

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 1096  
(Energy and Natural Resources Committee)  
(At the request of the State Engineer)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 61-04-01.1, sections 61-04-06.2, 61-04-09, and 61-04-31, and subdivision i of subsection 2 of section 61-04.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of domestic water use, the term and inspection of a water permit, reservation of waters, and weather modification permits.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 61-04-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. "Domestic use" means the use of water by an individual, ~~or by at least one~~ family unit, or household, obtaining water from the same system for personal needs and for household purposes, including heating, drinking, washing, sanitary, and culinary uses; irrigation of land not exceeding five acres [2.0 hectares] in area for each family unit or household for noncommercial gardens, orchards, lawns, trees, or shrubbery; and for household pets and domestic animals kept for household sustenance and not for sale or commercial use, ~~when the water is supplied by the individual or family unit. Also included within this use are "domestic rural uses" which must be defined by the state engineer by rule.~~

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04-06.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**61-04-06.2. Terms of permit.**

The state engineer may issue a conditional permit for less than the amount of water requested, ~~but in no case may.~~ Except for water permits for incorporated municipalities or rural water systems, the state engineer may not issue a permit for more water than can be beneficially used for the purposes stated in the application ~~except that water.~~ Water permits for incorporated municipalities or rural water systems may contain water in excess of present needs if based upon ~~reasonable projections of what~~ may reasonably be necessary for the future water needs/requirements of the municipality or the rural water system. The state engineer may require modification of the plans and specifications for the appropriation. The state engineer may issue a permit subject to fees for water use, ~~terms, and conditions, restrictions, limitations, and termination dates~~ the state engineer considers necessary to protect the rights of others and the public interest. ~~Conditions and limitations so attached must be related to matters within the state engineer's jurisdiction of the state engineer; provided, however, that all.~~ All conditions attached to any permit issued ~~prior to before~~ July 1, 1975, are binding upon the permittee.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**61-04-09. Application to beneficial use - Inspection - Perfected water permit.**

~~On or before the date set for the application of the water to a~~ After the permit's beneficial use date, or upon notice from the ~~owner/permitholder~~ that water has been applied to a beneficial use, the state engineer shall ~~causenotify the conditional water permitholder and inspect the works to be inspected,~~ after due notice to the holder of the conditional water permit. ~~Such. The~~ inspection shall be thorough and complete, ~~in order to~~ must determine the safety, efficiency, and actual capacity of the works, ~~its safety, and efficiency.~~ If the works are not properly and safely constructed, the state engineer may require the necessary changes to be made within ~~such time as the state engineer deems~~ a reasonable

~~and shall not issue a perfected water permit until such changes are made~~time. Failure to make the changes within the time prescribed by the state engineer shall cause postponement of the permit's priority ~~under the water permit~~date to the date the changes are actually made to the satisfaction of the state engineer, ~~and any. Any~~ intervening application submitted ~~prior to~~before the date the changes are actually made ~~may~~will have the benefit of ~~such~~the postponement of priority. When the works are ~~found in satisfactory condition, after inspection~~properly and safely constructed and inspected, the state engineer shall issue the perfected water permit, setting forth the actual capacity of the works and ~~such~~the limitations or conditions upon the water permit as stated in the conditional water permit ~~as authorized by section 61-04-06.2; provided, however, that all. All~~ conditions attached to any permit issued ~~prior to~~before July 1, 1975, ~~shall be~~are binding upon the permittee.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 61-04-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**61-04-31. Reservation of waters - Public hearing - Notice.**

1. Whenever it appears necessary to the state engineer, or when so directed by the commission, the state engineer may by regulation:
  - a. Reserve reserve and set aside waters for beneficial utilizationuse in the future; and
  - b. ~~When sufficient information and data are lacking to allow for the making of sound decisions, withdraw various waters of the state from additional appropriations until such data and information are available.~~
2. a. Prior to~~Before~~ the adoption of a regulation under this section, the state engineer shall conduct a public hearing in each county ~~in which~~where waters relating to the regulation are located. ~~The~~At least seven days before the date set for the public hearing shall be preceded by, a notice placed in a newspaper of general circulation must be published in the official county newspapers within each of the counties.
3. b. Regulations adopted hereunder shall be~~are~~ subject to chapter 28-32.
2. When sufficient information or data is lacking to allow for sound decision-making on a water permit application, the state engineer may withdraw various waters of the state from additional appropriations until sufficient data or information is available. Water permit applications pending from these sources will be placed in a deferred status.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision i of subsection 2 of section 61-04.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- i. The applicant has registered, with the North Dakota aeronautics commission, any aircraft ~~and pilots~~ intended to be used in connection with the operation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1096.

House Vote:    Yeas 91            Nays 0            Absent 3

Senate Vote:    Yeas 41            Nays 5            Absent 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
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