative Henderson moved Do Pass.

11:20 a.m. Representative Hoverson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y

Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	AB
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	AB
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 12-0-2

11:21 a.m. Representative Henderson will carry the bill.

11:21 a.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2157 (25.0715.01000)

Agriculture Committee (Rep. Beltz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2157 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.