# FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

#### **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1431**

Introduced by

Representatives Pollert, Schmidt

Senators Sorvaag, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 6-09 and a new section to 2 chapter 6-09.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a water infrastructure revolving-3 loan fund and bonded debt repayments; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 6-09-49, 4 and sections 6-09.4-06 and 6-09.4-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to interest 5 rates for infrastructure revolving loans, borrowing and lending authority of the public finance 6 authority, and reserve funds associated with bonds; to repeal chapter 6-09.5 and section 7 61-02-78 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a community water development fund 8 and an infrastructure revolving loan fund within the resources trust fund; to provide an 9 appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to provide for a 10 contingent transfer; to provide a bond issue limit; and to provide a loan repayment; to provide 11 an exemption; to provide a statement of legislative intent; and to provide a report.

### 12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

13 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 6-09-49 of the North Dakota Century 14 Code is amended and reenacted as follows: 15 The infrastructure revolving loan fund is a special fund in the state treasury from which 1. 16 the Bank of North Dakota shall provide loans to political subdivisions, the Garrison 17 Diversion Conservancy District, and the Lake Agassiz water authority for essential 18 infrastructure projects. The Bank shall administer the infrastructure revolving loan-19 fund. The maximum term of a loan made under this section is thirty years. A loan-20 made from the fund under this section must have an interest rate that does not exceed 21 two percent per yearstarting at two percent per year and increasing by one percent 22 every five years, up to a maximum rate of five percent per year. 23 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created 24 and enacted as follows:

1	<u>Wa</u> t	ter infrastructure revolving loan fund - State water commission - Continuing	
2	appropriation.		
3	<u> <u> </u></u>	There is created in the state treasury the water infrastructure revolving loan fund to	
4		provide loans for water supply, flood protection, or other water development and water	
5		management projects. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund, interest	
6		earned on moneys in the fund, and principal and interest payments to the fund. All	
7		moneys in the fund are appropriated to the Bank of North Dakota on a continuing	
8		basis for loan disbursements and administrative costs.	
9	<u> <u> </u></u>	The state water commission shall approve eligible projects for loans from the water	
10		infrastructure loan fund. The state water commission shall consider the following when	
11		evaluating eligible projects:	
12		a. <u>A description of the nature and purposes of the proposed infrastructure project,</u>	
13		including an explanation of the need for the project, the reasons why the project	
14		is in the public interest, and the overall economic impact of the project.	
15		b. The estimated cost of the project, the amount of loan funding requested, and	
16		other proposed sources of funding.	
17		<u>c.</u> <u>The extent to which completion of the project will provide a benefit to the state or</u>	
18		regions within the state.	
19	<u> <u>3.     </u></u>	Projects not eligible for the state revolving funds under chapters 61-28.1 and 61-28.2	
20		must be given priority for loans from the water infrastructure revolving loan fund.	
21	<u> <u>4.     </u></u>	In consultation with the state water commission, the Bank of North Dakota shall	
22		develop policies for the review and approval of loans under this section. Loans made	
23		under this section must be made at the same interest rate as the revolving loan funds	
24		established under chapters 61-28.1 and 61-28.2.	
25		<u>5. The Bank of North Dakota shall manage and administer loans from the water</u>	
26		infrastructure loan fund. The Bank shall deposit in the fund all principal and interest	
27		paid on loans made from the fund. Annually, the Bank may deduct one-quarter of one-	
28		percent of the outstanding loan balance as a service fee for administering the water	
29		infrastructure revolving loan fund. The Bank shall contract with a certified public	
30		accounting firm to audit the fund. The cost of the audit must be paid from the fund.	

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 6-09.4-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
 amended and reenacted as follows:

### 3 **6-09.4-06.** Lending and borrowing powers generally.

4 The public finance authority may lend money to political subdivisions or other 1. 5 contracting parties through the purchase or holding of municipal securities which, in 6 the opinion of the attorney general, are properly eligible for purchase or holding by the 7 public finance authority under this chapter or chapter 40-57 and for purposes of the 8 public finance authority's capital financing program the principal amount of any one 9 issue does not exceed five hundred thousand dollars. However, the public finance 10 authority may lend money to political subdivisions through the purchase of securities 11 issued by the political subdivisions through the capital financing program without 12 regard to the principal amount of the bonds issued, if the industrial commission 13 approves a resolution that authorizes the public finance authority to purchase the 14 securities. The capital financing program authorizing resolution must state that the 15 industrial commission has determined that private bond markets will not be responsive 16 to the needs of the issuing political subdivision concerning the securities or, if it 17 appears that the securities can be sold through private bond markets without the 18 involvement of the public finance authority, the authorizing resolution must state 19 reasons for the public finance authority's involvement in the bond issue. The public 20 finance authority may hold such municipal securities for any length of time it finds to 21 be necessary. The public finance authority, for the purposes authorized by this chapter 22 or chapter 40-57, may issue its bonds payable solely from the revenues available to 23 the public finance authority which are authorized or pledged for payment of public 24 finance authority obligations, and to otherwise assist political subdivisions or other 25 contracting parties as provided in this chapter or chapter 40-57.

