

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2228

Introduced by

Senators Myrdal, Klein

Representatives Hanson, Monson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for a rural grocery
2 store sustainability grant program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - RURAL GROCERY**
5 **STORE SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any
6 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
7 \$1,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for
8 the purpose of providing grants for the preservation of rural grocery stores and increasing the
9 availability of food access in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
10 June 30, 2027. The department shall prioritize grant funding awarded under this section for
11 supporting existing rural grocery stores before awarding grant funding for feasibility costs
12 related to reopening a grocery store in a community without a grocery store. The funding may
13 not be used for food processing or offsite preparation operations of a rural grocery store. The
14 department of commerce shall establish guidelines for awarding grants under this section. The
15 appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.