

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1519
(Representatives Hagert, Nathe, O'Brien, Porter, Stemen)
(Senators Bekkedahl, Meyer, Weber)

AN ACT to provide appropriations to the department of career and technical education and agriculture commissioner for uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a report.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$475,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center serving the northwest area of the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
2. There is appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$12,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of administering the grant program in subsection 1 of section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
3. The department of career and technical education shall develop an application process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching requirements. The department of career and technical education may require a workforce training center to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career and technical education that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology is related to workforce or educational training with uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies.
4. A workforce training center may use grant funding to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; for educational or training curriculum expenses related to uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology operations as determined by the department of career and technical education.
5. During the 2023-24 interim, the department of career and technical education shall provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

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

1. There is appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$275,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology grants to individuals and entities in the agriculture industry, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
2. There is appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$12,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of administering the grant program in subsection 1 of section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
3. The agriculture commissioner shall develop an application process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, maximum grant awards, and matching requirements. The agriculture commissioner may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the agriculture commissioner that the operation of the uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology is related to inspecting, operating, maintaining, or construction of agriculture property or infrastructure.
4. An individual or entity may use grant funding to contract for services related to uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous technologies; or for other eligible uses related to uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology operations as determined by the agriculture commissioner.
5. During the 2023-24 interim, the agriculture commissioner shall provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - UNCREWED AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS.

During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the utilization of existing autonomous system capabilities and infrastructure to provide solutions to workforce and safety needs in the state. The study must include an analysis of utilizing autonomous technology for infrastructure inspection, rural emergency service needs, agriculture advancement, energy industry application, and other opportunities for collaboration through the utilization of autonomous system technology. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1519.

House Vote: Yeas 82 Nays 10 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State