

**Land Department
Budget 226
House Bill No. 1013**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1999-2001 legislative appropriation	19.00		\$7,419,679	\$7,419,679
1997-99 legislative appropriation	<u>19.00</u>	<u> </u>	<u>7,463,790</u>	<u>7,463,790</u>
1999-2001 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1997-99 appropriation	0.00	\$0	(\$44,111)	(\$44,111)

NOTE: The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts include \$3,163 of special funds for the agency's share of the \$5.4 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for special market equity adjustments for classified employees and \$616 of special funds for the agency's share of the \$1.4 million funding pool appropriated to OMB for assisting agencies in providing \$35 per month minimum salary increases in July 1999 and July 2000.

Item Description

Annual payments to counties - Section 2 of 1999 Senate Bill No. 2088 (North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 15-04-23) provides that by March 1 of each year, the State Board of University and School Lands shall pay, to counties where original grant lands are located, an annual fee for the repair, maintenance, and construction of roads and bridges in townships where original grant lands are located. The fee may not exceed five percent of the net revenue generated from the original grant lands located in that county.

Unclaimed property examinations and education programs - Section 5 of 1999 House Bill No. 1013 provides legislative intent that during the 1999-2001 biennium, the administrator of the Abandoned Property Office (a division of the Land Department) give priority to unclaimed property holder education programs and when conducting examinations under NDCC Chapter 47-30.1, give priority to examinations of financial institutions and hospitals. Chapter 47-30.1 (the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act) defines abandoned property as property that has remained unclaimed by the owner for more than three years after it became payable and distributable. Although holders of unclaimed property are required to remit the property to the Land Department, Section 47-30.1-30 authorizes the Land Department to examine the records of any person to determine compliance with Chapter 47-30.1.

Contracting for unclaimed property examinations - Section 6 of 1999 House Bill No. 1013 amends NDCC Section 47-30.1-30 to provide that the administrator of the Abandoned Property Office may not contract for an unclaimed property examination done within this state.

Status/Result

In February 2000 the Land Department distributed \$129,747 to 48 counties based on calendar year 1999 lease and rental income. Payments are made from the various trust funds, including the common schools trust fund, which receive income from original grant lands. The February 2000 distribution was five percent of net calendar year 1999 revenue of \$2.6 million.

During the 1999-2001 biennium, the Land Department has initiated seven new unclaimed property audits, of those, three at hospitals and nursing homes and two at financial institutions.

Unclaimed property holder education seminars are held to provide information on unclaimed property laws and reporting requirements to businesses likely to be holders of unclaimed property, such as hospitals and financial institutions. During the period July 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999, the Land Department conducted eight seminars for unclaimed property holders in North Dakota. The department did not conduct any unclaimed property education seminars during the corresponding period of the 1997-99 biennium.

In compliance with this section, the Land Department has not contracted for any unclaimed property examinations conducted within North Dakota during the 1999-2001 biennium. The department previously contracted for three in-state examinations completed during the 1997-99 biennium.