

**Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015**

SENATE BILL NO. 2271
(Senators Unruh, Armstrong, O'Connell)
(Representatives D. Anderson, Kempenich, Schatz)

AN ACT to create and enact section 4-01-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight program; to provide an appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Section 4-01-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

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

1. The agriculture commissioner shall establish a pilot program that shall provide technical assistance and support to surface owners and surface tenants on pipeline restoration and followup support to surface owners and surface tenants on pipeline reclamation.
2. The agriculture commissioner may contract for ombudsmen for the purposes of being a resource for technical assistance and followup on pipeline issues. The ombudsmen may not investigate or assist with any pipeline installed before January 1, 2006, or regulated by the public service commission under title 49, and may not assist in easement negotiations.
3. The pilot program may provide technical education, support, and outreach on pipeline-related matters in coordination with other entities.
4. The agriculture commissioner may contract with local individuals, deemed trustworthy by the surface owners and surface tenants, to be ombudsmen. The agriculture commissioner is not subject to the provisions of chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for the services of ombudsmen.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the abandoned oil and gas well plugging site reclamation fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of establishing and administering a pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight pilot program, without additional full-time employees, under section 1 of this Act, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2017.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2271 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 41 Nays 6 Absent 0

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 89 Nays 3 Absent 2

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2015.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2015.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2015,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State