

HOUSE BILL NO. 1425

Introduced by

Representatives Nathe, D. Anderson, Bosch, Headland, Howe, Lefor, Mock, Porter

Senators Hogue, Meyer, Bell, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~section 6-09-49.1 and~~ a new section to chapter 21-10 of
2 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund and~~ the
3 state investment board; to amend and reenact sections 6-09-49, 21-10-02, and 21-10-11 of the
4 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund, the state
5 investment board, and the legacy and budget stabilization fund advisory board; and to provide a
6 continuing appropriation.

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

8 ~~SECTION 1. Section 6-09-49.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted~~
9 ~~as follows:~~

10 ~~**6-09-49.1. Legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund - Continuing appropriation.**~~

11 ~~1. The legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund is a special fund in the state treasury~~
12 ~~from which the Bank of North Dakota shall provide loans to political subdivisions, the~~
13 ~~Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and the Lake Agassiz water authority for~~
14 ~~essential infrastructure projects. The Bank shall administer the legacy infrastructure~~
15 ~~revolving loan fund. The maximum term of a loan made under this section is thirty~~
16 ~~years. A loan made from the fund under this section must have an interest rate that~~
17 ~~does not exceed two percent per year.~~

18 ~~2. For purposes of this section, "essential infrastructure projects" means capital~~
19 ~~construction projects for the following:~~

20 ~~a. The Red River valley water supply project;~~

21 ~~b. New or replacement of existing water treatment plants;~~

22 ~~c. New or replacement of existing wastewater treatment plants;~~

23 ~~d. New or replacement of existing sewerlines and waterlines; and~~

- 1 ~~e. New or replacement of existing storm water and transportation infrastructure,~~
2 ~~including curb and gutter construction.~~
- 3 ~~3. In processing political subdivision loan applications under this section, the Bank of~~
4 ~~North Dakota shall calculate the maximum loan amount for which a qualified applicant~~
5 ~~may qualify, not to exceed fifteen million dollars per loan. The Bank shall consider the~~
6 ~~applicant's ability to repay the loan when processing the application and shall issue~~
7 ~~loans only to applicants that provide reasonable assurance of sufficient future income~~
8 ~~to repay the loan.~~
- 9 ~~4. The Bank of North Dakota shall deposit in the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund~~
10 ~~all payments of principal paid under loans made from the legacy infrastructure~~
11 ~~revolving loan fund. The Bank shall transfer all payments of interest paid under loans~~
12 ~~from the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund to the legacy fund, however, the~~
13 ~~Bank may use a portion of the interest paid on the outstanding loans as a servicing fee~~
14 ~~to pay for administrative costs, which may not exceed one-half of one percent of the~~
15 ~~amount of the interest payment. All moneys transferred to the fund, interest upon~~
16 ~~moneys in the fund, and payments to the fund of principal and interest are~~
17 ~~appropriated to the Bank on a continuing basis for administrative costs, transfers to~~
18 ~~the legacy fund, and for loan disbursement according to this section.~~
- 19 ~~5. The Bank of North Dakota may adopt policies and establish guidelines to administer~~
20 ~~this loan program in accordance with the provisions of this section and to supplement~~
21 ~~and leverage the funds in the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund. Additionally,~~
22 ~~the Bank may adopt policies allowing participation by local financial institutions.~~

23 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09-49 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended
24 and reenacted as follows:

25 **6-09-49. Infrastructure revolving loan fund - Legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund**
26 **- Continuing appropriation.**

- 27 1. The infrastructure revolving loan fund is a special fund in the state treasury from which
28 the Bank of North Dakota shall provide loans to political subdivisions, the Garrison
29 Diversion Conservancy District, and the Lake Agassiz water authority for essential
30 infrastructure projects. The Bank shall administer the infrastructure revolving loan
31 fund. The maximum term of a loan made under this section is thirty years. A loan

1 made from the fund under this section must have an interest rate that does not exceed
2 two percent per year.

3 2. For purposes of this section, "essential infrastructure projects" means capital
4 construction projects for the following:

- 5 a. The Red River valley water supply project;
- 6 b. New or replacement of existing water treatment plants;
- 7 c. New or replacement of existing wastewater treatment plants;
- 8 d. New or replacement of existing sewer lines and water lines; and
- 9 e. New or replacement of existing storm water and transportation infrastructure,
10 including curb and gutter construction.

