

Introduced by

Representative Holle

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a cheese processing facility feasibility study and a cheese  
2 processing facility advisory committee; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective  
3 date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - CHEESE PROCESSING FACILITY**  
6 **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

- 7 1. During the 2023-24 interim, the agriculture commissioner shall conduct a cheese  
8 processing facility feasibility study. The study must include a review of federal laws,  
9 regulations, policies, and guidelines regarding cheese processing to determine  
10 whether a cheese processing facility is permissible, and an evaluation of the potential  
11 for amendments and modifications to federal laws, regulations, policies, and  
12 guidelines. If a cheese processing facility is determined to be permissible under  
13 existing laws, the study may:
- 14 a. Address the cost of constructing a new cheese processing facility in this state;
  - 15 b. Determine whether any existing structures could be converted to a cheese  
16 processing facility and if so, the cost of converting the structures;
  - 17 c. Determine the nature and scope of existing and potential markets, both domestic  
18 and international, for cheese and other byproducts of cheese processing; and
  - 19 d. Examine the potential for obtaining loans, grants, and other incentives in order to  
20 further development of a cheese processing facility.
- 21 2. The commissioner shall report findings and recommendations, together with any  
22 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative  
23 assembly's house and senate standing committees that address agricultural matters.

1       **SECTION 2. CHEESE PROCESSING FACILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** During the  
2 2023-24 interim, the agriculture commissioner may appoint a five-member advisory committee  
3 to provide advice and guidance to the department regarding the cheese processing facility  
4 feasibility study provided for under section 1 of this Act.

5       **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER - CHEESE**  
6 **PROCESSING FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in  
7 the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$75,000, or so  
8 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of  
9 conducting the cheese processing facility feasibility study as provided under section 1 of this  
10 Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The commissioner may  
11 use up to \$7,500 of the amount appropriated to provide reimbursement for expenses, as  
12 permitted by law for state officers, to any member of the cheese processing facility advisory  
13 committee who does not serve on the committee by virtue of the individual's public office or  
14 public employment under section 2 of this Act. This is considered a one-time funding item.

15       **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with  
16 the secretary of state.