

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2009 - Funding Summary

	Base Budget	Final Legislative Action	Comparison to Base Budget
Department of Agriculture			
Salaries and wages	\$15,717,126	\$16,591,014	\$873,888
Operating expenses	6,848,052	7,426,173	578,121
Capital assets	15,000	7,000	(8,000)
Grants	9,031,774	12,953,969	3,922,195
State Board of Animal Health	865,718	865,718	
Wildlife services	1,457,400	1,657,400	200,000
Crop Harmonization Board	75,000	75,000	
Pipeline restoration and reclamation	200,000	200,000	
Ag. Products Utilization Commission	1,760,417	5,110,417	3,350,000
North Dakota trade office	1,600,000	2,100,000	500,000
Bioscience innovation program transfer		6,500,000	6,500,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$53,486,691	\$15,916,204
Less estimated income	24,110,775	30,967,118	6,856,343
General fund	<hr/> \$13,459,712	<hr/> \$22,519,573	<hr/> \$9,059,861
FTE	79.00	80.00	1.00
Bill total			
Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$53,486,691	\$15,916,204
Less estimated income	24,110,775	30,967,118	6,856,343
General fund	<hr/> \$13,459,712	<hr/> \$22,519,573	<hr/> \$9,059,861
FTE	79.00	80.00	1.00

Senate Bill No. 2009 - Department of Agriculture - Senate Action

	Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$15,717,126	\$1,693,446	\$17,410,572
Operating expenses	6,848,052	588,121	7,436,173
Capital assets	15,000	(8,000)	7,000
Grants	9,031,774	1,922,195	10,953,969
State Board of Animal Health	865,718		865,718
Wildlife services	1,457,400	200,000	1,657,400
Crop Harmonization Board	75,000		75,000
Pipeline restoration and reclamation	200,000		200,000
Ag. Products Utilization Commission	1,760,417	3,350,000	5,110,417
North Dakota trade office	1,600,000	500,000	2,100,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$8,245,762	\$45,816,249
Less estimated income	24,110,775	6,025,073	30,135,848
General fund	<hr/> \$13,459,712	<hr/> \$2,220,689	<hr/> \$15,680,401
FTE	79.00	2.00	81.00

Department 602 - Department of Agriculture - Detail of Senate Changes

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries¹	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases²	Adds Salary Equity Funding for Elected Officials³	Adds Funding for FTE Positions⁴	Adjusts Base Level Funding⁵	Adds Funding for the Capitol Rent Model⁶
Salaries and wages	\$115,069	\$1,190,586	\$2,535	\$385,256		
Operating expenses				111,300	(\$221,315)	\$198,136
Capital assets					(8,000)	
Grants					866,695	
State Board of Animal Health						
Wildlife services					200,000	
Crop Harmonization Board						
Pipeline restoration and reclamation						
Ag. Products Utilization Commission						
North Dakota trade office						
Bioscience innovation program transfer						
Total all funds	\$115,069	\$1,190,586	\$2,535	\$496,556	\$837,380	\$198,136
Less estimated income	49,755	497,347	0	0	572,471	0
General fund	\$65,314	\$693,239	\$2,535	\$496,556	\$264,909	\$198,136
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for a Royalty Oversight Program⁷	Adds Funding for Specialty Crop Block Grants⁸	Adds funding for APUC⁹	Adds One- Time Funding for APUC¹⁰	Adds One- Time Funding for the Trade Office¹¹	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages						\$1,693,446
Operating expenses	\$500,000					588,121
Capital assets						(8,000)
Grants		\$1,055,500				1,922,195
State Board of Animal Health						
Wildlife services						200,000
Crop Harmonization Board						
Pipeline restoration and reclamation						
Ag. Products Utilization Commission			\$350,000	\$3,000,000		3,350,000
North Dakota trade office					\$500,000	500,000
Bioscience innovation program transfer						
Total all funds	\$500,000	\$1,055,500	\$350,000	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	\$8,245,762
Less estimated income	500,000	1,055,500	350,000	3,000,000	0	6,025,073
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$2,220,689
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00

¹ Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

² The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$453,936	\$309,206	\$763,142
Health insurance increase	239,303	188,141	427,444
Total	\$693,239	\$497,347	\$1,190,586

³ Funding is added for providing a salary equity increase for the Agriculture Commissioner. The Agriculture Commissioner's annual salary is increased from the current level of \$123,984 to \$130,000 (4.9 percent) effective July 1, 2023. This funding is in addition to the funding added for the general 4 percent annual salary increases for state employees.

