

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1026**

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Agriculture and Transportation Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 60-02, and two new sections to  
2 chapter 60-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to financial criteria for grain buyer,  
3 grain broker, grain processor, and warehousemen licenses, and licensing and bonding for grain  
4 brokers and grain processors; to amend and reenact sections 60-02-01, 60-02-07, 60-02-09,  
5 60-02-11, 60-02-12, 60-02-19.1, 60-02-24, 60-02.1-01, 60-02.1-07, 60-02.1-08, 60-02.1-10,  
6 60-02.1-11, 60-02.1-13, 60-02.1-14, 60-02.1-15, 60-02.1-17, 60-02.1-19, 60-02.1-21,  
7 60-02.1-23, 60-02.1-29, 60-02.1-32, 60-02.1-41, subsection 2 of section 60-04-01, and section  
8 60-10-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to definitions of grain brokers and  
9 processors, the duties and powers of the commissioner, confidentiality records, scale ticket  
10 contents, credit-sale contracts, reports, annual licenses, fees, and bonds for grain buyers, grain  
11 brokers, grain processors, and warehousemen; to repeal sections 60-02.1-06, 60-02.1-07.1,  
12 60-02.1-26, 60-02.1-27, and 60-10-15; and to provide a penalty.

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

14 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **60-02-01. Definitions.**

17 In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- 18 1. "Commissioner" means the agriculture commissioner.
- 19 2. "Credit-sale contract" means a written contract for the sale of grain pursuant to which  
20 the sale price is to be paid or may be paid more than thirty days after the delivery or  
21 release of the grain for sale and which contains the notice provided in ~~subsection 7 of~~  
22 section 60-02-19.1. If a part of the sale price of a contract for the sale of grain is to be  
23 paid or may be paid more than thirty days after the delivery or release of the grain for  
24 sale, only such part of the contract is a credit-sale contract.

- 1           3.   "Deferred-payment contract" means a credit-sale contract for which the amount owed  
2           for the sale of grain has been established, but the payment is postponed until a later  
3           date.
- 4           4.   "Grain" means wheat, durum, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, flaxseed, speltz, safflower,  
5           sunflower seeds, tame mustard, peas, beans, soybeans, corn, clover, millet, alfalfa,  
6           and any other commercially grown grain or grass seed. "Grain" as defined in this  
7           chapter shall not include grain or grass seeds owned by or in the possession of the  
8           warehouseman ~~that~~which have been cleaned, processed, and specifically identified for  
9           an intended use of planting for reproduction and for which a warehouse receipt has  
10          not been issued.
- 11          4.5. "Noncredit-sale contract" means a contract for the sale of grain other than a credit-sale  
12          contract.
- 13          5.6. "Public warehouse" means any elevator, mill, warehouse, subterminal, grain  
14          warehouse, terminal warehouse, or other structure ~~or facility not licensed under the~~  
15          ~~United States Warehouse Act [7 U.S.C. 241-273]~~ in which grain is received for storing,  
16          buying, selling, shipping, or processing for compensation. Provided, however, that  
17          nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a processor to receive, store, or  
18          purchase any lot or kind of grain at said facility.
- 19          6.7. "Public warehouseman" means the person operating a public warehouse that is  
20          located or doing business within this state, whether or not such owner or operator  
21          resides within this state. The term does not include a person ~~who~~that is permitted to  
22          sell seed under chapter 4.1-53, if that person does not store grain for the public and  
23          buys grain only for processing and subsequent resale as seed, or an authorized dealer  
24          or agent of a seed company holding a permit in accordance with section 4.1-53-38.
- 25          7.8. "Receipts" means grain warehouse receipts, scale tickets, checks, or other  
26          memoranda given by a public warehouseman for, or as evidence of, the receipt,  
27          storage, or sale of grain except when such memoranda was received as a result of a  
28          credit-sale contract.
- 29          8.9. "Receiving station" means any facility other than an individually licensed warehouse  
30          that is used by a licensed public warehouseman to receive and temporarily store grain

1 prior to transferring the grain to the warehouseman's primary licensed warehouse  
2 location or delivering it directly to market.

3 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **60-02-07. Public warehouse license - Fee -Financial statement.**

6 A license must be obtained from the commissioner for each public warehouse in operation  
7 in this state.

8 1. a. All licenses issued under this section must be for a period of ~~two years~~one year  
9 and terminate on the thirty-first day of July in the year of expiration.

10 b. (1) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision a, the commissioner shall~~  
11 ~~license a warehouse annually, for the first six years of the warehouse's~~  
12 ~~operation.~~

13 (2) An initial annual license application that becomes effective on or after June  
14 first does not expire until July thirty-first of the following calendar year.

15 2. ~~No~~A license may not describe more than one public warehouse nor grant permission  
16 to operate any public warehouse other than the one described.

