15.0550.05000

Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT with House Amendments ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2271

Introduced by

Senators Unruh, Armstrong, O'Connell

Representatives D. Anderson, Kempenich, Schatz

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 4-01-31 of the North Dakota Century Code,
- 2 relating to a pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight program; to provide an appropriation;
- 3 and to declare an emergency.

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

- 5 **SECTION 1.** Section 4-01-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as 6 follows:
- 7 <u>4-01-31. Pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight pilot program Generally.</u>
- 8 <u>1. The agriculture commissioner shall establish a pilot program that shall provide</u>
- 9 <u>technical assistance and support to surface owners and surface tenants on pipeline</u>
- 10 <u>restoration and followup support to surface owners and surface tenants on pipeline</u>
- 11 reclamation.
- 12 <u>2. The agriculture commissioner may contract for ombudsmen for the purposes of being</u>
- a resource for technical assistance and followup on pipeline issues. The ombudsmen
- may not investigate or assist with any pipeline installed before January 1, 2006, or
- regulated by the public service commission under title 49, and may not assist in
- 16 easement negotiations.
- 17 3. The pilot program may provide technical education, support, and outreach on
- pipeline-related matters in coordination with other entities.
- 19 <u>4.</u> The agriculture commissioner may contract with local individuals, deemed trustworthy
- by the surface owners and surface tenants, to be ombudsmen. The agriculture
- 21 <u>commissioner is not subject to the provisions of chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for</u>
- the services of ombudsmen.
- 23 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the abandoned
- oil and gas well plugging site reclamation fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,

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- 1 the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture
- 2 commissioner for the purpose of establishing and administering a pipeline restoration and
- 3 reclamation oversight pilot program, without additional full-time employees, under section 1 of
- 4 this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017.
- 5 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.