

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1025**

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 37-17.1-12, 37-17.1-16, and 37-17.1-17 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to liability and immunity during disaster responses.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-17.1-12. Compensation - Entitlement - Time - Amount.**

7 1. Persons within this state shall conduct themselves and keep and manage their affairs
8 and property in ways that will reasonably assist and will not unreasonably detract from
9 the ability of the state and the public to effectively prevent, mitigate, prepare for,
10 respond to, and recover from a disaster or emergency. This obligation includes
11 appropriate personal service and use or restriction on the use of property in time of
12 disaster or emergency. This chapter neither increases nor decreases these obligations
13 but recognizes their existence under the Constitution of North Dakota and statutes of
14 this state and the common law. Compensation for services or for the taking or use of
15 property must be only to the extent that obligations recognized herein are exceeded in
16 a particular case and then only to the extent that the claimant may not be deemed to
17 have volunteered that person's services or property without compensation.

18 2. Personal services may not be compensated by the state or any county or city thereof,
19 except pursuant to statute or local law or ordinance.

20 3. Compensation for property ~~must~~may be ~~only~~paid if the property was commandeered
21 or otherwise used in management of a disaster or emergency declared ~~by the~~
22 governor and its use or destruction was ordered by the governor under proper authority
23 to the extent not otherwise waived or agreed upon before the use of property.

1 4. A claim made against a county or city must be made in writing to the appropriate
2 governing body within two years after the use, damage, loss, or destruction of the
3 property under proper authority is discovered or reasonably should have been
4 discovered, may only be for actual damages not recovered from claimants' property or
5 other applicable insurance, and may be paid from any combination of funds provided
6 under section 40-33-02.2, disaster relief funds made available to a county or city for
7 this purpose, or other funds at the discretion of the governing body. A city or county
8 may establish reasonable provisions for the payment of compensation.

9 5. Any person claiming compensation for the use, damage, loss, or destruction of
10 property by the state under this chapter shall file a written claim therefor with the office
11 of management and budget in the form and manner required by the office. The claim
12 for compensation must be received by the office of management and budget within
13 ~~one year~~two years after the use, damage, loss, or destruction of the property pursuant
14 to the governor's order under section 37-17.1-05 is discovered or reasonably should
15 have been discovered or compensation under this chapter is waived.

16 ~~5.6.~~ Unless the amount of compensation on account of property damaged, lost, or
17 destroyed is agreed between the claimant and the office of management and budget,
18 the amount of compensation must be calculated in the same manner as compensation
19 due for a taking of property pursuant to the condemnation laws of this state.

20 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **37-17.1-16. Immunity and exemption.**

23 1. All functions hereunder and all other activities relating to emergency management are
24 hereby declared to be governmental functions. The state, a county or city, any disaster
25 or emergency worker, an employee of a federal agency on loan or leave to the state in
26 support of emergency service response whether the emergency is declared or
27 undeclared, or any other person providing goods or services during an emergency if
28 the person is working in coordination with and under the direction of an appropriate
29 governmental emergency or disaster response entity, complying with or reasonably
30 attempting to comply with this chapter, or any executive order or disaster or
31 emergency operational plan pursuant to this chapter, or pursuant to any ordinance

1 relating to any precautionary measures enacted by any county or city of the state,
2 except in case of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith, is not liable for the
3 death of or injury to persons, or for damage to property except as compensation may
4 be provided in section 37-17.1-12, as a result of any such activity. This section does
5 not affect the right of any person to receive benefits to which that person would
6 otherwise be entitled under this chapter, or under workforce safety and insurance law,
7 or under any pension law, nor the right of any such person to receive any benefits or
8 compensation under any Act of Congress.

9 2. Any requirement for a license to practice any professional, mechanical, or other skill
10 does not apply to any authorized disaster or emergency worker who, in the course of
11 performing the worker's duties, practices the professional, mechanical, or other skill
12 during a disaster or emergency.

13 3. This section does not affect any other provision of law that may provide immunity to a
14 person that is providing volunteer assistance.

15 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **37-17.1-17. No private liability.**

18 Any person owning or controlling real estate or other premises who voluntarily and without
19 compensation grants a license or privilege, or otherwise permits the designation or use of the
20 whole or any part or parts of such real estate or premises for the purpose of emergency
21 management activities during an actual, impending, mock or practice disaster or emergency, is,
22 together with their successors in interest, if any, not civilly liable, except in the case of gross
23 negligence or willful and malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use,
24 structure, or activity, for negligently causing the death of, or injury to, any person on or about
25 such real estate or premises or for loss of, or damage to, the property of such person.