

Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2110

Introduced by

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

(At the request of the Adjutant General)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-17.1-07.1 of the North Dakota Century  
2 Code, relating to hazardous chemical preparedness and response program fees and fines.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-17.1-07.1. Hazardous chemicals preparedness and response program.**

7 1. Program components.

8 a. The governor shall appoint members of the state emergency response  
9 commission to carry out the commission's responsibilities as outlined in Public  
10 Law 99-499, 42 U.S.C. 11001, et seq., also referred to as SARA title III, and the  
11 responsibilities of the commission members as outlined in the North Dakota  
12 emergency operations plan.

13 b. In conjunction with the state emergency response commission, the local  
14 emergency planning committees, as appointed by the boards of county  
15 commissioners, and the local emergency management organizations shall  
16 coordinate the development and maintenance of a state hazardous chemicals  
17 preparedness and response program.

18 c. The director of the division of homeland security shall serve as the chairman of  
19 the state emergency response commission. In the absence of the chairman, the  
20 designated vice chairman shall serve as chairman. The state emergency  
21 response commission by vote will select the vice chairman to fulfill a two-year  
22 term. The chairman shall recognize the assignment of representatives to the  
23 commission who are designated through a delegation of authority by a member.  
24 The chairman shall designate a commission secretary, solely for the purpose of

1           documenting and distributing clerical proceedings, from the staff of the division of  
2           homeland security.

3           d. For the purpose of complying with the reporting requirements set forth in  
4           sections 302, 304, 311, 312, and 313 of Public Law 99-499, 42 U.S.C. 11001,  
5           et seq., also referred to as SARA title III, the owner and operator of any facility, as  
6           defined in SARA title III, shall submit those reports to the North Dakota division of  
7           homeland security as required by SARA title III, which shall establish and  
8           maintain the state repository for these reports.

9           e. For purposes of monitoring, determining if emergency response may be required,  
10          and notifying local officials, owners and operators or responsible parties shall  
11          report all spills or discharges to the appropriate state agency as required by law.  
12          The report must include the name of the reporting party, including phone number  
13          and address; date; time of release; location of release; containment status; name  
14          of the chemical, if waterways are involved; and immediate potential threat. If the  
15          release occurs or travels offsite from a facility, the owner and operator or  
16          responsible party shall notify the surface owner within a reasonable time. State  
17          agencies that receive direct reports of spills or discharges shall provide the report  
18          information to the division within a time that is consistent with potential level of  
19          response needed.

20          2. Establishment of funds.

21          a. There is created in the state treasury a nonlapsing restricted account to be  
22          known as a state hazardous chemicals preparedness and response fund. The  
23          fund consists of revenue collected from the state hazardous chemical fee system  
24          and funds appropriated by the legislative assembly. Moneys in the fund shall be  
25          appropriated biennially to the division of homeland security for carrying out the  
26          purposes, goals, and objectives of SARA title III, and the state hazardous  
27          chemicals preparedness and response program.

28          b. The county treasurer of each county shall establish a nonlapsing restricted  
29          account, to be known as the county hazardous chemicals preparedness and  
30          response account. The county hazardous chemicals preparedness and response  
31          account consists of revenue from the state hazardous chemicals fee system,

1 county, federal or state funds, grants, and any private donations provided to  
2 finance the county hazardous chemicals preparedness and response program.

3 c. Each owner and operator of a facility, as defined in SARA title III, shall pay an  
4 annual hazardous chemicals fee to the division of homeland security by March  
5 first of each year. The fee is twenty-five dollars for each chemical within the  
6 meaning of ~~40-CFR 355.20~~title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, part 355.20, or  
7 its successor which is required under section 312 of SARA title III, to be listed on  
8 the hazardous chemical inventory form (tier II) which the owner or operator must  
9 submit to the division. The federal requirements must be used for completing the  
10 tier II form, including the threshold amounts, as outlined in ~~40-CFR 370.20~~title 40,  
11 Code of Federal Regulations, part 20. The maximum fee for a facility under this  
12 section is four hundred seventy-five dollars. The director of the homeland security  
13 division may impose fees for both late filing of reports and late payment of fees. A  
14 late fee must equal the amount of the hazardous chemicals fee owed under this  
15 subdivision. After six months the director shall process further violations under  
16 willful violations in subsection 4. The division of homeland security shall transfer  
17 to the county hazardous chemicals preparedness and response account one-half  
18 of the ~~funds~~regular fees collected from the state's hazardous chemicals fee  
19 system.

