

**SENATE BILL NO. 2216**

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Tomac

Representatives D. Johnson, Mueller

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

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.10-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
5 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **6-09.10-03. North Dakota agricultural mediation service - Powers - Compensation**  
7 **and expenses - Fees.** The board shall meet at the call of the chair, as is necessary to fulfill its  
8 duties under this chapter. The agriculture commissioner shall administer the agricultural  
9 mediation service. The commissioner shall establish an agricultural mediation service to  
10 disseminate information to farmers concerning farm credit problems and to provide assistance  
11 to seek to resolve farm credit problems. The commissioner shall appoint an administrator of the  
12 agricultural mediation service. The commissioner shall hire staff, negotiators, and mediators  
13 who may mediate disputes involving farmers and others, either of whom may request  
14 assistance. The board may charge the farmer and others a reasonable fee for any assistance,  
15 provided the fees are used to continue the service until June 30, ~~2004~~ 2003. Fees charged to  
16 the farmer's creditors are limited to twenty-five dollars per hour, each, for the time spent in  
17 mediation sessions. The board shall adopt policies governing the negotiators, staff, and  
18 mediators hired under this section. Board members are entitled to receive sixty-five dollars for  
19 each day of official service, as directed by the board. The board members are entitled to  
20 expenses as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09. The expenses provided under this  
21 section may be paid from any funds available in the home-quarter purchase fund.