

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

SENATE BILL NO. 2159
(Senators Hogue, Kessel, Patten)
(Representatives D. Anderson, Hagert, Porter)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 15-11-40 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to projects the state energy research center is permitted to pursue.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15-11-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-11-40. State energy research center - Report.

1. The state energy research center at the university of North Dakota energy and environmental research center is created to conduct exploratory, transformational, and innovative research that advances future energy opportunities and benefits the state's economy and environment through:
 - a. Exploratory research of technologies and methodologies that facilitate the prudent development, and clean and efficient use, of the state's energy resources;
 - b. Greater access to energy experts for timely scientific and engineering studies to support the state's interests; and
 - c. Education and outreach related to the state's energy resources.
2. The state energy research center shall report all research activities and accomplishments annually to the interim legislative energy development and transmission committee and the industrial commission. Upon request, the state energy research center shall report all research activities and accomplishments to the appropriations committees of the legislative assembly.
3. To carry out the purposes of this section, the energy and environmental research center may:
 - a. Select the research topics and projects to be pursued;
 - b. Enter contracts or agreements with other North Dakota institutions of higher education to support select research topics and projects;
 - c. Enter contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit organizations to carry out selected research topics and projects; and
 - d. Accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to carry out the selected research topics and projects.
4. ~~The~~ if approved by the industrial commission and conducted in consultation with the high-level radioactive waste advisory council, the state energy research center may ~~not~~ conduct research or pursue projects that will result in the exploration, storage, treatment, or disposal of high-level radioactive waste above ground in North Dakota.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2159.

Senate Vote: Yeas 43 Nays 3 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 57 Nays 32 Absent 5

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State