

Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Senators Luick, Osland, Vedaa

Representatives Beadle, Mitskog, Pyle

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 61-02-01.4, 61-02-02, 61-02-04, 61-02-07, and  
2 61-02-14 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cost-sharing and duties and  
3 membership of the state water commission.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-02-01.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **61-02-01.4. State water commission cost-share policy.**

8 The state water commission shall review, gather stakeholder input on, and rewrite as  
9 necessary the commission's "Cost-share Policy, Procedure and General Requirements" and  
10 "Project Prioritization Guidance" documents. The commission's cost-share policy:

- 11 1. Must provide a water supply project is eligible for a cost-share up to seventy-five  
12 percent of the total eligible project costs.
- 13 2. May not determine program eligibility of water supply projects based on a population  
14 growth factor. However, a population growth factor may be used in prioritizing projects  
15 for that purpose.
- 16 3. Must consider all project costs potentially eligible for reimbursement, except the  
17 commission shall exclude operations expense and, regular maintenance, ~~including and~~  
18 ~~removal of vegetative materials and sediment, for water conveyance-~~  
19 ~~projects~~assessment drains, and may exclude operations expense and regular  
20 maintenance for other projects. Snagging and clearing of watercourses are not regular  
21 maintenance. The commission shall require a water project sponsor to maintain a  
22 capital improvement fund from the rates charged customers for future extraordinary  
23 maintenance projects as condition of funding an extraordinary maintenance project.

- 1           4.    May not determine program eligibility of water supply projects based on affordability.  
2                    However, affordability may be used in prioritizing projects for that purpose.

3           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5           **61-02-02. Definitions.**

6           In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- 7           1.    "Commission" means the state water commission.
- 8           2.    "Cost of works" includes:
- 9               a.    The cost of construction, the cost of all lands, property rights, water rights,  
10                    easements, and franchises acquired which are deemed necessary for such  
11                    construction;
- 12               b.    The cost of all water rights acquired or exercised by the commission in  
13                    connection with ~~such~~the works;
- 14               c.    The cost of all machinery and equipment, financing charges, interest ~~prior-~~  
15                    ~~to~~before and during construction and for a period not exceeding three years after  
16                    the completion of construction;
- 17               d.    The cost of engineering and legal expenses, plans, specifications, surveys,  
18                    estimates of cost, and other expenses necessary or incident to determining the  
19                    feasibility or practicability of ~~any~~a project;
- 20               e.    Administrative expenses;
- 21               f.    The construction of the works and the placing of the ~~same~~works in operation; and
- 22               g.    ~~Such other~~Other expenses ~~as may be~~ necessary or incident to the financing  
23                    authorized in this chapter, including funding of debt service, repair and  
24                    replacement reserves, capitalized interest, and the payment of bond issuance  
25                    costs.
- 26           3.    "Cost-share" means funds appropriated by the legislative assembly or otherwise  
27                    transferred by the commission to a local entity under commission policy as  
28                    reimbursement for a percentage of the total approved cost of a project approved by  
29                    the commission.
- 30           4.    "Economic analysis" means an estimate of economic benefits and direct costs that  
31                    result from the development of a project.

