

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Conference Committee Amendments  
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2009**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture  
2 commissioner; to amend and reenact sections 4.1-01-02, 4.1-01-18, 4.1-01-21.1, and  
3 49-22-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the salary of the agriculture  
4 commissioner, the federal environmental law impact review committee, the environmental  
5 impact mitigation fund, and mitigating environmental impacts; to provide for a transfer; to  
6 provide an exemption; and to provide for a legislative management study.

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

8 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds  
9 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
10 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and  
11 other income, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the  
12 agriculture commissioner, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025,  
13 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	
14				
15				
16	Salaries and wages	\$15,717,126	\$873,888	\$16,591,014
17	Operating expenses	6,848,052	578,121	7,426,173
18	Capital assets	15,000	(8,000)	7,000
19	Grants	9,031,774	3,922,195	12,953,969
20	Agricultural products utilization	1,760,417	3,350,000	5,110,417
21	commission			
22	North Dakota trade office	1,600,000	500,000	2,100,000
23	Board of animal health	865,718	0	865,718
24	Wildlife services	1,457,400	200,000	1,657,400

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly

1	Pipeline restoration and reclamation	200,000	0	200,000
2	oversight program			
3	Bioscience innovation program transfer	0	6,500,000	6,500,000
4	Crop harmonization board	<u>75,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75,000</u>
5	Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$15,916,204	\$53,486,691
6	Less estimated income	<u>24,110,775</u>	<u>6,856,343</u>	<u>30,967,118</u>
7	Total general fund	\$13,459,712	\$9,059,861	\$22,519,573
8	Full-time equivalent positions	79.00	1.00	80.00

**SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**

10 **SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding  
11 items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the  
12 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

13	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
14	Agricultural products utilization commission	\$2,700,000	\$3,000,000
15	Soil health grants	700,000	0
16	Grasslands grazing grants	5,000,000	1,000,000
17	Bioscience innovation grant program transfer	5,500,000	6,500,000
18	Food distribution grants	0	1,000,000
19	Federal environmental law impact review	5,000,000	0
20	Intermodal facility construction grant program	2,000,000	0
21	North Dakota trade office	<u>0</u>	<u>500,000</u>
22	Total all funds	\$20,900,000	\$12,000,000
23	Less estimated income	<u>10,400,000</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>
24	Total general fund	\$10,500,000	\$8,000,000

25 The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget  
26 for the 2025-27 biennium. The agriculture commissioner shall report to the appropriations  
27 committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the  
28 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 3. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**

30 **BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION FUND - BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.** The  
31 office of management and budget shall transfer \$5,500,000 from the strategic investment and

1 improvements fund to the bioscience innovation grant fund for the purpose of the bioscience  
2 innovation grant program under section 4.1-01-20.1 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,  
3 and ending June 30, 2025.

4 **SECTION 4. TRANSFER - GENERAL FUND TO BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION FUND -**  
5 **BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.** The bioscience innovation program transfer  
6 line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$6,500,000 from the general fund, which the office of  
7 management and budget shall transfer to the bioscience innovation grant fund for the purpose  
8 of the bioscience innovation grant program under section 4.1-01-20.1 for the biennium  
9 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

10 **SECTION 5. TRANSFER - ENVIRONMENT AND RANGELAND PROTECTION FUND TO**  
11 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MITIGATION FUND - MITIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.**  
12 The agriculture commissioner shall transfer \$250,000 from the environment and rangeland  
13 protection fund to the environmental impact mitigation fund for the purpose of mitigation of  
14 agricultural land under section 4.1-01-21.1 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
15 June 30, 2025.

16 **SECTION 6. ESTIMATED INCOME - TRANSFER - DEPARTMENT OF WATER**  
17 **RESOURCES.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of  
18 \$125,000 which the department of water resources shall transfer to the agriculture  
19 commissioner for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the wildlife services program.

20 **SECTION 7. TRANSFER - ENVIRONMENT AND RANGELAND PROTECTION FUND -**  
21 **MINOR USE PESTICIDE FUND.** The agriculture commissioner shall transfer \$325,000 from the  
22 environment and rangeland protection fund to the minor use pesticide fund during the biennium  
23 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

24 **SECTION 8. ESTIMATED INCOME - ENVIRONMENT AND RANGELAND PROTECTION**  
25 **FUND.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$7,351,547  
26 from the environment and rangeland protection fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses  
27 of various agriculture commissioner programs.