⁴ Funding of \$496,566 is added from the general fund for 2 FTE positions. Of the funding provided, \$180,326 is for an FTE project manager and systems coordinator position, including \$170,326 for salaries and wages and \$10,000 for operating expenses, and \$316,230 is for an FTE marketing specialist position, including \$214,930 for salaries and wages and \$101,300 for operating expenses.

⁵ Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Adds funding for information technology rate increases	\$17,565	\$12,568	\$30,133
Adds funding for information technology data processing, communications, and services	10,078	215,059	225,137
Adjusts funding for travel, operating fees and services, and other operating expenses	47,266	(659,851)	(612,585)
Adds federal funding for the plant and potato cyst nematode program	0	26,000	26,000
Adds federal funding for the local food purchase assistance program for local underserved producers, including \$110,000 for operating expenses and \$868,000 for grants	0	978,000	978,000
Adjusts funding for capital assets to provide a total of \$7,000 for capital assets from the environment and rangeland protection fund	(10,000)	2,000	(8,000)
Adds funding for noxious weeds grants, of which \$80,000 is from federal funds and \$118,695 is from the environment and rangeland protection fund to provide a total of \$1,623,969, of which \$170,000 is from federal funds and \$1,453,969 is from the environment and rangeland protection fund	0	198,695	198,695
Reduces funding for the waterbank program to provide a total of \$100,000 from the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund	0	(200,000)	(200,000)
Adds funding for aerial contract services for the Wildlife Services program to provide a total of \$1,657,400 for the Wildlife Services program	<u>200,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Total	\$264,909	\$572,471	\$837,380

⁶ Funding of \$198,136 is added from the general fund for a new Capitol space rent model.

⁷ Funding of \$500,000 is added from the abandoned oil and gas well plugging and site reclamation fund for a postproduction royalty oversight program, allowing the Agriculture Commissioner to contract for ombudsmen to assist individuals and companies in royalty payment issues.

⁸ Federal funding of \$1,055,500 is added for the specialty crop block grant program to provide a total of \$7,094,805 from federal funds. This amount does not include funding for the program from COVID-19 federal funds. A section is added to the bill to provide the Agriculture Commissioner an exemption to continue COVID-19 funding appropriated for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and continued into the 2021-23 biennium during the 2021 legislative session into the 2023-25 biennium.

⁹ Funding of \$350,000 is added from the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) fund for the APUC program to provide total ongoing funding of \$2,110,417 from the APUC fund.

¹⁰ One-time funding of \$3,000,000 is added from Bank of North Dakota profits for the APUC program to provide total funding of \$5,110,417 for the program.

¹¹ One-time funding of \$500,000 is added from the general fund for the North Dakota Trade Office to provide a total of \$2.1 million from the general fund.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section providing for a \$5.5 million transfer from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the bioscience innovation grant fund for the bioscience innovation grant program. The Agriculture Commissioner has continuing appropriation authority for the bioscience innovation grant fund;
- Adds a section providing for a \$6.5 million transfer from the legacy earnings fund to the bioscience innovation grant fund for the bioscience innovation grant program to provide a total of \$12 million for the bioscience program in Senate Bill No. 2009 for the 2023-25 biennium;
- Adds a section providing for a \$250,000 transfer from the environment and rangeland protection fund to the environmental impact mitigation fund for the environmental impact mitigation program. The Agriculture Commissioner has continuing appropriation authority for the environmental impact mitigation fund;