11 3. In processing political subdivision loan applications under this section, the Bank shall
12 calculate the maximum loan amount for which a qualified applicant may qualify, not to
13 exceed fifteen million dollars per loan. The Bank shall consider the applicant's ability to
14 repay the loan when processing the application and shall issue loans only to
15 applicants that provide reasonable assurance of sufficient future income to repay the
16 loan.

17 4. The Bank shall deposit in the infrastructure revolving loan fund all payments of interest
18 and principal paid under loans made from the infrastructure revolving loan fund. The
19 Bank may use a portion of the interest paid on the outstanding loans as a servicing fee
20 to pay for administrative costs which may not exceed one-half of one percent of the
21 amount of the interest payment. All moneys transferred to the fund, interest upon
22 moneys in the fund, and payments to the fund of principal and interest are
23 appropriated to the Bank on a continuing basis for administrative costs and for loan
24 disbursement according to this section.

25 5. The Bank may adopt policies and establish guidelines to administer this loan program
26 in accordance with the provisions of this section and to supplement and leverage the
27 funds in the infrastructure revolving loan fund. Additionally, the Bank may adopt
28 policies allowing participation by local financial institutions.

29 6. a. The legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund is a special fund in the infrastructure
30 revolving loan fund from which the Bank of North Dakota shall provide loans to
31 political subdivisions, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and the Lake

1 Agassiz water authority for eligible infrastructure projects as defined in
2 subdivision g. The Bank shall use moneys in the legacy infrastructure revolving
3 loan fund to provide loans to political subdivisions for eligible infrastructure
4 projects pursuant to subdivisions g, h, and i.

5 b. The Bank may adopt policies and establish guidelines to administer the legacy
6 infrastructure revolving loan program in accordance with this subsection,
7 including policies to supplement and leverage the moneys in the fund and
8 policies to allow participation by local financial institutions.

9 c. A loan made from the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund must have an
10 interest rate that does not exceed two percent per year. The maximum term of a
11 loan for an infrastructure project under subdivision g is thirty years or the useful
12 life of the project, and the maximum term for a loan for an infrastructure project
13 under subdivision h or i is forty years or the useful life of the project.

14 d. All principal and interest payments received on loans made from the legacy
15 infrastructure revolving loan fund must be deposited into the legacy infrastructure
16 revolving loan fund. The Bank may use a portion of the interest paid on the
17 outstanding loans as a servicing fee to pay administrative costs, which may not
18 exceed one half of one percent of the amount of the outstanding loans. All
19 moneys transferred to the legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund, interest upon
20 moneys in the fund, and payments to the fund of principal and interest are
21 appropriated to the Bank on a continuing basis for administrative costs and for
22 loan disbursement according to this subsection.

23 e. An applicant shall issue an evidence of indebtedness as authorized by law.

24 f. In processing political subdivision loan applications under this subsection, the
25 Bank shall calculate the maximum outstanding loan amount per qualified
26 applicant. The maximum outstanding loan amount for infrastructure projects
27 under subdivision g is forty million dollars. The Bank shall consider the applicant's
28 ability to repay the loan when processing the application and shall issue loans
29 only to applicants that provide reasonable assurance of sufficient future income
30 to repay the loan.

1 g. Eligible infrastructure projects under this subdivision are capital construction
2 projects to construct new infrastructure or to replace infrastructure, and which
3 provide the fixed installations necessary for the function of a political subdivision
4 and are in the public interest. Capital construction projects exclude routine
5 maintenance and repair projects but include the following:

6 (1) Water treatment plants;

7 (2) Wastewater treatment plants;

8 (3) Sewer lines and water lines, including lift stations and pumping systems;

9 (4) Water storage systems, including dams, water tanks, and water towers;

10 (5) Storm water infrastructure, including curb and gutter construction;

11 (6) Road and bridge infrastructure, including paved and unpaved roads and
12 bridges;

13 (7) Airport infrastructure;

14 (8) Electricity transmission infrastructure;

15 (9) Natural gas transmission infrastructure;

16 (10) Communications infrastructure;

17 (11) Emergency services facilities, excluding hospitals;

18 (12) Essential political subdivision buildings and infrastructure; and

19 (13) The Red River valley water supply project.

20 h. The department of transportation shall approve county road and bridge projects
21 for purposes of loans under this subsection. The department of transportation
22 may adopt policies for the review and approval of loans under this subsection.