- 1           5. "Grant" means a one-time sum of money appropriated by the legislative assembly and  
2           transferred by the commission to a local entity for a particular purpose. A grant is not  
3           dependent on the local entity providing a particular percentage of the cost of the  
4           project.
- 5           6. "Life cycle analysis" means the summation of all costs associated with the anticipated  
6           useful life of a project, including project development, land, construction, operation,  
7           maintenance, and disposal or decommissioning.
- 8           7. "Loan" means an amount of money lent to a sponsor of a project approved by the  
9           commission to assist with funding approved project components. A loan may be  
10          stand-alone financial assistance.
- 11          8. "Owner" includes all individuals, associations, corporations, limited liability companies,  
12          districts, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of this state having any title or  
13          interest in any properties, rights, water rights, easements, or franchises to be acquired.
- 14          9. "Project" means any one of the works defined in subsection 4410, or any combination  
15          of such works, which are physically connected or jointly managed and operated as a  
16          single unit.
- 17          10. "Water conveyance project" means any ~~surface drainage works, bank assessment~~  
18          drain, streambank stabilization, or snagging and clearing of water courses.
- 19          11. "Works" includes:
- 20           a. All property rights, easements, and franchises relating ~~thereteto~~ and deemed  
21           necessary or convenient for their operation;
- 22           b. All water rights acquired and exercised by the commission in connection with  
23           such works;
- 24           c. All means of conserving and distributing water, including ~~without limiting the~~  
25           ~~generality of the foregoing two subdivisions~~, reservoirs, dams, diversion canals,  
26           distributing canals, channels, lateral ditches, pumping units, mains, pipelines,  
27           treatment plants, and waterworks systems; and
- 28           d. All works for the conservation, control, development, storage, treatment,  
29           distribution, and utilization of water, including ~~without limiting the generality of the~~  
30           ~~foregoing subdivisions~~, works for the purpose of irrigation, flood control, watering  
31           stock, supplying water for public, domestic, industrial, and recreational use, fire

1 protection, and the draining of lands injured or in danger of injury as a result of  
2 such water utilization.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **61-02-04. State water commission - Members - Terms - Qualifications.**

6 The state water commission consists of the governor, agriculture commissioner, and  
7 ~~seven~~eight other members appointed by the governor who shall take into account reasonable  
8 geographic considerations in making the appointments with the intent of having each of the  
9 ~~seven~~eight major drainage basins represented by a commissioner who resides in the basin. The  
10 major drainage basins are the upper Missouri River basin; the lower Missouri River basin; the  
11 James River basin; the upper Red River basin; the lower Red River basin; the Mouse River  
12 basin; ~~and;~~ the Devils Lake basin; and the Little Missouri River, upper Heart River, and upper  
13 Cannonball River basin. The governor or the agriculture commissioner, or both, may appoint a  
14 representative to serve in that official's capacity at meetings that official is unable to attend. The  
15 ~~seven~~eight appointive members of the commission must be appointed for a term of six years  
16 each with the terms of office so arranged that ~~two terms and~~ not more than ~~three~~four terms  
17 expire on the first day of July of each odd-numbered year. Each appointive member must be a  
18 qualified elector of the state and is subject to removal by judicial procedure. In case of a  
19 vacancy, the vacancy must be filled by appointment by the governor for the remainder of the  
20 unexpired term. Before entering upon the discharge of official duties, each appointive member  
21 shall take, subscribe, and file with the secretary of state the oath prescribed for civil officers.

22 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-02-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **61-02-07. Quorum - What constitutes.**

25 A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative or  
26 negative vote of ~~five~~six members is necessary to bind the commission except for adjournment.

27 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-02-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **61-02-14. Powers and duties of the commission.**

30 The commission ~~shall have full and complete power, authority, and general jurisdiction~~is  
31 authorized:

- 1           1. To investigate, plan, regulate, undertake, construct, establish, maintain, control,  
2           operate, and supervise all works, dams, and projects, public and private, which in  
3           ~~its~~the commission's judgment may be necessary or advisable:
- 4           a. To control the low-water flow of streams in the state.
- 5           b. To impound water for the improvement of municipal, industrial, and rural water  
6           supplies.
- 7           c. To control and regulate floodflow in the streams of the state to minimize the  
8           damage of ~~such~~ floodwaters.
- 9           d. To conserve and develop the waters within the natural watershed areas of the  
10          state and, subject to vested rights, to divert the waters within a watershed area to  
11          another watershed area and the waters of any river, lake, or stream into another  
12          river, lake, or stream.
- 13          e. To improve the channels of the streams for more efficient transportation of the  
14          available water in the streams.
- 15          f. To provide sufficient water flow for the abatement of stream pollution.
- 16          g. To develop, restore, and stabilize the waters of the state for domestic,  
17          agricultural, and municipal needs; irrigation; flood control; recreation; and  
18          wildlife conservation by the construction and maintenance of dams, reservoirs,  
19          and diversion canals.
- 20          h. To promote the maintenance of existing drainage channels in agricultural lands  
21          and to construct ~~any~~ needed channels.
- 22          i. To provide more satisfactory subsurface water supplies for the state's  
23          municipalities ~~of the state~~.
- 24          j. To finance the construction, establishment, ~~operation,~~ and extraordinary  
25          maintenance of public ~~and private~~ works, dams, and irrigation projects, which in  
26          ~~its~~the commission's judgment may be necessary and advisable, ~~except the~~. The  
27          commission may not provide a cost-share for the costs of operation ~~or~~, regular  
28          maintenance, ~~including~~or removal of vegetative materials and sediment, ~~of a~~  
29          ~~water conveyance project~~ for assessment drains. Snagging and clearing of  
30          watercourses are not regular maintenance.