- Amends a section identifying the amount of funding (\$7,344,029) appropriated from the environment and rangeland protection fund;
- Amends a section identifying the amount of funding (\$648,228) appropriated from the Game and Fish Department operating fund;
- Adds a section to transfer \$3 million from Bank of North Dakota profits to the APUC fund;
- Amends a section to identify the amount of funding (\$700,000) appropriated from the abandoned oil and gas well plugging and site reclamation fund;
- Amends a section identifying the amount of funding (\$2.1 million) appropriated from the general fund for the North Dakota Trade Office. The Agriculture Commissioner may spend 60 percent of this amount without requiring any matching funds from the North Dakota Trade Office. Additional amounts may be spent only to the extent that the North Dakota Trade Office provides \$1 of matching funds from private or other public sources for every \$1 provided by the Agriculture Commissioner. Matching funds may include money spent by businesses or organizations to pay salaries to export assistants, to provide training, and to buy computer equipment as part of the North Dakota Trade Office's export assistance program;
- Adds a section to provide the statutory changes necessary to increase the Agriculture Commissioner's salary to \$130,000 (4.9 percent) effective July 1, 2023, and to \$135,200 (4 percent) effective July 1, 2024.
- Adds a new section to North Dakota Century Code Chapter 4.1-01 to establish a postproduction royalty oversight program, allowing the Agriculture Commissioner to contract for ombudsmen to assist individuals and companies in royalty payment issues;
- Adds three sections to amend Sections 4.1-01-21.1, 49-22-09, and 49-22-09.2 relating to the environmental impact fund, factors to be considered in evaluating applications and designation of sites, corridors, and routes, and mitigating direct and indirect environmental impacts;
- Adds a section to provide the funding appropriated in the wildlife services line item may not be used to pay indirect costs as part of the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services program; and
- Adds a section to provide an exemption to authorize the Agriculture Commissioner to continue the \$5 million appropriated by the 2021 Legislative Assembly for the COVID-19 specialty crop block grant program for the 2019-21 biennium, which was continued into the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. The Agriculture Commissioner anticipates approximately \$3.5 million will be continued into the 2023-25 biennium.

Senate Bill No. 2009 - Department of Agriculture - House Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$15,717,126	\$17,410,572	(\$819,558)	\$16,591,014
Operating expenses	6,848,052	7,436,173	(10,000)	7,426,173
Capital assets	15,000	7,000		7,000
Grants	9,031,774	10,953,969	2,000,000	12,953,969
State Board of Animal Health	865,718	865,718		865,718
Wildlife services	1,457,400	1,657,400		1,657,400
Crop Harmonization Board	75,000	75,000		75,000
Pipeline restoration and reclamation	200,000	200,000		200,000
Ag. Products Utilization Commission	1,760,417	5,110,417		5,110,417
North Dakota trade office	1,600,000	2,100,000		2,100,000
Bioscience innovation program transfer			6,500,000	6,500,000
Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$45,816,249	\$7,670,442	\$53,486,691
Less estimated income	24,110,775	30,135,848	831,270	30,967,118
General fund	\$13,459,712	\$15,680,401	\$6,839,172	\$22,519,573
FTE	79.00	81.00	(1.00)	80.00

Department 602 - Department of Agriculture - Detail of House Changes

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases¹	Removes Funding for Elected Official Salary Equity²	Removes FTE Position³	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool⁴	Adjusts One- Time Funding for Bioscience Innovation Grants⁵	Adds One- Time Funding⁶
Salaries and wages	\$230,303	(\$2,535)	(\$170,326)	(\$877,000)		
Operating expenses			(10,000)			
Capital assets						
Grants						\$2,000,000
State Board of Animal Health						
Wildlife services						
Crop Harmonization Board						
Pipeline restoration and reclamation						
Ag. Products Utilization Commission						
North Dakota trade office						
Bioscience innovation program transfer					\$6,500,000	
Total all funds	\$230,303	(\$2,535)	(\$180,326)	(\$877,000)	\$6,500,000	\$2,000,000
Less estimated income	99,543	0	0	(268,273)	0	1,000,000
General fund	\$130,760	(\$2,535)	(\$180,326)	(\$608,727)	\$6,500,000	\$1,000,000
FTE	0.00	0.00	(1.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages	(\$819,558)
Operating expenses	(10,000)
Capital assets	
Grants	2,000,000
State Board of Animal Health	
Wildlife services	
Crop Harmonization Board	
Pipeline restoration and reclamation	
Ag. Products Utilization Commission	
North Dakota trade office	
Bioscience innovation program transfer	6,500,000
Total all funds	\$7,670,442
Less estimated income	831,270
General fund	\$6,839,172
FTE	(1.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$141,284	\$103,774	\$245,058
Health insurance adjustment	(10,524)	(4,231)	(14,755)
Total	\$130,760	\$99,543	\$230,303

