

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments**

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1452

Introduced by

Representative Grosz

Senator Espegard

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 39 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to experimental vehicles; to provide a penalty; and to declare an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 39 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
5 enacted as follows:

6 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 7 1. "Chase vehicle" means a motor vehicle that accompanies an experimental vehicle
8 while operating on a highway.
- 9 2. "Experimental vehicle" means a vehicle with an unladen weight of six thousand
10 pounds [2721.55 kilograms] or less which may be equipped with any configuration
11 of axles and wheels and which is primarily powered by some source other than a
12 combustion engine, muscle, or an animal.

13 **Applicability.** An experimental vehicle is a motor vehicle under this title, except:

- 14 1. Chapter 39-22 does not apply to experimental vehicles.
- 15 2. Registration of an experimental vehicle is governed by this chapter.
- 16 3. The governing body of a political subdivision may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the
17 use of an experimental vehicle operating within the political subdivision's corporate
18 limits in areas under the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.

19 **Experimental vehicle registration - Application - Issuance - Fees - Renewal.**

- 20 1. An individual may not operate an experimental vehicle unless the vehicle has been
21 registered in accordance with this chapter.
- 22 2. The department shall design and furnish an application that must be used to
23 register an experimental vehicle. The registration must state the name and
24 address of every owner of the experimental vehicle and must be signed by at least

- 1 one owner. A copy of the application is evidence of registration for the first thirty
2 days after the date of application.
- 3 3. On receipt of an application and the appropriate fee, the department shall register
4 the experimental vehicle and assign a registration number and a certificate of
5 registration. The certificate of registration must include information regarding
6 name and address of the owner.
- 7 4. The fee for registration of an experimental vehicle is fifty dollars for each
8 registration cycle of one year ending on March thirty-first. The department may
9 prorate the initial registration fee. For a duplicate or replacement registration
10 number or registration card that is lost, mutilated, or becomes illegible, the
11 department may charge a fee of not more than five dollars.
- 12 5. To renew a registration, the owner of an experimental vehicle shall follow the
13 procedure adopted by the department and pay the registration fee.
- 14 6. The department may adopt rules for the registration of experimental vehicles and
15 the display of registration numbers.

16 **Exemption from fees.** Payment of fees is not required of an experimental vehicle
17 owned and used by the United States, a state or any of its agencies, institutions, or political
18 subdivisions; an experimental vehicle registered in a foreign country and temporarily used in
19 this state; or an experimental vehicle validly licensed in another state and which has not been
20 in this state for more than thirty consecutive days.

21 **Transfer or termination of experimental vehicle ownership - Change of address of**
22 **owner.** Within fifteen days of a transfer of any ownership interest in an experimental vehicle,
23 other than a security interest, the destruction or abandonment of any experimental vehicle, or a
24 change of address of the owner as listed with the application for registration, written notice of
25 the fact must be given by the last registered owner to the director in the form the director
26 requires.

27 **Rules of operation.** A person may not operate an experimental vehicle on a highway
28 without being accompanied by a chase vehicle. The chase vehicle must follow the
29 experimental vehicle at a safe-driving distance.

30 **Equipment.** An experimental vehicle must be equipped with a horn, front and rear turn
31 signal lamps, stop lamps, a balanced and coreactive dual-braking system, a windshield, a

1 safety belt installed at each seating position, an exterior mirror mounted on the operator's side
2 of the vehicle, a roll cage that encompasses the entire driver, fresh air intake vents or wheel
3 openings, and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the vehicle or an
4 interior rearview mirror.

5 **Penalty.** A violation of this chapter for which there is no penalty in this title is a class B
6 misdemeanor.

7 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.