

HOUSE BILL NO. 1341

Introduced by

Representatives Griffin, S. Meyer, Uglen

Senators Behm, Erbele, Taylor

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 6-09.10-03 and 6-09.10-04 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to persons eligible for mediation.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.10-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **6-09.10-03. North Dakota agricultural mediation service - Powers - Compensation**
7 **and expenses - Fees.** The board shall meet at the call of the chair, as is necessary to fulfill its
8 duties under this chapter. The agriculture commissioner shall administer the agricultural
9 mediation service. The commissioner shall establish an agricultural mediation service to
10 disseminate information to farmers concerning farm credit problems and to provide assistance
11 to seek to resolve farm credit problems. The commissioner shall appoint an administrator of the
12 agricultural mediation service. The commissioner shall hire staff, negotiators, and mediators
13 who may mediate disputes involving farmers ~~and others, either of whom may request~~
14 ~~assistance or other persons eligible for mediation with an agency of the United States~~
15 ~~department of agriculture.~~ The board may charge the farmer and others a reasonable fee for
16 any assistance, provided the fees are used to continue the service. Fees charged to ~~the~~
17 ~~farmer's creditors~~ mediation participants are limited to twenty-five dollars per hour, each, for the
18 time spent in mediation sessions. The board shall adopt policies governing the negotiators,
19 staff, and mediators hired under this section. Board members are entitled to receive ~~sixty-five~~
20 seventy-five dollars for each day of official service, as directed by the board. The board
21 members are entitled to expenses as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09. The
22 expenses provided under this section may be paid from any funds available in the home-quarter
23 purchase fund.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-09.10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **6-09.10-04. Request for assistance - Negotiation - Mediation.** Any farmer, creditor,
4 ~~or other~~ person dealing with a farmer, or other person eligible for mediation with an agency of
5 the United States department of agriculture may request assistance from the administrator.
6 Upon receipt of the request, and upon consent of ~~the farmer and the other person~~ all parties to
7 mediation, the negotiator or mediator shall encourage and assist the ~~farmer and the other~~
8 ~~person to reach~~ parties in reaching a voluntary settlement.