17 3. a. The annual license fee for a public warehouse is:

18 (1) Four hundred dollars for a warehouse ~~having a maximum capacity of two~~  
19 ~~hundred thousand bushels [7047.8 cubic meters]~~that purchased up to one  
20 million dollars worth of grain during the previous licensing period, or intends  
21 to purchase up to one million dollars worth of grain during the first year of  
22 operation;

23 (2) ~~Five~~Eight hundred fifty dollars for a warehouse ~~having a capacity of that~~  
24 ~~purchased more than two hundred thousand bushels [7047.8 cubic~~  
25 ~~meters]~~one million dollars worth of grain but not more than five hundred  
26 ~~thousand bushels [17619.54 cubic meters]~~ten million dollars worth of grain  
27 during the previous licensing period, or intends to purchase more than one  
28 million dollars worth of grain but not more than ten million dollars worth of  
29 grain during the first year of operation; and

- 1                   (3) ~~Six~~One thousand two hundred fifty dollars for a warehouse having a  
2                   capacity of more than five hundred thousand bushels [~~17619.54~~ cubic  
3                   meters].
- 4           b. The biennial license fee for a public warehouse is:
- 5                   (1) ~~Seven hundred dollars for a warehouse having a maximum capacity of two~~  
6                   ~~hundred thousand bushels [7047.8 cubic meters];~~
- 7                   (2) ~~One thousand dollars for a warehouse having a capacity of more than two~~  
8                   ~~hundred thousand bushels [7047.8 cubic meters] but not more than five~~  
9                   ~~hundred thousand bushels [17619.54 cubic meters]; and~~
- 10                  (3) ~~One thousand two hundred dollars for a warehouse having a capacity of~~  
11                  ~~more than five hundred thousand bushels [17619.54 cubic meters]~~that  
12                  purchased more than ten million dollars worth of grain during the previous  
13                  licensing period, or intends to purchase more than ten million dollars worth  
14                  of grain during the first year of operation.
- 15           e.b. An application for an annual license renewal that is received after July fifteenth  
16                  must include an additional one hundred dollar fee per warehouse. ~~An application~~  
17                  ~~for a biennial license renewal that is received after July fifteenth must include an~~  
18                  ~~additional two hundred dollar fee per warehouse.~~
- 19           4. If a public warehouseman operates two or more warehouses in the same city or  
20                  siding, in conjunction with each other and with the same working force, and keeps one  
21                  set of books and records for all such warehouses, and issues one series of scale  
22                  tickets, warehouse receipts, checks, and credit-sale contracts for the grain stored and  
23                  purchased therein, only one license is required for the operation of all such  
24                  warehouses. When two or more warehouses are operated under one license, the  
25                  license fee is based upon the combined ~~bushel capacity of~~value of the grain  
26                  purchased by the warehouses during the previous licensing period.
- 27           5. ~~If required to obtain United States department of agriculture approval of the~~  
28                  ~~commissioner's warehouse inspection program, the commissioner may require the~~  
29                  ~~applicant submit a current financial statement prepared in accordance with generally~~  
30                  ~~accepted accounting principles. A financial statement furnished under this subsection~~  
31                  ~~is a confidential trade secret and is not a public record.~~

1       **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 60-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
2 and enacted as follows:

3       **Public warehouse license - Financial criteria to be met.**

- 4       1. To be eligible to receive an annual license under section 60-02-07, an applicant shall  
5 submit current financial documentation to the commissioner verifying the applicant has  
6 satisfactory net worth and working capital, as determined by the commissioner.
- 7       2. A licensed public warehouseman or an applicant for initial licensure shall report  
8 balance sheets and income statements to the commissioner annually at the time of  
9 application for initial licensure or license renewal if the applicant purchased up to ten  
10 million dollars worth of grain during the previous licensing period, or intends to  
11 purchase up to ten million dollars worth of grain during the first year of operation.
- 12       3. As a condition of licensure under section 60-02-07, an applicant shall provide to the  
13 commissioner, upon request, any financial record or bank verification release the  
14 commissioner deems relevant for the purpose of verifying the financial information of  
15 an applicant pursuant to the requirements of this section.
- 16       4. As a condition of licensure under section 60-02-07, an applicant must:
- 17       a. Pass a criminal background check;
- 18       b. Have a satisfactory credit score, as determined by the commissioner; and
- 19       c. Be a responsible person with a good business reputation, as determined by the  
20 commissioner, who:
- 21           (1) Is in the public warehouse business;
- 22           (2) Has knowledge of, and experience with, generally accepted grain  
23 warehousing and handling practices;
- 24           (3) Is competent and willing to operate a public warehouse in accordance with  
25 state and federal regulations; and
- 26           (4) Has not committed fraud or a criminal offense indicating a lack of business  
27 integrity or honesty that undermines the person's responsibility as a  
28 warehouse operator.

29       **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **60-02-09. Bond filed by public warehouseman.**

2       1. Before any license is effective for any public warehouseman under this chapter, the  
3       applicant for the license shall file a bond with the commissioner which must:

4       4. a. Be in a sum not less than fiveone hundred thousand dollars for any one  
5       warehouse.

6       2. b. Be continuous, unless the corporate surety by certified mail notifies the licensee  
7       and the commissioner the surety bond will be canceled ninety days after receipt  
8       of the notice of cancellation.

9       3. c. Run to the state of North Dakota for the benefit of all persons storing or selling  
10       grain in that warehouse.

11       4. d. Be conditioned:

12       a. (1) For the faithful performance of the licensee's duties as a public  
13       warehouseman.

