Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015

HOUSE BILL NO. 1432
(Representatives Brandenburg, Belter, Boe, Headland, D. Johnson, Kasper, Kempenich, Thoreson)
(Senators Dotzenrod, Erbele, Schaible, Wanzek)

AN ACT to create and enact four new sections to chapter 4-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to federal environmental legislation and regulations that detrimentally impact or have the potential to detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors; to provide for a transfer; to provide for a continuing appropriation; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 4-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Federal environmental law impact review committee.

1. The federal environmental law impact review committee consists of:

   a. The agriculture commissioner, who shall serve as the chairman;

   b. The governor or the governor's designee;

   c. The majority leader of the house of representatives, or the leader's designee;

   d. The majority leader of the senate, or the leader's designee;

   e. One member of the legislative assembly from the minority party, selected by the chairman of the legislative management;

   f. One individual appointed by the lignite energy council;

   g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota corn growers association;

   h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota grain growers association;

   i. One individual appointed by the North Dakota petroleum council;

   j. One individual appointed by the North Dakota soybean growers association; and

   k. One individual appointed by the North Dakota stockmen's association.

2. The committee shall review federal environmental legislation and regulations that detrimentally impact or have the potential to detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors and confer with the attorney general with respect to participation in administrative or judicial processes pertaining to such legislation or regulations.

3. a. Any member of the legislative assembly serving on the committee is entitled to compensation at the rate provided for attendance at interim committee meetings and reimbursement for expenses, as provided by law for state officers, if the member is attending meetings of the committee or performing duties directed by the committee.

   b. The compensation and reimbursement of expenses, as provided for in this subsection, are payable by the legislative council.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 4-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Environmental impact - Cost of participation.

1. Any expenses incurred by the agriculture commissioner or by the federal environmental law impact review committee in meeting the requirements of section 1 of this Act must be paid by the agriculture commissioner from the federal environmental law impact fund.

2. If the attorney general elects to participate in an administrative or judicial process, pertaining to federal environmental legislation or regulations, which detrimentally impact or have the potential to detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors, any expenses incurred by the attorney general in the participation must be paid by the agriculture commissioner from the federal environmental law impact review fund.

3. For purposes of this section, "expenses" include administrative costs, consulting fees, research costs, expert witness fees, attorney fees, and travel costs.

SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 4-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Gifts - Grants - Donations.

The agriculture commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act, provided the commissioner posts the amount and source of any gifts, grants, and donations on the department of agriculture's website. Any moneys received in accordance with this section must be deposited in the federal environmental law impact review fund.

SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 4-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Federal environmental law impact review fund - Continuing appropriation.

1. The federal environmental law impact review fund consists of:

   a. Any moneys appropriated or transferred for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act; and

   b. Any gifts, grants, and donations forwarded to the agriculture commissioner for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act.

2. All moneys in the federal environmental law impact review fund are appropriated to the commissioner on a continuing basis for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IMPACT REVIEW FUND. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $1,500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the federal environmental law impact review fund, for the purpose of funding the state's participation in administrative or judicial processes based on federal environmental legislation or regulations that detrimentally impact or have the potential to detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017. The office of management and budget shall transfer sums under this section at the time and in the amount directed by the agriculture commissioner.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1432.

House Vote:	Yeas 72	Nays 17	Absent 5
Senate Vote:	Yeas 33	Nays 14	Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 12:27 P.M. on April 14, 2015.

Approved at 2:31 P.M. on April 16, 2015.

Governor

Filed in this office this 16th day of April, 2015,

at 4:26 o'clock P M.

Secretary of State