

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 1218

(Representatives Schreiber-Beck, D. Anderson, Beltz, Brandenburg, Headland, Nelson, Weisz)
(Senators Meyer, Thomas, Wanzek, Weber)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 61-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a temporary moratorium on conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects; to amend and reenact section 61-02-01.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to comprehensive water development plans; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide an expiration date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 61-02-01.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

61-02-01.3. Comprehensive water development plan.

1. Biennially, the commission shall develop and maintain a comprehensive water development plan organized on a river basin perspective, including an inventory of future water projects for budgeting and planning purposes.
2. As part of the commission's planning process, to facilitate local project sponsor participation and project prioritization and to assist in education regarding life cycle analyses for municipal water supply projects, and economic analyses for flood control and water conveyance projects expected to cost more than one million dollars, the commission shall develop a policy that outlines procedures for commissioner-hosted meetings within the upper Missouri River, lower Missouri River, James River, upper Red River, lower Red River, Mouse River, Devils Lake, Little Missouri River, upper Heart River, and upper Cannonball River drainage basins.
3. The commission may not require an economic analysis for an assessment drain project if the project is expected to cost one million dollars or less.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 61-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Economic analysis for assessment drain projects - Moratorium.

Notwithstanding section 61-02-01.3, between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027, the state water commission or the department of water resources may not conduct an economic analysis for an assessment drain project within the state.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - FORMULA FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR ASSESSMENT DRAIN PROJECTS. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the formula for conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects and the projected cost threshold for conducting economic analyses. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE. Section 2 of this Act is effective through July 31, 2027, and after that date is ineffective.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1218.

House Vote: Yeas 92 Nays 1 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 41 Nays 6 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

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