- 26 <u>2.</u> The public finance authority may lend money to the Bank of North Dakota under terms
   and conditions requiring the Bank to use the proceeds to make loans for agricultural
   improvements that qualify for assistance under the revolving loan fund program
   established by chapter 61-28.2.
- 30 3. The public finance authority may transfer money to the Bank of North Dakota for
   31 allocations to infrastructure projects and programs and the clean sustainable energy

	Legisiat	ive Assembly
1		fund. Bonds issued for these purposes are payable in each biennium solely from
2		amounts the legislative assembly may appropriate for debt service for any biennium or
3		from a reserve fund established for the bonds. This section may not be construed to
4		require the state to appropriate funds sufficient to make debt service payments with
5		respect to the bonds or to replenish a related reserve fund. The bonds are not a debt
6		of the Bank of North Dakota or the state. The full faith, credit, and taxing powers of the
7		state are not pledged to the payment of the bonds. As of the date appropriated funds
8		and reserves are not sufficient to pay debt service on the bonds, the obligation of the
9		public finance authority with respect to the bonds must terminate, and the bonds are
10		no longer outstanding Neither the obligation of the state to pay the bonds nor the
11		obligation of the issuer to pay debt service will constitute a debt of the state or any
12		agency or political subdivision of the state within the meaning of any constitutional or
13		statutory provision. The issuance of the bond does not directly or contingently obligate
14		the state to pay the bond payments beyond the appropriation for the current biennium
15		of the state. The issuer has no taxing power. In addition to providing funds for the
16		transfers, the public finance authority may use the bond proceeds to pay the costs of
17		issuance of the bonds, capitalized interest, and establish a reserve fund for the bonds.
18	<u>4.</u>	Bonds of the public finance authority issued under this chapter or chapter 40-57 are
19		not in any way a debt or liability of the state and do not constitute a loan of the credit of
20		the state or create any debt or debts, liability or liabilities, on behalf of the state, or
21		constitute a pledge of the faith and credit of the state, but all such bonds are payable
22		solely from revenues pledged or available for their payment as authorized in this
23		chapter. Each bond must contain on its face a statement to the effect that the public
24		finance authority is obligated to pay such principal or interest, and redemption
25		premium, if any, and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the state
26		is pledged to the payment of the principal of or the interest on such bonds. Specific
27		funds pledged to fulfill the public finance authority's obligations are obligations of the
28		public finance authority.
29	<u>5.</u>	All expenses incurred in carrying out the purposes of this chapter or chapter 40-57 are
30		payable solely from revenues or funds provided or to be provided under this chapter or
31		chapter 40-57 and nothing in this chapter may be construed to authorize the public

finance authority to incur any indebtedness or liability on behalf of or payable by the
 state.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 6-09.4-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **6-09.4-10. Reserve fund.** 

6 1. The public finance authority shall establish and maintain a reserve fund in which there 7 must be deposited all moneys appropriated by the state for the purpose of the fund, all 8 proceeds of bonds required to be deposited therein by terms of any contract between 9 the public finance authority and its bondholders or any resolution of the public finance 10 authority with respect to the proceeds of bonds, any other moneys or funds of the 11 public finance authority which it determines to deposit therein, any contractual right to 12 the receipt of moneys by the public finance authority for the purpose of the fund, 13 including a letter of credit or similar instrument, and any other moneys made available 14 to the public finance authority only for the purposes of the fund from any other source 15 or sources. Moneys in the reserve fund must be held and applied solely to the 16 payment of the interest on and the principal of bonds and sinking fund payments as 17 the same become due and payable and for the retirement of bonds, including payment 18 of any redemption premium required to be paid when any bonds are redeemed or 19 retired prior to maturity. Moneys in the reserve fund may not be withdrawn therefrom if 20 the withdrawal would reduce the amount in the reserve fund to an amount less than 21 the required debt service reserve, except for payment of interest then due and payable 22 on bonds and the principal of bonds then maturing and payable and sinking fund 23 payments and for the retirement of bonds in accordance with the terms of any contract 24 between the public finance authority and its bondholders and for the payments on 25 account of which interest or principal or sinking fund payments or retirement of bonds, 26 other moneys of the public finance authority are not then available in accordance with 27 the terms of the contract. The required debt service reserve must be an aggregate 28 amount equal to at least the largest amount of money required by the terms of all 29 contracts between the public finance authority and its bondholders to be raised in the 30 then current or any succeeding calendar year for the payment of interest on and maturing principal of outstanding bonds, and sinking fund payments required by the 31

terms of any contracts to sinking funds established for the payment or redemption of
 the bonds.