23 i. For purposes of loans under this subsection, the state water commission shall
24 review and approve eligible projects to construct new water-related infrastructure
25 or to replace existing water-related infrastructure, which provide the fixed
26 installations necessary for the function of a political subdivision and are in the
27 public interest. The state water commission may adopt policies for the review and
28 approval of loans under this subsection. Capital construction projects exclude
29 routine maintenance and repair projects, but include the following:

30 (1) Flood control;

31 (2) Conveyance projects;

- 1 (3) Rural water supply;
- 2 (4) Water supply; and
- 3 (5) General water management.

4 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 21-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Prudent investor rule - Exception.**

7 Notwithstanding section 21-10-07, for purposes of investment of the legacy fund, the state
8 investment board shall give preference to qualified investment firms and financial institutions
9 with a presence in the state.

10 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 21-10-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **21-10-02. Board - Powers and duties.**

- 13 1. The board is charged with the investment of the funds enumerated in section
14 21-10-06. It shall approve general types of securities for investment by these funds
15 and set policies and procedures regulating securities transactions on behalf of the
16 various funds. Representatives of the funds enumerated in section 21-10-06 may
17 make recommendations to the board in regard to investments.
- 18 2. The board or its designated agents must be custodian of securities purchased on
19 behalf of funds under the management of the board.
- 20 3. The board may appoint an investment director or advisory service, or both, who must
21 be experienced in, and hold considerable knowledge of, the field of investments. The
22 investment director or advisory service shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The
23 investment director or advisory service may be an individual, corporation, limited
24 liability company, partnership, or any legal entity which meets the qualifications
25 established herein. The board may authorize the investment director to lend securities
26 held by the funds. These securities must be collateralized as directed by the board.
- 27 4. The board may create investment fund pools in which the funds identified in section
28 21-10-06 may invest.
- 29 5. For purposes of investment of the legacy fund, the board shall give preference to
30 investment firms and financial institutions with a presence in the state.

1 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 21-10-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **21-10-11. Legacy and budget stabilization fund advisory board.**

4 1. The legacy and budget stabilization fund advisory board is created to develop
5 recommendations for the investment of funds in the legacy fund and the budget
6 stabilization fund to present to the state investment board.

7 2. The goal of investment for the legacy fund is principal preservation while maximizing
8 total return and to provide a direct benefit to the state by investing a portion of the
9 principal in the state. Preference must be given to qualified investment firms and
10 financial institutions with a presence in the state for investment of the legacy fund.

11 3. The board shall determine the asset allocation for the investment of the principal of the
12 legacy fund including:

13 a. A target allocation of ten percent to fixed income investments within the state, of
14 which:

15 (1) Up to forty percent must be targeted for infrastructure loans to political
16 subdivisions under section 6-09-49.1. The net return to the legacy fund
17 under this paragraph must be fixed at a target rate of one and one-half
18 percent;

19 (2) Up to sixty percent, with a minimum of four hundred million dollars, must be
20 designated to the Bank of North Dakota's certificate of deposit match
21 program with an interest rate fixed at the equivalent yield of United States
22 treasury bonds having the same term, up to a maximum term of twenty
23 years; and

24 (3) Any remaining amounts must be designated for other qualified fixed income
25 investments within the state.

26 b. A target allocation of ten percent to equity investments in the state, of which at
27 least three percent may be targeted for investment in one or more equity funds,
28 venture capital funds, or alternative investment funds with a primary strategy of
29 investing in emerging or expanding companies in the state. Equity investments
30 under this subdivision must:

1 (1) Be managed by qualified investment firms, financial institutions, or equity
2 funds which have a strategy to invest in qualified companies operating or
3 seeking to operate in the state and which have a direct connection to the
4 state; and

5 (2) Have a benchmark investment return equal to the five-year average net
6 return for the legacy fund, excluding in-state investments.

7 4. The board consists of two members of the senate appointed by the senate majority
8 leader, two members of the house of representatives appointed by the house majority
9 leader, the director of the office of management and budget or designee, the president
10 of the Bank of North Dakota or designee, and the tax commissioner or designee. The
11 board shall select a chairman and must meet at the call of the chairman.

12 4.5. The board shall report at least semiannually to the budget section.

13 5.6. Legislative members are entitled to receive compensation and expense
14 reimbursement as provided under section 54-03-20 and reimbursement for mileage as
15 provided by law for state officers. The legislative council shall pay the compensation
16 and expense reimbursement for the legislative members.

17 6.7. The legislative council shall provide staff services to the legacy and budget
18 stabilization fund advisory board.

19 7.8. The staff and consultants of the state retirement and investment office shall advise the
20 board in developing asset allocation and investment policies.

21 8.9. The board shall develop a process to select a member of the board to serve on the
22 state investment board in a nonvoting capacity.