

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Nathe, O'Brien, Porter, Stemen

Senators Bekkedahl, Meyer, Weber

1 A BILL for an Act to provide appropriations to the ~~department of transportation, department of~~  
2 ~~health and human services,~~ department of career and technical education, ~~department of~~ and  
3 agriculture, ~~and industrial commission~~ commissioner for uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous  
4 vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants; to provide for a legislative management study;  
5 and to provide a report.

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

7 ~~SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION -- FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND --~~  
8 ~~DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION -- ONE-TIME FUNDING -- REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE~~  
9 ~~MANAGEMENT.~~

10 ~~1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund,~~  
11 ~~not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be~~  
12 ~~necessary, to the department of transportation for the purpose of uncrewed aircraft~~  
13 ~~system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to political~~  
14 ~~subdivisions, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The~~  
15 ~~funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.~~

16 ~~2. The department of transportation shall develop an application process and guidelines~~  
17 ~~for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching~~  
18 ~~requirements. The department of transportation may require a political subdivision to~~  
19 ~~provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be~~  
20 ~~eligible for a grant, a political subdivision shall certify to the department of~~  
21 ~~transportation that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle,~~  
22 ~~or other autonomous technology is related to inspecting, operating, maintaining, or~~  
23 ~~construction of critical infrastructure.~~

1 ~~3. A political subdivision may use grant funding to purchase or lease uncrewed aircraft~~  
2 ~~systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; to support the~~  
3 ~~operations of uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous~~  
4 ~~technologies; to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems,~~  
5 ~~autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses~~  
6 ~~related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous~~  
7 ~~technology operations as determined by the department of transportation.~~

8 ~~4. During the 2023-24 interim, the department of transportation shall provide at least~~  
9 ~~one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant~~  
10 ~~recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.~~

11 ~~**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND -**~~  
12 ~~**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**~~  
13 ~~**LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**~~

14 ~~1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund,~~  
15 ~~not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be~~  
16 ~~necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of~~  
17 ~~uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology~~  
18 ~~grants to emergency medical services providers, for the biennium beginning July 1,~~  
19 ~~2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this section is considered a~~  
20 ~~one-time funding item.~~

21 ~~2. The department of health and human services shall develop an application process~~  
22 ~~and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and~~  
23 ~~matching requirements. The department of health and human services may require an~~  
24 ~~emergency medical services provider to provide one dollar of matching funds for every~~  
25 ~~four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, an emergency medical~~  
26 ~~services provider shall certify to the department of health and human services that the~~  
27 ~~operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous~~  
28 ~~technology is related to providing or enhancing emergency medical services in rural~~  
29 ~~areas of the state.~~

30 ~~3. An emergency medical services provider may use grant funding to purchase or lease~~  
31 ~~uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies;~~

~~to support the operations of uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology operations as determined by the department of health and human services.~~

~~4. During the 2023-24 interim, the department of health and human services shall provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.~~

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND -  
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER  
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE  
MANAGEMENT.**

1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$250,000~~\$475,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the northwest area of the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this ~~section~~subsection is considered a one-time funding item.

2. There is appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$12,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of administering the grant program in subsection 1 of section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.

3. The department of career and technical education shall develop an application process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching requirements. The department of career and technical education may require a workforce training center to provide one dollar of matching

1 funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, a  
2 workforce training center shall certify to the department of career and technical  
3 education that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or  
4 other autonomous technology is related to workforce or educational training with  
5 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies.

6 ~~3.4.~~ A workforce training center may use grant funding ~~to purchase or lease uncrewed~~  
7 ~~aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; to support~~  
8 ~~the operations of uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other~~  
9 ~~autonomous technologies;~~ to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft  
10 systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; for educational or  
11 training curriculum expenses related to uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous  
12 vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses related to  
13 uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology  
14 operations as determined by the department of career and technical education.

15 ~~4.5.~~ During the 2023-24 interim, the department of career and technical education shall  
16 provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,  
17 including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use  
18 of the grant funding.

19 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND -**  
20 **STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - DEPARTMENT OF**  
21 **AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**  
22 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 23 1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund,  
24 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$250,000~~\$275,000, or so much of the sum as  
25 may be necessary, to the ~~department of~~ agriculture commissioner for the purpose of  
26 uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology  
27 grants to individuals and entities in the agriculture industry, for the biennium beginning  
28 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this  
29 ~~section~~subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
- 30 2. There is appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund, not  
31 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$12,500, or so much of the sum as may be

1 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of administering the grant  
2 program in subsection 1 of section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
3 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is  
4 considered a one-time funding item.

5 3. The ~~department of~~ agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and  
6 guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and  
7 matching requirements. The ~~department of~~ agriculture commissioner may require an  
8 individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars  
9 awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to  
10 the ~~department of~~ agriculture commissioner that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft  
11 system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology is related to inspecting,  
12 operating, maintaining, or construction of agriculture property or infrastructure.

13 ~~3.4.~~ An individual or entity may use grant funding ~~to purchase or lease uncrewed aircraft~~  
14 ~~systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; to support the~~  
15 ~~operations of uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous~~  
16 ~~technologies;~~ to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems,  
17 autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses  
18 related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous  
19 technology operations as determined by the ~~department of~~ agriculture commissioner.

20 4.5. During the 2023-24 interim, the ~~department of~~ agriculture commissioner shall provide  
21 at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list  
22 of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant  
23 funding.

24 ~~SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION -- FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND --~~  
25 ~~INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION -- ONE-TIME FUNDING -- REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE~~  
26 ~~MANAGEMENT.~~

27 ~~1.~~ ~~There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund,~~  
28 ~~not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be~~  
29 ~~necessary, to the industrial commission for the purpose of uncrewed aircraft system,~~  
30 ~~autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to individuals and entities~~  
31 ~~in the oil and gas industry, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending~~

1           ~~June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding~~  
2           ~~item.~~

3     ~~2. The industrial commission shall develop an application process and guidelines for the~~  
4           ~~grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching~~  
5           ~~requirements. The industrial commission may require an individual or entity to provide~~  
6           ~~one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible~~  
7           ~~for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the industrial commission that the~~  
8           ~~operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous~~  
9           ~~technology is related to inspecting, operating, maintaining, or construction of oil and~~  
10          ~~gas infrastructure.~~

11     ~~3. An individual or entity may use grant funding to purchase or lease uncrewed aircraft~~  
12          ~~systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; to support the~~  
13          ~~operations of uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous~~  
14          ~~technologies; to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems,~~  
15          ~~autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses~~  
16          ~~related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous~~  
17          ~~technology operations as determined by the industrial commission.~~

18     ~~4. During the 2023-24 interim, the industrial commission shall provide at least~~  
19          ~~one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant~~  
20          ~~recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.~~

21           **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - UNCREWED AUTONOMOUS**

22 **SYSTEMS.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the  
23 utilization of existing autonomous system capabilities and infrastructure to provide solutions to  
24 workforce and safety needs in the state. The study must include an analysis of utilizing  
25 autonomous technology for infrastructure inspection, rural emergency service needs, agriculture  
26 advancement, energy industry application, and other opportunities for collaboration through the  
27 utilization of autonomous system technology. The legislative management shall report its  
28 findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the  
29 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.