

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1249

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Christy, Headland, Mitskog, Nathe, O'Brien, Schreiber-Beck,
Stemen

Senators Barta, Bekkedahl, Sickler, Thomas

1 A BILL for an Act to provide appropriations to the attorney general, the department of career and
2 technical education, the department of health and human services, the agriculture
3 commissioner, and the ~~department of transportation~~ department of emergency services for
4 autonomous technology grants; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a
5 report.

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

7 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - AUTONOMOUS**
8 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
9 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 10 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
11 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
12 necessary, to the attorney general for the purpose of providing autonomous
13 technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the bureau of criminal investigation
14 in conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
15 enforcement first response operations, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
16 ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time
17 funding item.
- 18 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
19 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
20 technologies.

- 1 3. The attorney general shall develop an application process and guidelines for the
2 grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant
3 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity
4 shall certify to the attorney general that the operation of the autonomous technology is
5 related to conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
6 enforcement first response operations. The attorney general may require an individual
7 or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the
8 state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology
9 operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible
10 uses as determined by the attorney general.
- 11 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the attorney general shall provide at least one report to the
12 legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the
13 amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

14 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL**
15 **EDUCATION - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT**
16 **TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 17 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
18 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
19 necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of
20 providing autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the
21 northwest area of the state for providing workforce training to address workforce
22 shortages in the state, including shortages in the oil and gas industry, ~~and for the~~
23 ~~development of a drone racing course~~, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
24 ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time
25 funding item.
- 26 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
27 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
28 technologies.
- 29 3. The department of career and technical education shall develop an application
30 process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching
31 requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be

1 eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career
2 and technical education that the operation of the autonomous technology is related to
3 workforce training to address workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in
4 the oil and gas industry, ~~and the development of a drone racing course~~. The
5 department of career and technical education may require a workforce training center
6 to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. A
7 workforce training center may use grant funding for education or training curriculum
8 expenses related to autonomous technology, autonomous technology operations,
9 contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as
10 determined by the department of career and technical education.

- 11 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of career and technical education shall
12 provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,
13 including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use
14 of the grant funding.

15 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
16 **AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**
17 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 18 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
19 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
20 necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of
21 providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the functions
22 and operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation, for the biennium
23 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
24 section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 25 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
26 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
27 technologies.
- 28 3. The department of health and human services shall develop an application process
29 and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements,
30 eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant,
31 an individual or entity shall certify to the department of health and human services that

1 the operation of the autonomous technology is related to aiding the functions and
2 operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation. The department of
3 health and human services may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of
4 matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual or entity may
5 use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services
6 related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the
7 department of health and human services.

8 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services shall
9 provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,
10 including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use
11 of the grant funding.

12 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - AUTONOMOUS**
13 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
14 **MANAGEMENT.**

15 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
16 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be
17 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of providing autonomous
18 technology grants to individuals or entities in the agriculture industry, for the biennium
19 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
20 section is considered a one-time funding item.

21 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
22 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
23 technologies.

24 3. The agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and guidelines for
25 the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant
26 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity
27 shall certify to the agriculture commissioner that the operation of the autonomous
28 technology is related to the inspection, operation, maintenance, or construction of
29 agriculture property or infrastructure. The agriculture commissioner may require an
30 individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars
31 awarded by the state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous

1 technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or
2 other eligible uses as determined by the agriculture commissioner.

3 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the agriculture commissioner shall provide at least one
4 report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant
5 recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

6 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - ~~DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION~~DEPARTMENT
7 OF EMERGENCY SERVICES - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME
8 FUNDING - REPORT TO 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 ~~department of transportation~~department of emergency services for
12 the purpose of providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that
13 monitor the United States highway 2 corridor within the state to assist local and state
14 law enforcement agencies, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
15 June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding
16 item.

17 2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft
18 systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or
19 technologies.

20 3. The ~~department of transportation~~department of emergency services shall develop an
21 application process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching
22 requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be
23 eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the ~~department of~~
24 ~~transportation~~department of emergency services that the operation of the autonomous
25 technology is related to monitoring the United States highway 2 corridor within the
26 state to assist local and state law enforcement agencies. The ~~department of~~
27 ~~transportation~~department of emergency services may require an individual or entity to
28 provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An
29 individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology operations,
30 contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as
31 determined by the ~~department of transportation~~department of emergency services.

- 1 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the ~~department of transportation~~department of emergency
2 services shall provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the
3 grants, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of
4 the use of the grant funding.

5 **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY.**

6 During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the costs and
7 benefits of investing in autonomous technology infrastructure in the state. The study must
8 include an analysis of the industries using autonomous technology, future industries that may
9 use autonomous technology, the economic impact of autonomous technology, and the return on
10 investment to the state. The legislative management shall report its findings and
11 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
12 the seventieth legislative assembly.