3 2. If the establishment of the reserve fund for an issue or the maintenance of an existing 4 reserve fund at a required level under this section would necessitate the investment of 5 all or any portion of a new reserve fund or all or any portion of an existing reserve fund 6 at a restricted yield, because to not restrict the yield may cause the bonds to be 7 taxable under the Internal Revenue Code, then at the discretion of the public finance 8 authority no reserve fund need be established prior to the issuance of bonds or the 9 reserve fund need not be funded to the levels required by other subsections of this 10 section or an existing reserve fund may be reduced.

- 11 No bonds may be issued by the public finance authority unless there is in the reserve 3. 12 fund the required debt service reserve for all bonds then issued and outstanding and 13 the bonds to be issued. Nothing in this chapter prevents or precludes the public 14 finance authority from satisfying the foregoing requirement by depositing so much of 15 the proceeds of the bonds to be issued, upon their issuance, as is needed to achieve 16 the required debt service reserve. The public finance authority may at any time issue 17 its bonds or notes for the purpose of providing any amount necessary to increase the 18 amount in the reserve fund to the required debt service reserve, or to meet such 19 higher or additional reserve as may be fixed by the public finance authority with 20 respect to such fund.
- 21 4. In order to assure the maintenance of the required debt service reserve, there shall be 22 appropriated by the legislative assembly and paid to the public finance authority for 23 deposit in the reserve fund, such sum, if any, as shall be certified by the industrial 24 commission as necessary to restore the reserve fund to an amount equal to the 25 required debt service reserve. However, the commission may approve a resolution for 26 the issuance of bonds, as provided by section 6-09.4-06, which states in substance 27 that this subsection is not applicable to the required debt service reserve for bonds 28 issued under that resolution.
- If the maturity of a series of bonds of the public finance authority is three years or less
  from the date of issuance of the bonds, the public finance authority may determine that
  no reserve fund need be established for that respective series of bonds. If such a

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1		determination is made, holders of that respective series of bonds may have no interes	t		
2	in or claim on existing reserve funds established for the security of the holders of				
3	previously issued public finance authority bonds, and may have no interest in or claim				
4		on reserve funds established for the holders of subsequent issues of bonds of the			
5		public finance authority.			
6	<u>6.</u>	The industrial commission may determine that this section is inapplicable in whole or			
7		in part for bonds issued under section:			
8		<u>a.</u> <u>Section 6-09.4-06;</u>			
9		b. Section 6-09.4-24; or under the			
10		<u>c.</u> <u>The</u> public finance authority's state revolving fund program.			
11	SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 6-09.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created				
12	and enacted as follows:				
13	<u>Deb</u>	service requirements - Bonds for infrastructure projects and programs and			
14	<u>clean s</u>	stainable energy fund.			
15	Eac	biennium, the public finance authority shall request from the legislative assembly an			
16	appropr	ation from the general fund, derived from legacy fund earnings, Bank of North Dakota			
17	profits, o	r other sources to meet the debt service requirements for bonds issued by the authority	L		
18	3 for allocations to infrastructure projects and programs and the clean sustainable energy fund.				
19	SEC	TION 4. REPEAL. Chapter 6-09.5 and section 61-02-78 of the North Dakota Century			
20	Code are repealed.				
21	SECTION 5. PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY - BOND ISSUE LIMITATION - BANK OF				
22	NORTH	DAKOTA - APPROPRIATION.			
23	1.	Pursuant to the bonding authority under section 6-09.4-06, the public finance authority	/		
24		may only issue bonds under this Act to provide up to \$680,000,000 of			
25		bonds \$1,110,000,000 in funds for transfer to the Bank of North Dakota for allocations			
26		to infrastructure projects and programs and the clean sustainable energy fund as			
27		authorized in this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30,			
28		2023.			
29	2.	The term of any bonds issued under this section may not exceed twenty thirty years.			
30		The public finance authority may issue bond anticipation notes or borrow from the			
31		Bank to support the allocations to infrastructure projects and programs and the clean			

