

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2097  
(Energy and Natural Resources Committee)  
(At the request of the Department of Water Resources)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 61-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to wild and scenic river designations.

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

**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 61-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Wild and scenic rivers.**

1. Before a political subdivision engages in meetings with federal agencies to have any waterbody in the state designated a wild, scenic, or recreational river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act [16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.] the political subdivision must notify the:
  - a. Director of the department of water resources;
  - b. Director of the department of environmental quality;
  - c. Director of the game and fish department;
  - d. Director of the parks and recreation department;
  - e. Water resource board of any water resource district that would be impacted;
  - f. Director of the department of trust lands;
  - g. Director of the department of mineral resources;
  - h. County commission of any county impacted;
  - i. Legislators of any district impacted;
  - j. Grazing associations impacted; and
  - k. Public service commission.
2. Any written communications between the political subdivision and federal agencies regarding such designation must be copied to the list in subsection 1.
3. The county commission shall hold a public hearing regarding the potential designation.
4. The governor and the county commission of any county impacted must express written support before the state or a federal agency designates a wild, scenic, or recreational river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

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President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2097.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 47            Nays 0            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 92            Nays 0            Absent 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State