

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1519**

Introduced by

Representatives Hagert, Nathe, O'Brien, Porter, Stemen

Senators Bekkedahl, Meyer, Weber

1 A BILL for an Act to provide appropriations to the department of career and technical education
2 and agriculture commissioner for uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other
3 autonomous technology grants; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a
4 report.

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

6 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND -**
7 **STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER**
8 **AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
9 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 10 1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund,
11 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$475,000, or so much of the sum as may be
12 necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of
13 uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology
14 grants to a workforce training center serving the northwest area of the state, for the
15 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in
16 this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
- 17 2. There is appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund, not
18 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$12,500, or so much of the sum as may be
19 necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of
20 administering the grant program in subsection 1 of section 1 of this Act, for the
21 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in
22 this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
- 23 3. The department of career and technical education shall develop an application
24 process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant

- 1 awards, and matching requirements. The department of career and technical
2 education may require a workforce training center to provide one dollar of matching
3 funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, a
4 workforce training center shall certify to the department of career and technical
5 education that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or
6 other autonomous technology is related to workforce or educational training with
7 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies.
- 8 4. A workforce training center may use grant funding to contract for services related to
9 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies;
10 for educational or training curriculum expenses related to uncrewed aircraft systems,
11 autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses
12 related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous
13 technology operations as determined by the department of career and technical
14 education.
- 15 5. During the 2023-24 interim, the department of career and technical education shall
16 provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,
17 including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use
18 of the grant funding.

19 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND -**
20 **STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - AGRICULTURE**
21 **COMMISSIONER - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 22 1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund,
23 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$275,000, or so much of the sum as may be
24 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of uncrewed aircraft
25 system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to individuals
26 and entities in the agriculture industry, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and
27 ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a
28 one-time funding item.
- 29 2. There is appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund, not
30 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$12,500, or so much of the sum as may be
31 necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of administering the grant

1 program in subsection 1 of section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1,
2 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is
3 considered a one-time funding item.

4 3. The agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and guidelines for
5 the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching
6 requirements. The agriculture commissioner may require an individual or entity to
7 provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be
8 eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the agriculture commissioner
9 that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other
10 autonomous technology is related to inspecting, operating, maintaining, or
11 construction of agriculture property or infrastructure.

12 4. An individual or entity may use grant funding to contract for services related to
13 uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies;
14 or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or
15 other autonomous technology operations as determined by the agriculture
16 commissioner.

17 5. During the 2023-24 interim, the agriculture commissioner shall provide at least
18 one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant
19 recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

20 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - UNCREWED AUTONOMOUS**
21 **SYSTEMS.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the
22 utilization of existing autonomous system capabilities and infrastructure to provide solutions to
23 workforce and safety needs in the state. The study must include an analysis of utilizing
24 autonomous technology for infrastructure inspection, rural emergency service needs, agriculture
25 advancement, energy industry application, and other opportunities for collaboration through the
26 utilization of autonomous system technology. The legislative management shall report its
27 findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
28 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.