

**SECTION 1.** 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.**

3. The commission may not require an economic analysis for an assessment drain project if the project is expected to cost less than one million dollars.

**Economic analysis for assessment drain projects - Moratorium.**

Notwithstanding the state water commission's authority to conduct an economic analysis for an assessment drain project under 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 2. STATE WATER COMMISSION STUDY - FORMULA FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR ASSESSMENT DRAIN PROJECTS - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.** During the 2025-26 interim, the state water commission shall study its formula for conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects as well as the projected project cost threshold for conducting economic analyses. The state water commission shall provide periodic reports to the legislative management on the status of the state water commission's review of the economic analysis formula. Before August 1, 2026, the state water commission shall provide a final report of its findings and recommendations to the legislative management, together with any legislation and appropriation requests required to implement the recommendations.