

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2210

Introduced by

Senators Weber, Dwyer, Luick, Sorvaag

Representatives Brandenburg, Schreiber-Beck

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to the management of
2 water based on watershed boundaries.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - WATER MANAGEMENT BASED**
5 **ON WATERSHED BOUNDARIES.** During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management
6 shall study the feasibility and desirability of assigning management authority for the waters of
7 the state to the area located in the naturally occurring watershed, rather than assigning
8 management authority based on political subdivision boundaries. The study must review the
9 approaches used for managing water in surrounding states; the powers, duties, and
10 organizational structure of watershed boards; dispute resolution procedures afforded to
11 individuals residing within the boundaries of a watershed district; the mechanism to initiate,
12 implement, and improve works projects within a watershed district; and the role of the
13 department of water resources in mapping and establishing watershed boundaries. The
14 legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
15 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.