

**SENATE BILL NO. 2289**

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Tomac

Representatives D. Johnson, Renner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 6-09.10-03 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to an expiration date for the agricultural mediation service; and to declare an  
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.10-03 of the 1997 Supplement to the North  
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **6-09.10-03. North Dakota agricultural mediation service - Powers - Compensation**  
8 **and expenses - Fees.** The board shall meet at the call of the chair, as is necessary to fulfill its  
9 duties under this chapter. The ~~department of agriculture~~ commissioner shall administer the  
10 agricultural mediation service. The commissioner ~~of agriculture~~ shall establish an agricultural  
11 mediation service to disseminate information to farmers concerning farm credit problems and to  
12 provide assistance to seek to resolve farm credit problems. The commissioner shall appoint an  
13 administrator of the agricultural mediation service. The commissioner shall hire staff,  
14 negotiators, and mediators who may mediate disputes involving farmers and others, either of  
15 whom may request assistance. The board may charge the farmer and others a reasonable fee  
16 for any assistance, ~~provided, such funds to be~~ the fees are used to continue the service until  
17 June 30, ~~1999~~ 2001. Fees charged to the farmer's creditors are limited to twenty-five dollars  
18 per hour, each, for the time spent in mediation sessions. The board shall adopt policies  
19 governing the negotiators, staff, and mediators hired under this section. Board members are  
20 entitled to receive sixty-five dollars for each day of official service, as directed by the board.  
21 The board members are entitled to expenses as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09.  
22 The expenses provided under this section may be paid from any funds available in the  
23 home-quarter purchase fund.

24 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.