

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1272
(Representatives Headland, Brandenburg, Mueller, Nicholas)
(Senators Erbele, Klein)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 4-28-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to membership of the wheat commission; and to provide for a legislative council study.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 4-28-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-28-03. Wheat commission - Members. ~~There is hereby created the~~

1. The North Dakota state wheat commission ~~which~~ consists of seven members. One member must be appointed or elected from each of the districts of the state established by ~~the provisions of this chapter and one member must be appointed or elected from the state at large.~~ Each member, except the member from the state at large, must be a ~~bona fide~~ resident of and a qualified elector in the district the member represents; ~~and must have farming operations in such the district, and must have been actually engaged in the production of wheat and have derived a substantial portion of the member's income therefrom for at least five years next preceding the member's appointment or election.~~ The member from the state at large must have similar qualifications except as limited by district lines. An individual is not eligible to be a member of the wheat commission if that individual requested a refund under section 4-28-07 during the twelve-month period before the date on which the term sought by the individual would commence. This ineligibility does not apply to an individual who requested a refund because of an overpayment, as provided in subdivision c of subsection 2 of section 4-28-07. Each member of the wheat commission must be actively engaged in the production of wheat. A member of the wheat commission who elects not to plant wheat for one growing cycle may continue to serve on the commission if the member continues to be actively involved in farming. If a member elects not to plant wheat for more than one growing cycle, the member is deemed to have resigned and the commission shall declare the member's office vacant. A member of the wheat commission is not eligible to receive a refund under section 4-28-07; however, a member may request a refund because of an overpayment, as provided in subdivision c of subsection 2 of section 4-28-07. The commission may declare a member's position vacant if the member fails to attend two consecutive commission meetings.
2. Not more than sixty days prior to expiration of the term of the member from the state at large, a nominating committee consisting of the agriculture commissioner, the president of the North Dakota crop improvement association, the director of the North Dakota agricultural experiment station, the director of the North Dakota state university extension service, the president of the North Dakota farm bureau, the president of the North Dakota farmers union, the president of the North Dakota grain dealers association, the president of the North Dakota grain growers association, and an individual who is a resident of this state and a member of the United States durum growers association, or their duly authorized representatives, shall submit to the governor a list of three names and within sixty days after expiration of the term the governor shall appoint, from the nominees so named, the member at large to the commission.
3. Each member of the commission shall hold office for a term of four years and until the member's successor has been selected and has qualified except that the commissioners

elected and serving from the first and fourth districts shall hold office for terms ending on June 30, 1984; the commissioners elected and serving from the second and fifth districts shall hold office for terms ending on June 30, 1985; and the commissioners elected and serving from the third and sixth districts shall hold office for terms ending on June 30, 1982; and the commissioner appointed and serving as the state at large member shall hold office for a term ending on June 30, 1983. No producer is entitled to serve more than three terms.

4. At least sixty days prior to the expiration of the term of office of a commissioner representing any district, a meeting of producers must be held in each county in the district for the purpose of electing a county representative. The county agent shall call such meeting by publishing notice in the official newspaper of the county for two successive weeks, the last publication to be not less than five nor more than ten days prior to the meeting. The meeting must be held at a central location within the county and must be called to order by the county agent. The county agent, in cooperation with the cooperative extension service, shall conduct all elections under this section in each county in the manner the county agent deems fair and reasonable, except that a producer may vote only in the producer's county of residence. Votes must be canvassed by the county agent and certified by the county agent with the name and post-office address of the elected county representative to the director of the North Dakota state university extension service who shall thereupon, as expeditiously as possible, call a meeting of the county representatives of the district. Notice of such meeting must be sent to each county representative by registered or certified mail not less than five days prior to the meeting which must be held at a central location within the district. At such district meeting, the county representatives shall elect one of their number as the district member of the commission. The ballots at such meeting must be canvassed by the North Dakota state university extension service and the result of election certified to the governor by the director. To be eligible to hold the position of county representative, an individual must be actively engaged in the production of wheat. A county representative who elects not to plant wheat for one growing cycle may continue to serve as a county representative if the individual continues to be actively involved in farming. If a county representative elects not to plant wheat for more than one growing cycle, the member is deemed to have resigned and the commission shall declare the member's position vacant. Additional meetings of county representatives may be called by the state wheat commission for the purpose of promoting its programs. All expenses of all such meetings and elections must be paid from commission funds. County representatives must be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in attending meetings and performing other official duties on the same basis as other state officers.
5. Any vacancy occurring on the commission other than by expiration of term of office must be filled by the county representatives who shall elect one of their number as the district member of the commission for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the vacancy is from the state at large, appointment must be made from three nominations submitted by the nominating committee as in the case of the original appointment.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY. The legislative council shall consider studying, during the 2005-06 interim, the feasibility and desirability of revising the process for appointing or electing individuals to the North Dakota wheat commission. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixtieth legislative assembly.

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 Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1272.

House Vote: Yeas 78 Nays 11 Absent 5

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 1 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State