

**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 **4-01-31. Pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight pilot program - Generally.**

- 8 1. The agriculture commissioner shall establish a pilot program that shall provide
9 technical assistance and support to surface owners and surface tenants on pipeline
10 restoration and followup support to surface owners and surface tenants on pipeline
11 reclamation.
- 12 2. The agriculture commissioner may contract for ombudsmen for the purposes of being
13 a resource for technical assistance and followup on pipeline issues. The ombudsmen
14 may not investigate or assist with any pipeline installed before January 1, 2006, or
15 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
18 pipeline-related matters in coordination with other entities.
- 19 4. The agriculture commissioner may contract with local individuals, deemed trustworthy
20 by the surface owners and surface tenants, to be ombudsmen. The agriculture
21 commissioner is not subject to the provisions of chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for
22 the services of ombudsmen.

23 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the abandoned
24 oil and gas well plugging site reclamation fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,

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 period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2017.

5 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.