14       b. (2) For compliance with the provisions of law and the rules of the commissioner  
15       relating to the storage and purchase of grain by such warehouseman.

16       5. e. Specify the location of each public warehouse intended to be covered by such  
17       bond.

18       6. f. Be for the specific purpose of:

19       a. (1) Protecting the holders of outstanding receipts.

20       b. (2) Covering the costs incurred by the commissioner in the administration of  
21       chapter 60-04 in the event of the licensee's insolvency.

22       7. g. Not accrue to the benefit of any person entering into a credit-sale contract with a  
23       public warehouseman.

24       8. 2. The aggregate liability of the surety under a bond does not accumulate for each  
25       successive annual license renewal period during which the bond is in force but, for  
26       losses during any annual license renewal period, is limited in the aggregate to the  
27       bond amount stated or changed by appropriate endorsement or rider.

28       3. The commissioner shall set the amount of the bond and may require an increase in  
29       the amount of any bond, ~~from time to time~~, as the commissioner deems necessary to  
30       accomplish the purposes of this section. The amount of the bond must be:

31       a. Based on the dollar value of the grain purchased; and

1           b. Calculated using the value of the amount of grain intended to be purchased by a  
2           new licensee during the first year of operation, or the three-year rolling annual  
3           average of the value of grain purchased at the time of license renewal.

4           4. The surety on the bond must be a corporate surety company, approved by the  
5           commissioner, and authorized to do business within the state. The commissioner may  
6           accept cash, a negotiable instrument, or a bond executed by personal sureties in lieu  
7           of a surety bond if, in the commissioner's judgment, the cash, negotiable instrument,  
8           or personal surety bond properly will protect the holders of outstanding receipts. One  
9           bond only may be given for any line of elevators, mills, or warehouses, owned,  
10          controlled, or operated by one individual, firm, corporation, or limited liability company,  
11          and the bond must be construed to cover the elevators, mills, or warehouses, as a  
12          whole and not a specific amount for each.

13          **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14          amended and reenacted as follows:

15          **60-02-11. Scale ticket - Contents - Conversion.**

- 16          1. a. Every public warehouseman, upon receiving grain into the warehouse, shall  
17               issue a uniform scale ticket for each load of grain received. The scale tickets  
18               must be numbered consecutively, and one copy of each ticket must be retained  
19               and remain as a permanent record. The original ticket must be delivered to the  
20               person from ~~whom~~which the grain is received, upon receipt of each load of grain.
- 21          b. All scale tickets must be converted into cash, noncredit-sale contracts, credit-sale  
22               contracts, or warehouse receipts, within ~~forty-five~~thirty days after the grain is  
23               delivered to the warehouse, ~~unless:~~
- 24               (1) ~~The person to whom the scale ticket is issued signs a form waiving all rights~~  
25               ~~to trust benefits under section 60-04-03.1;~~
- 26               (2) ~~The form identifies by number each scale ticket to which the waiver applies;~~  
27               and
- 28               (3) ~~The form is signed by the warehouseman.~~
- 29          c. ~~The commissioner shall prepare the waiver form required by subdivision b and~~  
30               ~~make the form available to each warehouse.~~

- 1           d. ~~The warehouseman shall keep one copy of the signed waiver form with the~~  
2           ~~records of the warehouse, provide one copy to the person who was issued the~~  
3           ~~scale ticket and signed the form, and file one copy with the commissioner.~~
- 4           2. Nothing in this chapter requires a warehouseman to receive grain for storage. A  
5           warehouseman shall publish and post, in a conspicuous place in the warehouse, a  
6           publication identifying whether storage will be available to patrons or whether grain will  
7           be accepted via cash or a credit-sale contract arrangement.
- 8           3. A producer that fails to convert a scale ticket in accordance with subdivision b of  
9           subsection 1 forfeits any trust fund or credit-sale contract indemnity fund protection  
10           provided under sections 60-02-09, 60-02-19.1, and 60-04-03.1, and chapter 60-10.

11           **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13           **60-02-12. PenaltyViolations of chapter - Criminal penalty - Civil penalty.**

- 14           1. Any person ~~who shall violate~~violating any of the provisions of this chapter or any rule  
15           adopted pursuant to this chapter, if punishment is not specifically provided for, ~~shall be~~  
16           ~~guilty is:~~
- 17           a. Guilty of an infraction; and
- 18           b. Subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars for  
19           each violation.
- 20           2. The civil penalty may be adjudicated by a court or by the agriculture commissioner  
21           through an administrative hearing.

22           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-19.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24           **60-02-19.1. Credit-sale contracts.**

- 25           1. A warehouseman ~~shall~~may not purchase grain by a credit-sale contract except as  
26           provided in this section. All credit-sale contracts must be in writing and must be  
27           consecutively numbered at the time of printing the contract. The warehouseman shall  
28           maintain an accurate record of all credit-sale contract numbers, including the  
29           disposition of each numbered form, whether by execution, destruction, or otherwise.  
30           Each credit-sale contract must contain or provide for all of the following:
- 31           4. a. The seller's name and address.