- 1           k. To provide for the storage, development, diversion, delivery, and distribution of  
2           water for the irrigation of agricultural land and supply water for municipal and  
3           industrial purposes.
- 4           l. To provide for the drainage of lands injured by or susceptible of injury from  
5           excessive rainfall or from the utilization of irrigation water, and subject to the  
6           limitations prescribed by law, to aid and cooperate with the United States and any  
7           department, agency, or officer ~~thereof~~of the United States, and with any county,  
8           township, drainage district, or irrigation district of this state, or of ~~other~~  
9           ~~states~~another state, in the construction or improvement of ~~such~~the drains.
- 10          m. To provide water for stock.
- 11          n. To provide water for the generation of electric power and for mining and  
12          manufacturing purposes.
- 13          2. To define, declare, and establish rules and regulations:
- 14           a. For the sale of waters and water rights to individuals, associations, corporations,  
15           limited liability companies, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of the  
16           state and for the delivery of water to users.
- 17           b. For the full and complete supervision, regulation, and control of the water  
18           supplies within the state.
- 19           c. ~~Repealed by S.L. 1975, ch. 575, § 2.~~
- 20           ~~e.~~ Governing and providing for financing by local participants to the maximum  
21           extent deemed practical and equitable in any water development project in which  
22           the state participates in cooperation with the United States or with political  
23           subdivisions or local entities.
- 24          3. To exercise full power and control of the construction, operation, and maintenance of  
25          works and the collection of rates, charges, and revenues realized ~~therefrom~~from the  
26          works.
- 27          4. To sell, lease, and otherwise distribute all waters which may be developed,  
28          impounded, and diverted by the commission under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter, for  
29          the purposes of irrigation, the development of power, and the watering of livestock,  
30          and for any other private or public use.

- 1           5. To exercise all express and implied rights, power, and authority that may be  
2           necessary, and to do, perform, and carry out ~~all of the expressed purposes of this~~  
3           chapter and ~~all of the purposes reasonably implied incidentally thereto~~ or lawfully  
4           connected ~~therewith~~ with the expressed purposes of this chapter.
- 5           6. To acquire, own, and develop lands for irrigation and water conservation and to  
6           acquire, own, and develop damsites and reservoir sites and to acquire easements and  
7           rights of way for diversion and distributing systems.
- 8           7. To cooperate with the United States and any department, agency, or officer ~~thereof~~  
9           the United States in the planning, establishment, operation, and maintenance of dams,  
10          reservoirs, diversion and distributing systems, for the utilization of the waters of the  
11          state for domestic, municipal, and industrial needs, irrigation, flood control, water  
12          conservation, and generation of electric power and for mining, agricultural, and  
13          manufacturing purposes, ~~and in this connection the state water.~~ The commission is-  
14          ~~hereby authorized~~ may, within the limitations prescribed by law, to acquire, convey,  
15          contribute, or grant to the United States, moneys, real and personal property, including  
16          land or easements for dams and reservoir sites and rights of way and easements for  
17          diversion and distribution systems or participate in the cost of any project.
- 18          8. To consider cost-sharing for water quality improvement projects.