1		<u>sus</u>	tainable energy fund prior to a bond issue. The public finance authority shall make
2		ava	ilable up to ten percent of the bonds for sale directly to North Dakota residents and
3		fina	ncial institutions The state investment board may purchase the bonds as
4		inve	estments for the funds under its management.
5	3.	Afte	er payment of any issuance costs, capitalized interest, or any transfers to a reserve
6		fund	d, <del>\$680,000,000</del> \$1,110,000,000 from the bond proceeds issued by the public
7	1	fina	nce authority is appropriated to the Bank of North Dakota for allocations to
8		infra	astructure projects and programs and the clean sustainable energy fund, for the
9		bier	nnium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, as follows:
10		a.	\$435,500,000 for the Fargo diversion project;
11		b.	\$74,500,000 to the resources trust fund;
12	1	C.	\$50,000,000 to the infrastructure revolving loan fund under section 6-09-49;
13		d.	\$70,000,000 to the highway fund; <del>and</del>
14		e.	\$50,000,000 to North Dakota state university, which is appropriated to North
15	1		Dakota state university, for an agriculture products development center including
16			a northern crops institute project;
17		f.	\$250,000,000 to the clean sustainable energy fund;
18		g.	\$30,000,000 to the township highway aid fund;
19		h.	\$60,000,000 to the department of career and technical education operating fund;
20		i.	\$71,000,000 to the strategic investment and improvements fund;
21		j.	\$10,000,000 to the state park fund;
22		k.	\$4,000,000 to Dickinson state university, which is appropriated to Dickinson state
23			university for a Pulver hall project, a meat processing laboratory remodel, a
24			digitization project, and other projects;
25		<u> </u>	\$4,000,000 to the university of North Dakota, which is appropriated to the
26			university of North Dakota for a space command initiative and related technical
27			programs at the university of North Dakota, including equipment, renovation, a
28			sensitive compartmental information facility, and other expenses; and
29		m.	\$1,000,000 to the cultural endowment fund under section 54-54-08.1.
30	SEC	стю	N 6. RESOURCES TRUST FUND - LOAN REPAYMENT. The state water
31	commis	sion s	shall use the bond proceeds allocated to the resources trust fund under section $\frac{75}{2}$

of this Act to repay loans issued to the western area water supply authority from the resourcestrust fund.

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - RESOURCES TRUST FUND. There is appropriated out
of any moneys in the resources trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the
sum of \$74,500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state water
commission for Mouse River flood control, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending
June 30, 2023.

8 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - HIGHWAY FUND - CONTINGENT TRANSFER. There is 9 appropriated out of any moneys in the highway fund in the state treasury, not otherwise 10 appropriated, the sum of \$70,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, derived 11 from bond proceeds to the department of transportation for state highway bridge projects and 12 for matching federal funds that may become available, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, 13 and ending June 30, 2023. Of the \$70,000,000, \$35,000,000 is designated for state highway 14 bridge projects, and \$35,000,000 is designated for matching federal funds that may become 15 available for state highway projects in excess of the federal funds appropriated to the 16 department of transportation as part of its 2021-23 biennial budget. By October 1, 2022, the 17 director of the department of transportation shall certify to the office of management and budget 18 the amount of funding committed to matching excess federal funds from the \$35,000,000 19 provided under this section. If the amount committed is less than \$35,000,000, the office of 20 management and budget shall transfer any uncommitted amounts to the infrastructure revolving 21 loan fund under section 6-09-49. 22 **SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY AID FUND - EXEMPTION -**

REPORT. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the township highway aid fund in the state
treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$30,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be
necessary, derived from bond proceeds to the department of transportation for distributions to
townships for road and bridge infrastructure needs for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and
ending June 30, 2023, as follows:

Notwithstanding section 54-27-19.1, the department of transportation shall distribute
 \$10,000,000 to non-oil-producing townships based on township roadway miles without
 a matching requirement.