- 1       2. b. The conditions of delivery.
- 2       3. c. The amount and kind of grain delivered.
- 3       4. d. The price per unit or basis of value.
- 4       5. e. The date payment is to be made.
- 5       6. f. The duration of the credit-sale contract.
- 6       7. g. Notice in a clear and prominent manner that the sale is not protected by the bond
- 7                   coverage provided for in section 60-02-09. However, if the warehouseman has
- 8                   obtained bond coverage in addition to that required by section 60-02-09 and such
- 9                   coverage extends to the benefit of credit-sale contracts, the warehouseman may
- 10                  state the same in the credit-sale contract along with the extent of such coverage.
- 11       2. The contract must be signed by both parties and executed in duplicate. An electronic
- 12                  signature satisfies the requirement. An unsigned contract must be considered an
- 13                  unconverted scale ticket in accordance with section 60-02-11. One copy shall be
- 14                  retained by the warehouseman and one copy shall be delivered to the seller. Upon
- 15                  revocation, termination, or cancellation of a warehouseman's license, the payment
- 16                  date for all credit-sale contracts shall, at the seller's option, be advanced to a date not
- 17                  later than thirty days after the effective date of the revocation, termination, or
- 18                  cancellation, and the purchase price for all unpriced grain shall be determined as of
- 19                  the effective date of revocation, termination, or cancellation in accordance with all
- 20                  other provisions of the contract. When a public warehouse is transferred under this
- 21                  chapter, credit-sale contracts may be assigned to another licensed public
- 22                  warehouseman ~~or facility-based grain buyer.~~
- 23       3. A warehouseman that uses deferred-payment contracts shall offer bond protection to
- 24                  producers.

25       **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26       amended and reenacted as follows:

27       **60-02-24. Reports to be made by public warehouseman - Penalty for failure.**

- 28       1. Each licensed and bonded public warehouseman shall:
- 29                  4. a. Prepare for each month a report giving facts and information called for on the
- 30                  form of report prepared by the commissioner. The report must contain or be
- 31                  verified by a written declaration the report is made under the penalties of perjury.

1           The report may be called for more frequently if the commissioner deems  
2           necessary. Information pertaining to the volume of grain handled is a confidential  
3           trade secret and is not a public record. The commissioner may make the  
4           information available for use by other governmental entities, but the  
5           commissioner may not release the information in a manner that jeopardizes the  
6           confidentiality of individual licensees.

7        2. b. File the report with the commissioner not later than the last day of the following  
8           month, and failure to file this report promptly will be considered cause for  
9           revoking the warehouse license after due notice and hearing.

10       3. c. Keep a separate account of the grain business, if the warehouseman is engaged  
11           in handling or selling any other commodity, and under no circumstances may the  
12           grain account and other accounts be mixed.

13       d. Submit additional information requested by the commissioner pursuant to a  
14           report or an inspection within five business days.

15       2. The commissioner may refuse to renew a license to any public warehouseman  
16           ~~who~~that fails to make a required report.

17       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18       amended and reenacted as follows:

19       **60-02.1-01. Definitions.**

20       In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

21       1. "Commissioner" means the agriculture commissioner.

22       2. "Credit-sale contract" means a written contract for the sale of grain pursuant to which  
23           the sale price is to be paid or may be paid more than thirty days after the delivery or  
24           release of the grain for sale and which contains the notice provided in ~~subsection 7 of~~  
25           section 60-02.1-14. If a part of the sale price of a contract for the sale of grain is to be  
26           paid or may be paid more than thirty days after the delivery or release of the grain for  
27           sale, only such part of the contract is a credit-sale contract.

28       3. "Deferred-payment contract" means a credit-sale contract for which the amount owed  
29           for the sale of grain has been established, but the payment is postponed until a later  
30           date.

- 1       4. "Facility" means a structure in which grain purchased by a grain buyer is received or  
2       held.
- 3       ~~4. "Facility-based grain buyer" means a grain buyer who operates a facility licensed~~  
4       ~~under the United States Warehouse Act [7 U.S.C. 241-273] where grain is received.~~
- 5       5. "Grain" means wheat, durum, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, flaxseed, speltz, safflower,  
6       sunflower seeds, tame mustard, peas, beans, soybeans, corn, clover, millet, alfalfa,  
7       and any other commercially grown grain or grass seed. "Grain" does not include grain  
8       or grass seeds owned by or in the possession of the grain buyer which have been  
9       cleaned, processed, and specifically identified for an intended use of planting for  
10      reproduction and for which a warehouse receipt has not been issued.
- 11      6. "Grain broker" means a person that:
- 12      a. Is involved in the negotiation of grain transactions in the state;  
13      b. Receives compensation from at least one party to the transaction; and  
14      c. Does not take title to the grain and is not under any financial or contractual  
15      obligation related to the transaction.
- 16      7. "Grain buyer" means any person, other than a public warehouseman as defined in  
17      chapter 60-02, whethat purchases or otherwise merchandises grain for compensation.  
18      The term includes roving grain buyers, grain brokers, and grain processors. The term  
19      does not include:
- 20      a. A producer of grain whethat purchases grain from other producers to complete a  
21      carload or truckload in which the greater portion of the load is grain grown by the  
22      producer or on-farm feedlot operations in which at least fifty percent of the  
23      livestock is owned by the owner of the farm.
- 24      b. A person whethat is permitted to sell seed under chapter 4.1-53, if that person  
25      buys grain only for processing and subsequent resale as seed.
- 26      c. A person whethat is an authorized dealer or agent of a seed company holding a  
27      permit in accordance with section 4.1-53-38.
- 28      ~~7-8.~~ "Grain processor" means an entity that purchases grain to process into end products  
29      of a substantially different makeup or nature than the original grain.
- 30      9. "Noncredit-sale contract" means a contract for the sale of grain other than a credit-sale  
31      contract.

