

HB 1538
4/18/23 AM
Patten

23.1081.03003

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1538

Introduced by

Representative Porter

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 20.1-02 and a new section to
2 chapter 20.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to fishing contests, surcharge fees,
3 and the fishing conservation fund; to amend and reenact subsection 20 of section 20.1-02-05 of
4 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the powers of the director of the game and fish
5 department; and to ~~create and enact a new section to chapter 20.1-02 of the North Dakota~~
6 ~~Century Code, relating to fishing contests~~provide a continuing appropriation.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 20 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 20. ~~Adopt rules and issue~~Issue permits for conducting fishing contests involving public
11 waters of the state in accordance with section 2 of this Act. ~~The director by rule shall~~
12 ~~define the term "fishing contest" and shall set criteria for which a fishing contest permit~~
13 ~~is required.~~ The director may deny permits. ~~No~~A person may not conduct a fishing
14 contest on public waters without first receiving a permit issued by the director.

15 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 20.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
16 and enacted as follows:

17 **Fishing contests.**

18 1. A "fishing contest" means an event at which a prize or cash is given to a contestant for
19 catching fish from waters open to the public. The term includes high-value tag
20 contests, fishing tournaments, biggest fish contests, contests providing a prize for the
21 largest number or weight of fish, and fishing leagues and tournaments comprised of
22 multiple fishing events which have a cumulative fee of fifty dollars or more per event.
23 The term does not include:

- 1 a. A fishing event with fewer than fifty participants and fewer than fifteen boats for
2 which an entry or participation fee of less than fifty dollars is charged.
- 3 b. ~~A fishing event with fewer than fifty participants and fewer than fifteen boats.~~
- 4 ~~e.~~ An individual big fish promotion for which an entry or participation fee is not
5 charged.
- 6 ~~e-c.~~ An organized youth fishing event if participants are under the age of nineteen or
7 enrolled in a high school.
- 8 ~~e-d.~~ An online contest not held on a single body of water.
- 9 2. A fishing contest may not include a conservation fee.~~A nonprofit veterans organization,~~
10 ~~charitable organization, educational organization, religious organization, fraternal~~
11 ~~organization, civic and service organization, and public spirited organization, as these~~
12 ~~organizations are defined in chapter 53-06.1, may retain one hundred percent of the~~
13 ~~proceeds of a fishing contest.~~ A membership fee for a club or organization may not be
14 classified as an entry fee or proceeds.
- 15 3. An organization desiring to hold a fishing contest shall submit an application to the
16 director at least thirty days before the start of the contest. A permit application fee may
17 not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for an event held on a single body of
18 water. A permit application fee may not exceed seventy-five dollars for a nonprofit
19 ~~organization listed in subsection 2~~an eligible organization as defined in chapter
20 ~~53-06.1 or a youth event held on a single body of water.~~
- 21 4. The director may deny or revoke a permit if:
- 22 a. The director believes the fishing contest does not or will not comply with the rules
23 of the department or could be harmful to the fishing resource;
- 24 b. An agency with jurisdiction deems the public use facilities such as a boat ramp,
25 parking area, campground, or related facilities are inadequate to support the
26 contest; or
- 27 c. The committee or sponsors have failed to submit timely reports.
- 28 5. A permittee shall submit a report to the director within thirty days after completion of
29 the fishing contest. The report must include the number of contest participants; and
30 the quantity and species of fish taken in the contest.~~the gross and net proceeds for~~
31 ~~the tournament, and the percentage of the entry fees awarded to the participants as~~

1 prizes. Failure to submit this report is justification for denial of future fishing contest
2 permits.

3 6. The director may adopt rules to administer this section.

4 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 20.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Nonresident license surcharge - Fishing conservation fund - Continuing**
7 **appropriation.**

8 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the director shall establish a surcharge of
9 three dollars on each nonresident fishing license issued under section 20.1-03-12. The
10 collected surcharge fees must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the
11 fishing conservation fund.

12 2. There is created in the state treasury a special fund known as the fishing conservation
13 fund. The fund consists of all money deposited in the fund pursuant to this section. All
14 money deposited in the fund is appropriated as a continuing appropriation to the game
15 and fish department for the purpose of fishery conservation and public access
16 projects. The game and fish department may adopt rules in accordance with chapter
17 28-32 for the purpose of administering the fishing conservation fund.