

Introduced by

Workforce Development Committee

(At the request of the Department of Environmental Quality)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 23.1-07-04 and sections  
2 23.1-07-05, 23.1-07-06, and 23.1-07-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the  
3 certification and penalization of water distribution and wastewater systems operators; and to  
4 provide a penalty.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 23.1-07-04 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 1. A certificate issued under this chapter is valid for only one year and expires on the first  
9 day of ~~July~~January of the year after which it was issued.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 23.1-07-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **23.1-07-05. Fees.**

13 ~~The department may charge a fee for certificates issued under this chapter, but the fees-~~  
14 ~~may not exceed fifty dollars for the initial certificate, or twenty-five dollars for the annual renewal-~~  
15 ~~certificate~~by rule may prescribe and provide for the payment and collection of reasonable fees  
16 for certificates issued under this chapter. The fees must be based on the anticipated cost of  
17 filing and processing applications for operator certification, preparing and administering  
18 examinations, and the annual renewal of certificates. All receipts from the fees must be  
19 deposited in the state treasury to be credited to a special fund to be known as the "operators'  
20 certification fund" to be used by the department to administer and enforce this chapter and  
21 financially assist the department in conducting operator training programs. Any surplus at the  
22 end of the fiscal year must be retained by the department for future expenditures.

23 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 23.1-07-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **23.1-07-06. Duties of the department.**

2       The department shall:

- 3       1.    Hold at least one examination each year, administered by the department or a third-  
4           party examination service, at a designated time and place for the purpose of  
5           examining candidates for certification.
- 6       2.    Promote the program of certification of water supply and wastewater disposal system  
7           operators.
- 8       3.    Distribute notices and applications and to receive and evaluate applications.
- 9       4.    Collect fees for initial certification and annual renewal.
- 10      5.    Prepare, conduct, and grade examinations. The department may use a third-party  
11           examination service to prepare, conduct, and grade examinations.
- 12      6.    Maintain records of operator qualifications, certification examination results, and a  
13           register of certified operators.
- 14      7.    Promote and schedule regular training schools and programs.
- 15      8.    Adopt rules necessary to carry out this chapter.

16      **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 23.1-07-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17      amended and reenacted as follows:

18      **23.1-07-08. Violations - Penalty.**

19      Any

- 20      1.    A person that violates this chapter, a rule implementing this chapter, or an order issued  
21           by the department under this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five  
22           thousand dollars per day of violation.
- 23      2.    A person violating that willfully violates this chapter or the rules adopted under this  
24           chapter, after written notice of the violation by the department, is guilty of a class A  
25           misdemeanor.
- 26      3.    A person that willfully makes a false statement, representation, or certification in an  
27           application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained  
28           under this chapter or any rule, order, limitation, or other applicable requirement  
29           implementing this chapter or that falsifies, tampers with, or willfully renders inaccurate  
30           any monitoring device or sample is guilty of a class A misdemeanor, unless the penalty

1           for the violation is otherwise specifically provided for and made exclusive in this  
2           chapter.