1 ~~8-10.~~ "Receipts" means scale tickets, checks, or other memoranda given by a grain buyer  
2 for, or as evidence of, the receipt or sale of grain except when such memoranda was  
3 received as a result of a credit-sale contract.

4 ~~9-11.~~ "Roving grain buyer" means a grain buyer ~~wh~~that does not operate a facility where  
5 grain is received.

6 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **60-02.1-07. Grain buyer license - How obtained - Fee -~~Financial statement.~~**

9 1. Grain buyers that purchase, solicit, merchandise, or take possession of grain in this  
10 state shall obtain an annual license from the commissioner. Except as provided in this  
11 section, each license expires on July thirty-first of each year. If a licensee's initial  
12 license is issued effective after May thirty-first, that license expires on July thirty-first of  
13 the following year. ~~A facility-based grain buyer shall obtain a license for each receiving-~~  
14 ~~location operated in the state. If a grain buyer operates two or more facilities in the~~  
15 ~~same city or siding, in conjunction with each other and with the same working force,~~  
16 ~~and where but one set of books and records is kept for all such facilities, and scale~~  
17 ~~tickets and checks of but one series are issued for the grain, purchased, only one~~  
18 ~~license is required for the operation of all such facilities. The annual license fee for a~~  
19 ~~facility-based grain buyer is four:~~

20 a. Four hundred dollars for a grain buyer that purchased up to one million dollars  
21 worth of grain during the previous licensing period, or intends to purchase up to  
22 one million dollars worth of grain during the first year of operation;

23 b. Eight hundred dollars for a grain buyer that purchased more than one million  
24 dollars worth of grain but not more than ten million dollars worth of grain during  
25 the previous licensing period, or intends to purchase more than one million  
26 dollars worth of grain but not more than ten million dollars worth of grain during  
27 the first year of operation; and a

28 c. One thousand two hundred dollars for a grain buyer that purchased more than  
29 ten million dollars worth of grain during the previous licensing period, or intends  
30 to purchase more than ten million dollars worth of grain during the first year of  
31 operation.

1       2. A license renewal application that is received after July fifteenth must be assessed an  
2            additional one hundred dollar fee per receiving location.

3       ~~If required to obtain United States department of agriculture approval of the commissioner's~~  
4 ~~grain buyer inspection program, the commissioner may require grain buyers submit a current~~  
5 ~~financial statement prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A~~  
6 ~~financial statement furnished under this section is a confidential trade secret and is not a public~~  
7 ~~record.~~

8       3. A license issued under this section is not transferable.

9       4. The commissioner may refuse to issue, renew, or may revoke a license:

10       a. If the licensee or applicant has been convicted of a criminal offense;

11       b. If the licensee or applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of this  
12           section;

13       c. If the commissioner has evidence the licensee negotiated in bad faith; or

14       d. For any other reason determined by the commissioner.

15       5. A licensed grain buyer shall submit a monthly report to the commissioner by the tenth  
16 day of each month. The report must include the total volume of each commodity  
17 brokered in the preceding month.

18       6. A licensed grain buyer shall notify each potential commodity seller of the identity of the  
19 potential commodity buyer before the final confirmation of the transaction.

20       7. Before a license is effective for a grain buyer under this section, the licensee or  
21 applicant shall file a bond with the commissioner for not less than one hundred  
22 thousand dollars.

23       **SECTION 11.** A new section to chapter 60-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 created and enacted as follows:

25       **Grain buyer license - Financial criteria to be met.**

26       1. To be eligible to receive an annual license under section 60-02.1-07, an applicant shall  
27 submit current financial documentation to the commissioner verifying the applicant has  
28 satisfactory net worth and working capital, as determined by the commissioner.

29       2. A licensed grain buyer or an applicant for initial licensure shall report balance sheets  
30 and income statements to the commissioner annually at the time of application for  
31 initial licensure or license renewal if the applicant purchased up to ten million dollars

1           worth of grain during the previous licensing period, or intends to purchase up to ten  
2           million dollars worth of grain during the first year of operation.

3        3. As a condition of licensure under section 60-02.1-07, an applicant shall provide to the  
4           commissioner, upon request, any financial record or bank verification release the  
5           commissioner deems relevant for the purpose of verifying the financial information of  
6           an applicant pursuant to the requirements of this section.

7        4. As a condition of licensure under section 60-02.1-07, an applicant must:

8           a. Pass a criminal background check;

9           b. Have a satisfactory credit score, as determined by the commissioner; and

10          c. Be a responsible individual with a good business reputation, as determined by  
11           the commissioner, who:

12           (1) Is in the grain buying business;

13           (2) Has knowledge of, and experience with, generally accepted grain buying  
14           and handling practices;

15           (3) Is competent and willing to operate as a grain buyer in accordance with  
16           state and federal regulations; and

17           (4) Has not committed fraud or a criminal offense indicating a lack of business  
18           integrity or honesty that undermines the person's responsibility as a grain  
19           buyer.

