

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2049  
(State and Local Government Committee)  
(At the request of the Department of Trust Lands)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 15-04-09, 15-04-19, 15-08-19.1, and 15-08-19.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the leasing and administration of lands managed by the board of university and school lands; and to repeal section 15-04-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the leasing and administration of lands managed by the board of university and school lands.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-04-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-04-09. Notice of leasing - Publication - Posting.**

Each year at such time as in its judgment is for the best interests of the state, the board of university and school lands shall advertise and offer for lease the lands to be leased. All lands to be leased or offered for lease within the respective counties must be advertised for lease by the board by publication once each week for a period of three weeks prior to the day of leasing in the official county newspaper where said land is situated and in such other newspapers as the board deems appropriate. ~~A list of the lands to be offered for leasing must be filed with the county treasurer of the county wherein such lands are situated at least ten days prior to the day of leasing.~~ If, in the opinion of the board, the land that will be leased in any county will not be sufficient to warrant the expense of advertisement in a newspaper by description of each tract or parcel, the notice may be given by general advertisement.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-04-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-04-19. Lessee not to break or plow uncultivated land - Penalty.**

No lessee of land leased under the provisions of this chapter, or the lessee's heirs or assigns, may break, plow, or cultivate any unbroken land on any tract leased, nor cause nor permit it to be done by any other person. Any person who violates the provisions of this section ~~shall incur the forfeitures and liabilities provided in section 15-04-18~~ forfeits that person's lease and all rights and interests thereunder and is liable to the state for damages sustained by the state, and is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-08-19.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-08-19.1. Organized event.**

1. Upon written request, the commissioner of university and school lands may allow by written agreement or permit, an organized event involving public access or activity on trust lands if the event:
  - a. Is an appropriate use of trust lands;
  - b. Does not damage trust lands;
  - c. Does not have a negative impact on the value or financial return of the trust lands in violation of the board of university and school lands' fiduciary duty to the applicable trusts as determined by the commissioner;

- d. Protects the state from liability and other claims for damage; and
  - e. Has been approved in writing by the ~~current surface land lessee, if the trust lands are leased~~commissioner after consultation with the lessee if the lands are leased.
2. The commissioner may refuse to issue or renew a permit if the permit applicant has repeatedly violated the provisions of this chapter or rules or orders of the commissioner.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-08-19.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-08-19.4. Prohibited activities - Penalty.**

1. The following activities and items are prohibited on trust lands:
  - a. Target shooting, explosives, and exploding targets;
  - b. Camping, picnicking, or campfires;
  - c. Unattended trail cameras, hunting blinds, tree stands, and screw-in steps unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner of university and school lands;
  - d. Using bait to attract, lure, feed, or habituate wildlife for any purpose. For purposes of this subsection "bait" includes grains, screenings, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other natural or manufactured feeds, but not the use of lures, scents, or liquid attractants for hunting;
  - e. Disturbing or removing artifacts or any cultural, historical, archeological, or paleontological resources found on trust lands without written permission from the board of university and school lands;
  - f. Disposing of refuse, including garbage, bottles, cans, trees, branches, or other waste materials;
  - g. Dog training;
  - h. Metal detecting;
  - i. Guiding and outfitting;
  - j. Collecting plant parts for sale or other commercial purposes;
  - k. Trapping, unless authorized in writing by the commissioner;
  - l. Tree cutting and firewood gathering, unless authorized in writing by the commissioner;
  - m. Beehives, unless specifically authorized in a surface land leasewriting by the commissioner; and
  - n. Organized events for which the commissioner has not issued a written agreement or permit in accordance with section 15-08-19.1.
2. An individual who violates subdivision n of subsection 1 is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

**SECTION 5. REPEAL.** Section 15-04-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

Tammy Miller  
President of the Senate

Dennis Johnson  
Speaker of the House

Mandi Hogan  
Secretary of the Senate

Buell J. Reich  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2049.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 45            Nays 1            Absent 1

House Vote:    Yeas 91            Nays 3            Absent 0

Mandi Hogan  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at 2:16 PM on March 21, 2023.

Approved at 11:17 AM on March 22, 2023.

Doug Burgum  
Governor

Filed in this office this 23rd day of March, 2023,

at 11:23 o'clock A. M.

Michael Howe  
Secretary of State