

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2373
(Senators Erbele, Lemm, Luick)
(Representatives Brandenburg, Hauck, Schreiber-Beck)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of the livestock-friendly county designation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Livestock-friendly county designation - Establishment by commissioner.

1. The commissioner shall establish a livestock-friendly county designation to recognize and assist efforts to develop, maintain, or expand livestock sectors within the counties of this state.
2. A county may apply to the commissioner to become designated as a livestock-friendly county. A county is eligible for the designation under this section if the county:
 - a. Through its board of county commissioners, has adopted and enacted a resolution expressing interest in developing, maintaining, or expanding livestock production and processing sectors within the county;
 - b. Intends to collaborate with all appropriate political subdivisions within the county to develop, maintain, or expand livestock production and processing sectors;
 - c. Has submitted a plan detailing the necessary actions to develop, maintain, or expand livestock production and processing sectors;
 - d. Has conducted and completed a study identifying suitable locations for rural economic development, including locations for confined animal feeding operations, agricultural processing facilities, agricultural storage facilities, and other agricultural-related development; and
 - e. Has disclosed other existing or planned activities and initiatives within the county to develop, maintain, or expand livestock production and processing sectors.
3. If the commissioner determines a county has complied with the provisions in subsection 2, the commissioner shall publicly designate the county as a livestock-friendly county.
4. To retain the designation, a county shall submit an application to the commissioner every four years.
5. The commissioner may revoke a county's designation as a livestock-friendly county if the commissioner determines the county no longer meets the requirements for the designation under subsection 2.
6. The commissioner may adopt rules to effectuate the provisions of this section.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2373.

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 1

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State