

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE BILL NO. 2255
(Senators Fischer, G. Lee, Nething)
(Representatives Kasper, Nelson, Nottestad)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 61-16.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to exercise of the power of eminent domain by water resource districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 61-16.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. Exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner provided by title 32 for the purpose of acquiring and securing any rights, titles, interests, estates, or easements necessary or proper to carry out the duties imposed by this chapter, and particularly to acquire the necessary rights in land for the construction of dams, flood control projects, and other water conservation, distribution, and supply works of any nature and to permit the flooding of lands, and to secure the right of access to such dams and other devices and the right of public access to any waters impounded thereby. Provided, however, that when the interest sought to be acquired is a right of way for any project authorized in this chapter for which federal or state funds have been appropriated, the district, after making a written offer to purchase the right of way and depositing the amount of the offer with the clerk of the district court of the county wherein the right of way is located, may thereupon take immediate possession of the right of way, as authorized by section 16 of article I of the Constitution of North Dakota. Within thirty days after notice has been given in writing to the landowner by the clerk of the district court that a deposit has been made for the taking of a right of way as authorized in this subsection, the owner of the property taken may appeal to the district court by serving a notice of appeal upon the acquiring agency, and the matter must be tried at the next regular or special term of court with a jury unless a jury be waived, in the manner prescribed for trials under chapter 32-15.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2255.

Senate Vote: Yeas 40 Nays 6 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 77 Nays 14 Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State