

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2356

Introduced by

Senators Miller, Rust, Warner

Representatives Damschen, M. Nelson, Zubke

1 | A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management ~~studies of oil and gas and~~ study of
2 | abandoned gravel pit reclamation practices and standards.

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

4 | **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - RECLAMATION PRACTICES.**

5 | During the 2015-16 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying abandoned
6 | gravel pit reclamation practices. The study may ~~include the consideration of~~ address the
7 | feasibility and desirability of utilizing state funds for the reclamation of abandoned gravel pits
8 | and financially difficult reclamation projects on state and county lands, for the purpose of
9 | restoring land for farming, ranching, or other economic enterprises. The study may emphasize
10 | consideration of the potential economic benefit of restored land. The study may include
11 | consideration of current reclamation practices and standards for all North Dakota industries; use
12 | of the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund or other funds for financing; and input from
13 | departments, organizations, and associations with interest in reclamation practices. The
14 | legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
15 | legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-fifth legislative assembly.

16 | ~~—SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY—RECLAMATION STANDARDS.—~~

17 | ~~During the 2015-16 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying whether~~
18 | ~~reclamation standards related to oil and gas development can be improved to ensure the~~
19 | ~~successful reclamation of agricultural lands in this state, and to ensure that productivity of these~~
20 | ~~agricultural lands following reclamation is as near as possible to the land's productivity before~~
21 | ~~being used for oil and gas production. The study may include the consideration of whether~~
22 | ~~performance standards found in North Dakota Administrative Code chapter 69-05.2 and used~~
23 | ~~by the North Dakota public service commission for reclamation of surface coal-mined lands~~
24 | ~~should be utilized by the North Dakota industrial commission for reclamation of lands used for~~

1 ~~oil and gas development. The study may examine whether additional and more detailed~~
2 ~~reclamation standards should be included in state law and administrative rule, what standards~~
3 ~~should be included, and in what manner such standards should be included. The study may~~
4 ~~consider input from representatives from the department of mineral resources, the school of~~
5 ~~natural resource sciences' department of soil science at North Dakota state university, the~~
6 ~~department of trust lands, the public service commission, the state department of health,~~
7 ~~landowner groups, and professional soil classifiers regulated by the state board of registration~~
8 ~~for professional soil classifiers. The legislative management shall report its findings and~~
9 ~~recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to~~
10 ~~the sixty-fifth legislative assembly.~~