

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1037

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Workforce Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the agriculture commissioner, the attorney
2 general, the department of career and technical education, the department of health and human
3 services, and the department of transportation to increase the use of uncrewed aircraft systems,
4 autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies in the state; to provide for a legislative
5 management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

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

7 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - ONE-TIME**
8 **FUNDING - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 9 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
10 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
11 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of providing uncrewed
12 aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to
13 individuals and entities in the agriculture industry, for the biennium beginning July 1,
14 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this subsection is
15 considered a one-time funding item.
- 16 2. The agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and guidelines for
17 the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching
18 requirements. The agriculture commissioner may require an individual or entity to
19 provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be
20 eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the agriculture commissioner
21 that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other
22 autonomous technology is related to the inspection, operation, maintenance, or
23 construction of agriculture property or infrastructure.

- 1 3. An individual or entity may use grant funding to contract for services related to
- 2 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies;
- 3 or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or
- 4 other autonomous technology operations as determined by the agriculture
- 5 commissioner.
- 6 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the agriculture commissioner shall provide at least one
- 7 report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant
- 8 recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

9 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - ONE TIME FUNDING -**
10 **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 11 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
- 12 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
- 13 necessary, to the attorney general for the purpose of providing uncrewed aircraft
- 14 system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to individuals
- 15 and entities aiding the bureau of criminal investigation in conducting missing person
- 16 searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law enforcement first response operations,
- 17 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding
- 18 provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 19 2. The attorney general shall develop an application process and guidelines for the
- 20 grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching
- 21 requirements. The attorney general may require an individual or entity to provide one
- 22 dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a
- 23 grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the attorney general that the operation of
- 24 the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology is
- 25 related to conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
- 26 enforcement first response operations.
- 27 3. An individual or entity may use grant funding to contract for services related to
- 28 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies;
- 29 or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or
- 30 other autonomous technology operations as determined by the attorney general.

- 1 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the attorney general shall provide a report to the
2 legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the
3 amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

4 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ONE-TIME**
5 **FUNDING - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 6 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
7 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
8 necessary, to the department of transportation for the purpose of providing uncrewed
9 aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to
10 individuals and entities seeking to monitor the United States highway 2 corridor within
11 the state to assist and aid local and state law enforcement agencies, for the biennium
12 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
13 section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 14 2. The department of transportation shall develop an application process and guidelines
15 for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching
16 requirements. The department of transportation may require an individual or entity to
17 provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be
18 eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the department of
19 transportation that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle,
20 or other autonomous technology is related to monitoring the United States highway 2
21 corridor within the state to assist local and state law enforcement agencies.
- 22 3. An individual or entity may use grant funding to contract for services related to
23 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies;
24 or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or
25 other autonomous technology operations as determined by the department of
26 transportation.
- 27 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of transportation shall provide a report to
28 the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients,
29 the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

30 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
31 **ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of providing uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to individuals and entities seeking to aid the functions and operations of rural emergency medical services and rural ambulance service districts relating to emergency response and disaster mitigation, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.
2. The department of health and human services shall develop an application process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching requirements. The department of health and human services may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the department of health and human services that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology is related to aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency medical services and rural ambulance service districts for emergency response and disaster mitigation.
3. An individual or entity may use grant funding 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 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall provide a 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 5. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be

necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of providing uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the northwest area of the state to assist in providing workforce training to minimize workforce shortages in the state, including the oil and gas industry, and to create and develop a drone racing course, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.

2. 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 funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career and technical education that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology is related to providing workforce training to minimize workforce shortages in the state, including the oil and gas industry, and to create and develop a drone racing course.

3. A workforce training center may use grant funding to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; for educational or training curriculum expenses 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 career and technical education.

4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of career and technical education 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 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS.

During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the economic impacts and benefits of investing in autonomous technology infrastructure within the state. The study

- 1 must include an analysis of the sectors using autonomous systems and the sectors that could
- 2 benefit from the use of autonomous systems. The study also must quantify the return on
- 3 investment stemming from all funds appropriated by the legislative assembly for the purposes of
- 4 developing and enhancing autonomous systems in the state. The legislative management shall
- 5 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
- 6 recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.