

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, Kessel, Patten

Representatives Frelich, J. Olson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the legislative council for the purpose of
2 contracting with a consultant to study the feasibility and desirability of creating a regenerative
3 grazing ranch in the state; and to provide for a legislative management study.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - CONSULTANTS FOR**
6 **INTERIM STUDY - ONE-TIME FUNDING.**

7 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
8 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$49,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the
9 legislative council for the purpose of contracting with a consultant to study the feasibility and
10 desirability of creating a regenerative grazing ranch in the state, for the biennium beginning
11 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a
12 one-time funding item.

13 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - REGENERATIVE GRAZING**
14 **PRACTICES.**

- 15 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the feasibility and
16 desirability of recognizing rangeland ecosystems as a sink for atmospheric carbon
17 dioxide and researching the role of regenerative grazing practices on carbon fluxes
18 within the state. The study must:
- 19 a. Collect scientific data necessary to understand regenerative grazing effects on
20 atmospheric carbon dioxide fluxes, rangeland productivity, and other ecosystem
21 services;
 - 22 b. Determine a platform for ranchers and stakeholders to connect and learn how
23 regenerative grazing practices alter carbon and water fluxes with a working cattle
24 herd and how this data could improve ranching sustainability;

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- 1 c. Determine whether establishing a regenerative grazing ranch, which would be
- 2 known as grand ranch and would function similar to grand sky and grand farm,
- 3 would bolster the energy and ranching industries of the state;
- 4 d. Identify sustainable rangeland carbon management practices and funding
- 5 sources and organizations interested in working with ranchers and stakeholders;
- 6 e. Implement grazing management as part of the carbon solution relating to beef
- 7 production and carbon yields; and
- 8 f. Receive input from the agriculture commissioner, department of mineral
- 9 resources, and stakeholders from the ranching and energy industries of the state.
- 10 2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together
- 11 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
- 12 legislative assembly.