28 **SECTION 9. ESTIMATED INCOME - GAME AND FISH FUND.** The estimated income line  
29 item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$648,228 from the game and fish department  
30 operating fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of various agriculture commissioner  
31 programs.

1       **SECTION 10. ESTIMATED INCOME - TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA**

2       **PROFITS - AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UTILIZATION COMMISSION.** The estimated  
3 income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$3,000,000 which the Bank of North  
4 Dakota shall transfer from the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits to the agriculture  
5 commissioner for deposit in the agricultural products utilization fund for the purpose of defraying  
6 the expenses of the agricultural products utilization commission for the biennium beginning  
7 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

8       **SECTION 11. ESTIMATED INCOME - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

9       **FUND - GRASSLANDS GRAZING GRANTS - MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.** The

10 estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$1,000,000 from the  
11 strategic investment and improvements fund for the purpose of providing grasslands grazing  
12 grants to an organization representing cooperative grazing associations in the state. To be  
13 eligible for a grant under this program, an organization must provide one dollar of matching  
14 funds from nonstate sources for every four dollars of grant funding. An organization that  
15 receives a grant under this program may distribute the funding to cooperative grazing  
16 associations for eligible infrastructure projects, which must be located on national grasslands  
17 within the state. Eligible infrastructure projects include water development; fencing;  
18 conservation initiatives; compliance with federal permitting requirements, including fees for  
19 professional services; and other projects to enhance wildlife habitat or capture carbon, or to  
20 increase the health of grasslands. Program participants shall develop and implement a grazing  
21 land plan in compliance with local soil conservation district guidance and the plan must be  
22 approved by the local soil conservation district. The agriculture commissioner shall establish  
23 additional guidelines for the program.

24       **SECTION 12. ESTIMATED INCOME - ABANDONED OIL AND GAS WELL PLUGGING**

25       **AND SITE RECLAMATION FUND.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act

26 includes the sum of \$700,000 from the abandoned oil and gas well plugging and site  
27 reclamation fund, of which \$200,000 is for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the pipeline  
28 restoration and reclamation program and \$500,000 is for the purpose of defraying the expenses  
29 of the post-production royalty oversight program.

30       **SECTION 13. TRADE OFFICE - MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT.** The North Dakota

31 trade office line item and the general fund appropriation in section 1 of this Act include

1 \$2,100,000 of funding related to the North Dakota trade office. The agriculture commissioner  
2 may spend sixty percent of this amount without requiring any matching funds from the trade  
3 office. Any additional amounts may be spent only to the extent the North Dakota trade office  
4 provides one dollar of matching funds from private or other public sources for each one dollar  
5 provided by the agriculture commissioner. Matching funds may include money spent by  
6 businesses or organizations to pay salaries to export assistants, providing training to export  
7 assistants, or to purchase computer equipment as part of the North Dakota trade office's export  
8 assistant program.

9 **SECTION 14. WATERBANK PROGRAM - MATCHING FUNDS.** The salaries and wages  
10 line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$50,000 from the general fund for matching funds  
11 for the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund grant provided for the waterbank program.

12 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **4.1-01-02. Salary of agriculture commissioner.**

15 The annual salary of the agriculture commissioner is one hundred ~~twenty-one~~thirty-one  
16 thousand ~~five hundred fifty-three~~four hundred twenty-three dollars through June 30, ~~2022~~2024,  
17 and one hundred ~~twenty-three~~thirty-six thousand ~~nine~~six hundred ~~eighty-four~~eighty dollars after  
18 that date.

19 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **4.1-01-18. Federal environmental law impact review committee.**

- 22 1. The federal environmental law impact review committee consists of:
- 23 a. The commissioner, who shall serve as the chairman;
  - 24 b. The governor or the governor's designee;
  - 25 c. The majority leader of the house of representatives, or the leader's designee;
  - 26 d. The majority leader of the senate, or the leader's designee;
  - 27 e. One member of the legislative assembly from the minority party, selected by the  
28 chairman of the legislative management;
  - 29 f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota corn growers association;
  - 30 g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota grain growers association;
  - 31 h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota soybean growers association;