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1	2.	а.	Notwithstanding section 54-27-19.1, the department of transportation shall make
2			available \$20,000,000 for grants to townships. The department shall award
3			grants with preference given to grant applications for projects that:
4			(1) Leverage available state, local, or federal funding;
5			(2) Coordinate with state, county, and other township projects;
6			(3) Focus on flood control and infrastructure resilience;
7			(4) Reduce road restrictions, improve mobility, and improve safety;
8			(5) Improve the agricultural economy and goods movement; and
9			(6) Confirm participating townships' ability to maintain the improvements.
10		b.	The department shall establish an application process that must include the
11			following eligibility requirements:
12			(1) The roadways or bridges associated with the project must provide continuity
13			and connectivity to efficiently integrate and improve paved and unpaved
14			corridors within the township and across township borders;
15			(2) The project must be consistent with applicable township long-range
16			planning;
17			(3) The project must result in the roadway segment meeting an appropriate
18			legal load limit; and
19			(4) The project must comply with the American association of state highway
20			transportation officials pavement and bridge design procedures and
21			standards developed by the department of transportation in conjunction with
22			the local jurisdiction.
23		C.	For approved projects, the department shall initially distribute the portion of the
24			approved grant funding for engineering and plan development costs. Upon
25			execution of a construction contract by the township, the department shall
26			distribute the remainder of the approved funding. Townships shall report to the
27			department upon awarding of each contract and upon completion of each project.
28		d.	Grants may be awarded for construction, engineering, and plan development
29			costs, but may not be used for routine maintenance. Grants awarded may be
30			applied to engineering, design, and construction costs incurred on related
31			projects as of January 1, 2021. Section 54-44.1-11 does not apply to funding

1	under this subsection and any funds not spent by June 30, 2023, must be		
2	continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025,		
3	and may be expended only for the purposes authorized by this subsection.		
4	3. For the purposes of this section, a "non-oil-producing county" means a county that has		
5	received no allocation of funding or a total allocation of funding under subsection 2 of		
6	section 57-51-15 of less than \$5,000,000 for the period beginning September 1, 2019,		
7	and ending August 31, 2020.		
8	4. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item and the		
9	department shall report to the budget section and to the appropriations committees of		
10	the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding, including the		
11	amounts awarded and distributed to each township, the amounts spent to date, and		
12	the amounts anticipated to be continued into the 2023-25 biennium.		
13	SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL		
14	EDUCATION OPERATING FUND. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the department		
15	of career and technical education operating fund in the state treasury, not otherwise		
16	appropriated, the sum of \$45,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, derived		
17	from bond proceeds to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of		
18	providing grants for buildings and equipment, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and		
19	ending June 30, 2023. The department of career and technical education shall distribute up to		
20	\$45,000,000 of the grants for the construction of new career and technical education centers		
21	with a limit of up to \$15,000,000 per center, and a center must provide one dollar of matching		
22	funds for each dollar of grant funding received for the construction of a new career and		
23	technical education center. The remaining amount is available for grants for equipment at other		
24	career and technical education programs located in the state, which must be distributed by the		
25	department of career and technical education through a competitive grant process without a		
26	matching requirement.		
27	SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS		
28	FUND - TRANSFER. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and		
29	improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$66,300,000, or		
30	so much of the sum as may be necessary, derived from bond proceeds to the office of		

31 management and budget for deferred maintenance and other improvement projects, for the

1 biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023. The office of management and 2 budget shall use up to \$700,000 for accessibility improvements on the state capitol grounds for 3 costs relating to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 improvements and 4 other accessibility improvements. In consultation with the legislative management, the office of 5 management and budget shall use up to \$600,000 to remodel the Brynhild Haugland room in 6 the state capitol. The office of management and budget shall use up to \$65,000,000 for deferred 7 maintenance on state buildings with priority given to the most critical maintenance projects 8 based on an assessment conducted during the 2019-20 interim. The office of management and 9 budget may transfer funds from the \$65,000,000 for deferred maintenance under this section to 10 other eligible state agencies for deferred maintenance projects on state buildings, for the 11 biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023. 12 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS 13 **FUND.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements 14 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$4,700,000, or so much of the 15 sum as may be necessary, derived from bond proceeds to the state historical society for the 16 maintenance of state historical buildings, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending 17 June 30, 2023. 18 SECTION 13. TRANSFER - WATER PROJECT LOAN FUNDS. The Bank of North Dakota 19 shall transfer all outstanding loans and moneys in the community water facility loan fund and all 20 outstanding loans and moneys in the infrastructure revolving loan fund within the resources 21 trust fund to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund under section 6-09-49 on July 1, 2021. 22 SECTION 14. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND. It is the intent of 23 the sixty-seventh legislative assembly that the council on the arts expend up to \$50,000 24 annually from the cultural endowment fund pursuant to the appropriation authority provided in 25 section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2010 during the 2021-23 biennium for the maintenance of the public 26 art projects constructed as part of the North Dakota creative placemaking program. It is further

- the intent of the legislative assembly that the council on the arts continue to expend \$50,000
- 28 annually from the cultural endowment fund for the maintenance of the public arts projects
- 29 constructed as part of the North Dakota creative placemaking program until the moneys derived
- 30 from the bond proceeds authorized in this Act and deposited in the fund have been fully
- 31 expended.