20        **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21        amended and reenacted as follows:

22        **60-02.1-08. Bond filed by grain buyer.**

23        1. Before any license is effective for any grain buyer under this chapter, the applicant for  
24           the license shall file a bond with the commissioner which must:

25           1. a. Be in a sum not less than ~~ten~~one hundred thousand dollars.

26           2. b. Be continuous, unless the corporate surety by certified mail notifies the licensee  
27           and the commissioner the surety bond will be canceled ninety days after receipt  
28           of the notice of cancellation.

29           3. c. Run to the state of North Dakota for the benefit of all persons selling grain to or  
30           through the grain buyer.

31           4. d. Be conditioned:

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- 1           a. (1) For the faithful performance of the licensee's duties as a grain buyer.
- 2           b. (2) For compliance with the provisions of law and the rules of the commissioner
- 3                       relating to the purchase of grain by such grain buyer.
- 4       5. ~~e. For facility-based grain buyers, specify the location of each facility intended to be~~
- 5                       ~~covered by the bond.~~
- 6       6. Be for the specific purpose of:
- 7           a. (1) Protecting the sellers of grain.
- 8           b. (2) Covering the costs incurred by the commissioner in the administration of the
- 9                       licensee's insolvency.
- 10       7. f. Not accrue to the benefit of any person entering a credit-sale contract with a
- 11                       grain buyer.
- 12       ~~8.2.~~ The aggregate liability of the surety under a bond does not accumulate for each
- 13                       successive annual license renewal period during which the bond is in force but, for
- 14                       losses during any annual license renewal period, is limited in the aggregate to the
- 15                       bond amount stated or changed by appropriate endorsement or rider.
- 16       3. The commissioner shall set the amount of the bond and may require an increase in
- 17                       the amount of any bond as the commissioner deems necessary to accomplish the
- 18                       purposes of this section.
- 19       4. The amount of the bond for a grain buyer must be based on the dollar value of the
- 20                       grain purchased, solicited, or merchandised.
- 21       5. A grain buyer shall report purchases, solicitations, and merchandising agreements to
- 22                       the commissioner monthly.
- 23       6. The surety on the bond must be a corporate surety company, approved by the
- 24                       commissioner, and authorized to do business within the state. The commissioner may
- 25                       accept cash, a negotiable instrument, or a bond executed by personal sureties in lieu
- 26                       of a surety bond when, in the commissioner's judgment, cash, a negotiable instrument,
- 27                       or a personal surety bond properly will protect the holders of outstanding receipts.
- 28                       ~~Only one bond may be required for any series of facilities operated by a facility-based~~
- 29                       ~~grain buyer, and the bond must be construed to cover those facilities as a whole and~~
- 30                       ~~not a specific amount for each.~~

1       **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **60-02.1-10. Grain buyer license to be posted or carried - Penalty.**

4       ~~The license obtained by a facility-based grain buyer shall be posted in a conspicuous place~~  
5 ~~in the buyer's facility.~~ A roving grain buyer shall have the buyer's license in possession at all  
6 times. A grain buyer ~~who~~that transacts business without first procuring a license and giving a  
7 bond is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

8       **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10       **60-02.1-11. Revocation and suspension.**

11       The commissioner may suspend or revoke the license of any grain buyer for cause upon  
12 notice and hearing. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the license of a grain  
13 buyer must automatically be suspended for failure at any time to ~~have or to maintain either a~~  
14 ~~bond or insurance policy in the amount and type required.~~ During a suspension of a license a  
15 ~~facility-based grain buyer, upon the commissioner's approval, may operate its facility and~~  
16 ~~purchase or redeliver grain previously received, but may not receive additional grain for~~  
17 ~~purchase, shipping, or processing. Grain may be sold only with the prior approval of the~~  
18 ~~commissioner.~~

19       **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21       **60-02.1-13. ~~Penalty~~Violations of chapter - Criminal penalty - Civil penalty.**

- 22       1. ~~Any person who violates~~violating any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted  
23 pursuant to this chapter, if punishment is not specifically provided for, is guilty:  
24       a. Guilty of an infraction; and  
25       b. Subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars for  
26       each violation.  
27       2. The civil penalty may be adjudicated by a court or by the agriculture commissioner  
28       through an administrative hearing.

29       **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
30 amended and reenacted as follows:



1       **60-02.1-14. Credit-sale contracts.**

2       1. A grain buyer may not purchase grain by a credit-sale contract except as provided in  
3       this section. All credit-sale contracts must be in writing and must be consecutively  
4       numbered at the time of printing the contract. The grain buyer shall maintain an  
5       accurate record of all credit-sale contract numbers, including the disposition of each  
6       numbered form, whether by execution, destruction, or otherwise. Each credit-sale  
7       contract must contain or provide for all of the following:

8       4. a. The seller's name and address.

9       2. b. The conditions of delivery.

10      3. c. The amount and kind of grain delivered.

11      4. d. The price per unit or basis of value.

12      5. e. The date payment is to be made.