- 1 i. One individual appointed by the North Dakota stockmen's association;
- 2 j. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau;
- 3 k. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union;
- 4 l. The chairman of the public service commission or the chairman's designee;
- 5 m. The director of the department of water resources or the director's designee;
- 6 n. The director of the game and fish department, or the director's designee;
- 7 o. The director of the department of transportation, or the director's designee;
- 8 p. The director of the department of environmental quality, or the director's
- 9 designee;
- 10 q. One representative of an investor-owned utility company;
- 11 r. One representative from the North Dakota association of rural electric
- 12 cooperatives; and
- 13 s. Two individuals from the energy community, of which one individual must be a
- 14 representative of an organization that supports lignite energy in the state
- 15 appointed by the commissioner and one individual must be a representative of an
- 16 organization that supports oil and gas activity in the state appointed by the
- 17 governor.
- 18 2. The committee shall review federal environmental legislation and regulations
- 19 detrimentally impacting or potentially detrimentally impacting the state's agricultural,
- 20 energy, or oil production sectors. The committee shall confer with the attorney general
- 21 with respect to participation in administrative or judicial processes pertaining to the
- 22 legislation or regulations.
- 23 3. a. Any member of the legislative assembly serving on the committee is entitled to
- 24 compensation at the rate provided for attendance at interim committee meetings
- 25 and reimbursement for expenses, as provided by law for state officers, if the
- 26 member is attending meetings of the committee or performing duties directed by
- 27 the committee.
- 28 b. The compensation and reimbursement of expenses, as provided for in this
- 29 subsection, are payable by the legislative council.

30 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-21.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **4.1-01-21.1. Environmental impact mitigation fund - Report to legislative management**

2   **- Continuing appropriation.**

- 3           1. There is created in the state treasury the environmental impact mitigation fund. The  
4           fund consists of all moneys deposited in the fund under section 49-22-09.2. All  
5           moneys in the fund are appropriated to the commissioner on a continuing basis for  
6           ~~distribution~~disbursement by the agriculture commissioner ~~to landowners for the~~  
7           ~~mitigation of agricultural land impacted by development as set forth under subsection~~  
8           ~~2~~in accordance with this section.
- 9           2. ~~Funding~~Moneys in the fund may be used only for:
- 10           a. ~~Contracting for consultation~~Consultation with environmental scientists or  
11           engineers, ~~industry specialists, or others~~ for relevant services to analyze or  
12           implement mitigation required from the impact of development; and
- 13           b. ~~Reclamation or mitigation~~Creation, restoration, or mitigation of similar habitat  
14           affected by the construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission  
15           facility. Mitigation of adverse impacts from development under this section shall  
16           be conducted in the following order of priority:
- 17                 (1) The area immediately impacted by the development;  
18                 (2) The county impacted by the development;  
19                 (3) The region impacted by the development; and  
20                 (4) Other areas within the state.
- 21           3. The commissioner is not subject to chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for services  
22           under this chapter.
- 23           4. ~~The federal environmental law impact review committee shall establish criteria for~~  
24           ~~disbursement of environmental impact funds~~In consultation with the federal  
25           environmental law impact review committee, the commissioner shall adopt rules  
26           pursuant to chapter 28-32 to implement the provisions of this section.
- 27           5. ~~The commissioner shall make disbursements based upon the determinations made by~~  
28           ~~the federal environmental law impact review committee.~~
- 29           6. ~~For purposes of this section, the federal environmental law impact review committee~~  
30           ~~shall hold meetings as the chairman determines necessary at a time and place set by~~

1 the chairman. Upon written request of any four members, the presiding officer shall  
2 call a special meeting of the committee.

3 7. ~~The federal environmental law impact review committee shall make determinations for-~~  
4 ~~the disbursement of grants in accordance with subsection 2 and provide those~~  
5 ~~determinations to the commissioner~~Easements or leaseholds purchased by a person  
6 to mitigate adverse environmental effects of the construction or operation of an energy  
7 conversion or transmission facility under chapter 49-22 must be limited to the  
8 operational life of the facility as defined under chapter 49-22. Any payment made to  
9 mitigate adverse environmental effects of the construction or operation of an energy  
10 conversion or transmission facility under chapter 49-22 must be made to the  
11 commissioner who shall deposit the payment into the environmental impact mitigation  
12 fund. Prior to the public service commission issuing a permit or certificate to an  
13 applicant under chapter 49-22, the commissioner shall notify the public service  
14 commission of mitigation efforts under this section to create, restore, or mitigate  
15 similar habitat affected by the construction or operation of an energy conversion or  
16 transmission facility.

