

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED 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 emergency services for autonomous technology grants; to
4 provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a report.

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

6 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - AUTONOMOUS**
7 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
8 **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 attorney general for the purpose of providing autonomous
12 technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the bureau of criminal investigation
13 in conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
14 enforcement first response operations, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
15 ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time
16 funding 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 attorney general shall develop an application process and guidelines for the
21 grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant

1 funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity
2 shall certify to the attorney general that the operation of the autonomous technology is
3 related to conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law
4 enforcement first response operations. The attorney general may require an individual
5 or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the
6 state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology
7 operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible
8 uses as determined by the attorney general.

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

12 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL**
13 **EDUCATION - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT**
14 **TO LEGISLATIVE 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 department of career and technical education for the purpose of
18 providing autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the
19 northwest area of the state for providing workforce training to address workforce
20 shortages in the state, including shortages in the oil and gas industry for the biennium
21 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
22 section is considered a one-time funding item.

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

26 3. The department of career and technical education shall develop an application
27 process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching
28 requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be
29 eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career
30 and technical education that the operation of the autonomous technology is related to
31 workforce training to address workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in

1 the oil and gas industry. The department of career and technical education may
2 require a workforce training center to provide one dollar of matching funds for every
3 four dollars awarded by the state. A workforce training center may use grant funding
4 for education or training curriculum expenses related to autonomous technology,
5 autonomous technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous
6 technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the department of career and
7 technical education.

8 4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of career and technical education 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 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
13 **AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**
14 **LEGISLATIVE 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 department of health and human services for the purpose of
18 providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the functions
19 and operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation, for the biennium
20 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this
21 section is considered a one-time funding item.

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

25 3. The department of health and human services shall develop an application process
26 and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements,
27 eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant,
28 an individual or entity shall certify to the department of health and human services that
29 the operation of the autonomous technology is related to aiding the functions and
30 operations of rural emergency response and disaster mitigation. The department of
31 health and human services may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of

1 matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual or entity may
2 use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services
3 related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the
4 department of health and human services.

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

9 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - AUTONOMOUS**
10 **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
11 **MANAGEMENT.**

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

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

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

4 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES -**
5 **AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO**
6 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

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

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

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