

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1535**

Introduced by

Representatives Davis, Finley-DeVille, Martinson, Satrom, Schneider, Brown, Sanford,  
Swiontek

Senators Braunberger, Cory, Lee

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-03 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the feather alert notice system; to amend and reenact section  
3 54-35-23 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the committee on tribal and state  
4 relations; and to provide an appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 39-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Feather alert notice system.**

- 9 1. The superintendent, in cooperation with the bureau of criminal investigation and the  
10 division of state radio of the department of emergency services, shall establish a  
11 feather alert notice system to activate an urgent bulletin using the emergency alert  
12 system to air a description of an indigenous individual who has been reported to law  
13 enforcement as missing and to aid in the location of that individual.
- 14 2. A law enforcement agency may request the bureau of criminal investigation or the  
15 superintendent to activate a feather alert notice.
- 16 3. The bureau of criminal investigation, in cooperation with the highway patrol, shall  
17 prepare an operational plan to prepare for and respond to requests for activation of a  
18 feather alert notice. The plan must include the role and requirements of the division of  
19 state radio of the department of emergency services in broadcasting an alert to the  
20 public, including alerts in indigenous languages when required.
- 21 4. The Indian affairs commission shall oversee the implementation of the feather alert  
22 notice system, and serve as the primary liaison between tribal, state, and federal  
23 agencies.

- 1        5. The superintendent, in cooperation with a representative of each federally recognized  
2        tribe in the state, shall:
- 3        a. Promote public trust and understanding of the feather alert notice system through  
4        community outreach and law enforcement training programs.
- 5        b. Hold an annual public meeting and make recommendations to the director of the  
6        bureau of criminal investigation concerning improvements to the feather alert  
7        notice system.

8        **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-35-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9        amended and reenacted as follows:

10       **54-35-23. Committee on tribal and state relations - Membership - Duties.**

- 11       1. The committee on tribal and state relations is composed of seven members as follows:
- 12       a. A chairman designated by the chairman of the legislative management;
- 13       b. Three members of the house of representatives, two of whom must be selected  
14       by the leader representing the majority faction of the house of representatives  
15       and one of whom must be selected by the leader representing the minority  
16       faction of the house of representatives; and
- 17       c. Three members of the senate, two of whom must be selected by the leader  
18       representing the majority faction of the senate and one of whom must be  
19       selected by the leader representing the minority faction of the senate.
- 20       2. The committee shall meet at such times and places as determined by the chairman.  
21       The legislative council shall provide staffing for the committee.
- 22       3. The committee shall conduct joint meetings with the North Dakota tribal governments'  
23       task force to study tribal-state issues, including government-to-government relations,  
24       human services, education, corrections, and issues related to the promotion of  
25       economic development and shall evaluate the feather alert notice system under  
26       section 1 of this Act. After the joint meetings have concluded, the committee shall meet  
27       to prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation  
28       required to implement those recommendations, to the legislative management.
- 29       4. The members of the committee are entitled to compensation from the legislative  
30       council for attendance at committee meetings at the rate provided for members of the  
31       legislative assembly for attendance at interim committee meetings and are entitled to

1 reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending the meetings in the amounts  
2 provided by law for other state officers.

3 5. a. The North Dakota tribal governments' task force is composed of six members as  
4 follows:

5 (1) The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive  
6 director's designee;

7 (2) The chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, or the chairman's  
8 designee;

9 (3) The chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, or the chairman's designee;

10 (4) The chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation,  
11 or the chairman's designee;

12 (5) The chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, or the  
13 chairman's designee; and

14 (6) The chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse  
15 Reservation, or the chairman's designee.

16 b. If the executive director of the Indian affairs commission or any of the tribal  
17 chairmen appoint a designee to serve on the task force, only one individual may  
18 serve as that designee during the biennium. A substitute designee may be  
19 appointed by the executive director of the Indian affairs commission or a tribal  
20 chairman in the event of the death, incapacity, resignation, or refusal to serve of  
21 the initial designee.

22 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION - FEATHER ALERT**

23 **NOTICE SYSTEM - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION.** There is appropriated out of any  
24 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of  
25 \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the Indian affairs commission for the  
26 purpose of coordinating, implementing, and evaluating the feather alert notice system, and for  
27 one full-time equivalent position, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,  
28 2027. Funding under this section is available for salaries and wages, operating expenses, and  
29 capital assets.