17 8.6. ~~The federal environmental law impact review committee~~commissioner shall provide a  
18 biennial report of environmental impact mitigation fund disbursements to the legislative  
19 management.

20 9.7. For purposes of this section, the environmental impact mitigation fund is not subject to  
21 subsection 2 of section 4.1-01-18.

22 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-22-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **49-22-09.2. Mitigating ~~direct~~ environmental impacts.**

- 25 1. ~~An applicant may elect to provide payment to mitigate any assessed adverse direct~~  
26 ~~environmental impacts of a proposed site, corridor, route, or facility. The applicant may~~  
27 ~~elect to provide the payment to the agriculture commissioner.~~
- 28 2. ~~The agriculture commissioner shall deposit any moneys paid to mitigate the adverse~~  
29 ~~environmental impacts of a proposed site, corridor, route, or facility as follows:~~
- 30 a. ~~Fifty percent into the environmental impact mitigation fund; and~~



1           b- Fifty percent into the federal environmental law impact review fundIf an applicant  
2           elects to provide a payment to mitigate the environmental impact of the  
3           construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission facility, the  
4           payment must be made to the agriculture commissioner who shall deposit the  
5           payment into the environmental impact mitigation fund under section 4.1-01-21.1.  
6           Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit an applicant from conducting  
7           mitigation activities.

8           **SECTION 19. WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM - INDIRECT COSTS.** The wildlife  
9           services line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$1,657,400 for the purpose of  
10          defraying the expenses of the wildlife services program during the biennium beginning July 1,  
11          2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The agriculture commissioner may not use funding  
12          appropriated for the program to pay indirect costs as part of the United States department of  
13          agriculture animal and plant health inspection service wildlife services program.

14          **SECTION 20. EXEMPTION - COVID-19 SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**  
15          **AND COVID-19 STRESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** The amount of \$5,500,000 appropriated  
16          from federal funds derived from COVID-19 funds, of which \$5,000,000 was for the specialty  
17          crop block grant program and \$500,000 was for stress assistance program operating expenses,  
18          during the 2019-21 biennium in section 1 of chapter 27 and continued into the 2021-23  
19          biennium in section 2 of chapter 27 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to section  
20          54-44.1-11 and is available for the programs during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and  
21          ending June 30, 2025.

22          **SECTION 21. EXEMPTION - GRASSLANDS GRAZING GRANTS.** The amount of  
23          \$5,000,000 appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund for grasslands  
24          grazing grants in the grants line item in section 1 of chapter 9 of the 2021 Session Laws is not  
25          subject to section 54-44.1-11 and may be continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,  
26          and ending June 30, 2025.

27          **SECTION 22. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ENERGY CONVERSION OR**  
28          **TRANSMISSION FACILITY - ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION.** During the 2023-24 interim, the  
29          legislative management shall consider studying plans for mitigation of adverse wildlife and  
30          environmental impacts and monetary payments made to state agencies, contractors,  
31          nongovernmental organizations, and others by applicants or other persons for mitigation during

1 the siting and operation of energy conversion or transmission facilities. The study must include  
2 consideration of the provisions of law that affect the ability of developers to effectively mitigate  
3 adverse wildlife habitat and environmental impacts, applicant payments used for the purchase  
4 of perpetual or nonperpetual conservation easements, the distinction between an adverse direct  
5 environmental effect or an adverse indirect environmental effect, methods to monetarily quantify  
6 adverse direct or adverse indirect environmental effects, and alternative programs that may be  
7 used or developed for the mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental effects. The  
8 legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any  
9 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

10 **SECTION 23. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURE**

11 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall  
12 consider studying the feasibility and desirability of transferring agriculture education programs in  
13 the department of career and technical education to the agriculture commissioner. The study  
14 must include an analysis of each program, duties and responsibilities of the programs and  
15 department of career and technical education staff, the potential to gain administrative and  
16 resource efficiencies if the programs are transferred to the agriculture commissioner, and future  
17 staffing, operating, and equipment needs of the programs. The legislative management shall  
18 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the  
19 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.