13      6. f. The duration of the credit-sale contract.

14      7. g. Notice in a clear and prominent manner that the sale is not protected by the bond  
15         coverage provided for in section 60-02.1-08. However, if the grain buyer has  
16         obtained bond coverage in addition to that required by section 60-02.1-08 and  
17         the coverage extends to the benefit of credit-sale contracts, the grain buyer may  
18         state that fact in the credit-sale contract along with the extent of such coverage.

19      2. The contract must be signed by both parties and executed in duplicate. An electronic  
20         signature satisfies the requirement. A holder of an unsigned contract is not eligible for  
21         any protection provided by chapter 60-10. One copy must be retained by the grain  
22         buyer and one copy must be delivered to the seller. Upon revocation, termination, or  
23         cancellation of a grain buyer's license, the payment date for all credit-sale contracts, at  
24         the seller's option, must be advanced to a date not later than thirty days after the  
25         effective date of the revocation, termination, or cancellation, and the purchase price for  
26         all unpriced grain must be determined as of the effective date of revocation,  
27         termination, or cancellation in accordance with all other provisions of the contract.

28         ~~When a facility is transferred under this chapter, credit-sale contracts may be assigned~~  
29         ~~to another licensed facility-based grain buyer or public warehouseman.~~

30      3. A buyer that offers deferred-payment contracts shall offer bond protection to  
31         producers.

1       **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **60-02.1-15. Discrimination by grain buyer prohibited.**

4       1. A grain buyer may not discriminate:

5       1. a. In the buying, selling, receiving, and handling of grain or in the charges made or  
6 the service rendered to owners of purchased grain;

7       2. b. In the receiving of grain offered for sale, but this chapter may not be construed to  
8 require a processor to receive or purchase any lot or kinds of grain;

9       3. c. In regard to the persons offering such grain for sale; or

10       4. d. Between points or stations except as the marketing factors or transportation  
11 costs or grain quality premiums may warrant.

12       2. A grain buyer is not required to receive any grain that is heating or otherwise out of  
13 condition. ~~A facility-based grain buyer shall post grain prices paid in a conspicuous~~  
14 ~~place in the office or driveway of the buyer's place of business.~~

15       **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17       **60-02.1-17. Reports to be made by grain buyers - Penalty for failure.**

18       1. Each licensed and bonded grain buyer shall:

19       1. a. Prepare for each month a report giving facts and information called for on the  
20 form of report prepared by the commissioner. The report must contain or be  
21 verified by a written declaration the report is made under the penalties of perjury.

22       The report may be called for more frequently if the commissioner deems  
23 necessary. Information pertaining to the volume of grain handled is a confidential  
24 trade secret and is not a public record. The commissioner may make this  
25 information available for use by other governmental entities, but the information  
26 may not be released by those entities in a manner that jeopardizes the  
27 confidentiality of individual licensees.

28       2. b. File the report with the commissioner not later than the last day of the following  
29 month. Failure to file this report promptly will be considered cause for revoking  
30 the grain buyer license after due notice and hearing.

1       ~~3.~~    c.    Keep a separate account of the grain business, if the grain buyer is engaged in  
2                    handling or selling any other commodity, and under no circumstances may the  
3                    grain account and other accounts be mixed.

4                    d.    Submit additional information requested by the commissioner pursuant to a  
5                    report or an inspection within five business days.

6        2.    The commissioner may refuse to renew a license to any grain buyer ~~whethat~~ fails to  
7                    make a required report.

8        **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9        amended and reenacted as follows:

10        **60-02.1-19. Federal grades to control - Grades to be posted.**

11        All grain buyers shall purchase grain, except dry edible beans, in accordance with the  
12        official grades established from time to time by the secretary of agriculture of the United States,  
13        except as otherwise provided in applicable rules and regulations adopted by federal officials  
14        pursuant to law. ~~A facility-based grain buyer shall post in a conspicuous place in the buyer's-~~  
15        ~~facility the official grades so established and also any change that may be made from time to~~  
16        ~~time.~~ A grain buyer of dry edible beans shall purchase and deliver beans in accordance with the  
17        buyer's policy, which must be filed with the commissioner and, if applicable, posted in a  
18        conspicuous place in the buyer's facility. Other grading standards may be used if mutually  
19        agreed to in writing by the grain buyer and the owner of the grain. However, the owner may  
20        demand the use of federal grading standards. After hearing, the commissioner may prohibit the  
21        use of nonfederal grades.

22        **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23        amended and reenacted as follows:

24        **60-02.1-21. Grain to be kept insured for benefit of owner by grain buyer.**

25        A license may not be issued to a ~~facility-based grain buyer~~processor unless all  
26        company-owned and unconverted scale ticket grain is kept fully insured at the expense of the  
27        grain buyer for the benefit of the owner at the current market value of the grain against loss by  
28        fire, lightning, internal explosion, windstorm, cyclone, tornado, and such other risks of direct  
29        physical loss as provided by the insurer in a policy approved by the insurance commissioner. An  
30        insurance policy may not be transferred or assigned to any person for any purpose.