20 d. The owners or operators of family farm enterprises that are not engaged in the  
21 retail or wholesale of hazardous chemicals and facilities owned by the state or  
22 local governments are exempt from the fee under subdivision c. For purposes of  
23 this section, the terms "family farm" and "farmer" have the same meaning as set  
24 forth in section 6-09.11-01.

25 e. The state and county governments are authorized to accept and may deposit  
26 grants, gifts, and federal funds into the hazardous chemicals preparedness and  
27 response fund and accounts for the purpose of carrying out the hazardous  
28 chemicals preparedness and response programs to include training, exercising,  
29 equipment, response, and salaries, and local emergency planning committee  
30 member stipends not to exceed thirty percent of state per diem per meeting

1 attended. In lieu of stipends the committee ~~chair~~chairman may provide a meal or  
2 refreshments ~~other than alcoholic beverages.~~

3 f. "Hazardous chemical" means as defined in ~~40 CFR 355.20~~title 40, Code of  
4 Federal Regulations, part 355.20 and ~~29 CFR 1910.1200~~title 29, Code of Federal  
5 Regulations, part 1910.1200.

6 g. The state hazardous chemicals fee system does not supersede a city fee system  
7 for hazardous chemicals.

8 3. a. A person who causes a release, as defined in ~~40 CFR 355.20~~title 40, Code of  
9 Federal Regulations, part 355.20, of a hazardous chemical in excess of the  
10 reportable quantity of that chemical, as defined in ~~40 CFR 355.20~~title 40, Code of  
11 Federal Regulations, part 355.20, is liable for the response costs incurred by  
12 state or local hazardous chemical response personnel. The state agency, local  
13 agency, volunteer organization, or hazardous chemical response personnel, as  
14 identified in the state or local emergency operations plan, which undertakes a  
15 response action may recover those response costs in an action brought before a  
16 court of competent jurisdiction. If more than one jurisdiction, organization, or  
17 agency incurs response costs for the same hazardous chemical release or  
18 incident, those hazardous chemical response jurisdictions, agencies,  
19 organizations, or personnel may file a joint action and may designate one entity  
20 to represent the others in the action.

21 b. In the action to recover reasonable and necessary response costs, state  
22 agencies, local agencies, or volunteer organizations may include operational,  
23 administrative, personnel, and legal costs incurred from its initial response action  
24 up to the time that it recovers its cost. Reasonable and necessary costs are those  
25 additional costs incurred that are a result of the responsible party's failure or  
26 inability to implement or initiate the necessary actions to protect life, property, and  
27 the environment.

28 4. a. A person who willfully violates any of the reporting, planning, or notification  
29 requirements outlined in the provisions of the Emergency Planning and  
30 Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 [title III of Public Law 99-499, 42 U.S.C.  
31 11001 et seq.], ~~or fails to pay a state hazardous chemicals fee~~ is subject to a civil

1 fine of not more than fifteen thousand dollars for each separate offense. For  
2 purposes of this subdivision, each day of continued violation constitutes a  
3 separate offense. All civil fines collected under this subdivision must be deposited  
4 in the state general fund. The state and its political subdivisions and employees  
5 of the state or a political subdivision acting within the scope of their employment  
6 are not subject to the civil fines established in this subdivision.

7 b. Any person who knowingly falsifies information or who intentionally obstructs or  
8 impairs, by force, violence, physical interference, or obstacle, a representative of  
9 state or local government or state or local hazardous chemicals response  
10 personnel attempting to perform duties and functions in state or local emergency  
11 operations plans or complying with Public Law 99-499, SARA title III, is guilty of a  
12 class B misdemeanor. The state and its political subdivisions and employees of  
13 the state or a political subdivision acting within the scope of their employment are  
14 not subject to the penalty established in this subdivision.

15 5. If the director of the division of homeland security determines that a violation of this  
16 chapter has occurred, the director shall make all evidence available to the attorney  
17 general for use in any remedial action the attorney general's office determines  
18 appropriate, including injunctive relief. Nothing in this section may be construed to  
19 deny use of the remedies authorized under chapter 32-40.