1       **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **60-02.1-23. Destruction of grain - First lien by holder of outstanding receipt.**

4       The holder of an unconverted scale ticket or other comparable receipt issued by any  
5 ~~facility-based grain buyer~~processor shall have a first lien, to the extent of the value of the grain  
6 at the time of loss at the place where held, on all insurance of the grain buyer for any loss  
7 sustained by the receipt holder, on account of the loss of such grain by fire, tornado, or any other  
8 cause covered by such insurance policy.

9       **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11       **60-02.1-29. Appointment of commissioner.**

12       Upon the insolvency of any ~~existing~~ grain buyer, the commissioner shall apply to the district  
13 court of Burleigh County for authority to take all action necessary to act as trustee of the trust  
14 fund described in section 60-02.1-30. ~~If the insolvency involves a facility-based grain buyer,~~  
15 ~~application must be to the district court of a county in which the licensee operates a licensed-~~  
16 ~~facility.~~ Upon notice to the licensee as the court prescribes, but not exceeding twenty days, or  
17 upon waiver of notice in writing by the licensee, the court shall hear and determine the  
18 application in a summary manner. If the court determines that the licensee is insolvent within  
19 the meaning of this chapter and that it would be in the best interests of the receipt holders that  
20 the commissioner secure and execute the trust, the court shall issue an order granting the  
21 application, without bond, and the commissioner shall proceed to exercise the commissioner's  
22 authority without further direction from the court.

23       Upon the filing of the commissioner's application, the court may issue ex parte a temporary  
24 order to preserve or protect the assets of the trust fund until the court issues its order granting  
25 or denying the application.

26       **SECTION 23.** A new section to chapter 60-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 created and enacted as follows:

28       **Joinder - Grain broker.**

29       A licensed grain broker may be joined as a party to an insolvency proceeding if the  
30 commissioner determines the grain broker negotiated a grain transaction:

31       1. With an insolvent grain buyer; or

1        2. That was discriminatory, predatory, or in bad faith.

2        **SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-32 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
3 amended and reenacted as follows:

4        **60-02.1-32. Notice to receiptholders and credit-sale contract claimants.**

5        Upon the commissioner's appointment, the commissioner may take possession of relevant  
6 books and records of the licensee. If the insolvency involves a roving grain buyer, the  
7 commissioner shall publish a notice of the commissioner's appointment once each week for two  
8 consecutive weeks in all daily newspapers in the state and may notify, by ordinary mail, the  
9 holders of record of outstanding receipts and those who are potential credit-sale contract  
10 claimants, disclosed by the licensee's records. If the insolvency involves a ~~facility-based grain~~  
11 ~~buyerprocessor~~, the notice must be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a  
12 newspaper in the county in which the ~~warehousefacility~~ is located. The notice must require  
13 outstanding receiptholders and credit-sale contract claimants to file their claims with the  
14 commissioner along with the receipts, contracts, or other evidence of the claims required by the  
15 commissioner. If an outstanding receiptholder or credit-sale contract claimant fails to submit a  
16 claim within forty-five days after the last publication of the notice or a longer time set by the  
17 commissioner, the commissioner is relieved of further duty in the administration of the  
18 insolvency on behalf of the receiptholder or credit-sale contract claimant and the receiptholder  
19 may be barred from participation in the trust fund, and the credit-sale contract claimant may be  
20 barred from payment for any amount due. Outstanding receiptholders and credit-sale contract  
21 claimants are not parties to the insolvency action unless admitted by the court upon a motion for  
22 intervention.

23        **SECTION 25. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-02.1-41 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25        **60-02.1-41. Roving grain buyers - Exception - Applicability of provisions.**

26        Notwithstanding any other law, this chapter does not apply to any person that purchases,  
27 solicits, or merchandises grain, which has been cleaned, processed, and made ready for  
28 consumption, from a public warehouseman licensed and bonded under chapter 60-02 ~~or from a~~  
29 ~~facility-based grain buyer licensed and bonded under this chapter~~. If the person engages in any  
30 activity other than those described in this section, the person is subject to the law governing  
31 those other activities.

1       **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 60-04-01 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3       2. "Credit-sale contract" means a written contract for the sale of grain pursuant to which  
4       the sale price is to be paid or may be paid more than thirty days after the delivery or  
5       release of the grain for sale and which contains the notice provided in ~~subsection 7 of~~  
6       section 60-02-19.1. When a part of the sale price of a contract for the sale of grain is  
7       to be paid or may be paid more than thirty days after the delivery or release of the  
8       grain for sale, only such part of the contract is a credit-sale contract.

9       **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 60-10-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11       **60-10-16. Roving grain buyers - Exception - Applicability of provisions.**

12       Notwithstanding any other law, this chapter does not apply to any person that purchases,  
13 solicits, or merchandises grain, which has been cleaned, processed, and made ready for  
14 consumption, from a public warehouseman licensed and bonded under chapter 60-02 ~~or from a~~  
15 ~~facility-based grain buyer licensed and bonded under chapter 60-02.1.~~ If the person engages in  
16 any activity other than those described in this section, the person is subject to the law governing  
17 those other activities.

18       **SECTION 28. REPEAL.** Sections 60-02.1-06, 60-02.1-07.1, 60-02.1-26, 60-02.1-27, and  
19 60-10-15 of the North Dakota Century Code are repealed.