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding of \$2,535 from the general fund for a salary equity increase for the Agriculture Commissioner is removed.

³ Funding of \$180,326 added by the Senate from the general fund for 1 FTE project manager and systems coordinator position, including \$170,326 for salaries and wages and \$10,000 for operating expenses, is removed.

⁴ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below.

These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
New FTE positions	(\$214,930)	\$0	(\$214,930)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(393,797)</u>	<u>(268,273)</u>	<u>(662,070)</u>
Total	(\$608,727)	(\$268,273)	(\$877,000)

⁵ One-time funding for the bioscience innovation grant program is adjusted by removing \$6.5 million from the legacy earnings fund and adding \$6.5 million from the general fund to provide a total of \$12 million, of which \$5.5 million is from the strategic investment and improvements fund (SIIF). Funding provided by the House from the general fund is added in a new bioscience innovation program transfer line item.

The Senate provided \$12 million, of which \$5.5 million was from SIIF and \$6.5 million was from the legacy earnings fund.

⁶ One-time funding is added as follows:

- Adds \$1 million from SIIF for grasslands grazing grants. The Senate did not provide funding for this program.
- Adds \$1 million from the general fund for a food distribution grant program to be used for the purchase of food and equipment and any distribution costs associated with assisting local food banks to provide food to individuals in the state. The Senate did not provide funding for this program.

This amendment also:

- Amends a section providing for a transfer of \$6.5 million to the bioscience innovation grant fund. The Senate provided the transfer from the legacy earnings fund. The House provided the transfer from the general fund.
- Amends a section identifying funding in Section 1 from the environment and rangeland protection fund.
- Adds a section identifying funding in Section 1 from SIIF. The House provided one-time funding of \$1 million for grasslands grazing grants. The Senate did not provide funding for this program. To be eligible for a grant under this program, an organization must provide \$1 of matching funds from nonstate sources for every \$4 of grant funding. An organization that receives a grant under this program may distribute the funding to cooperative grazing associations for eligible infrastructure projects, which must be located on national grasslands within the state. Eligible infrastructure projects include water development; fencing; conservation initiatives; compliance with federal permitting requirements, including fees for professional services; and other projects to enhance wildlife habitat or capture carbon, or to increase the health of grasslands. Program participants shall develop and implement a grazing land plan in compliance with local soil conservation district guidance and the plan must be approved by the local soil conservation district. The Agriculture Commissioner shall establish additional guidelines for the program.
- Amends a section to provide the statutory changes necessary for the salary of the Agriculture Commissioner.
- Removes a section added by the Senate that established a postproduction royalty oversight program. This program was created in Senate Bill No. 2194 (2023).
- Amends two sections related the environmental impact mitigation fund and mitigation of environmental impacts.
- Removes a section added by the Senate that amended Section 49-22-09 related to factors to be considered in evaluating applications and designations of sites, corridors, and routes.
- Adds a section to provide an exemption to authorize the Agriculture Commissioner to continue \$5 million appropriated from SIIF for grasslands grazing grants for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium.
- Adds a section to provide for a Legislative Management study of plans for mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental impacts and monetary payments made to state agencies, contractors, nongovernmental organizations, and others by applicants or other persons for mitigation during the siting and operation of energy conversion or transmission facilities.
- Adds a section to provide for a Legislative Management study of the feasibility and desirability of transferring agriculture education programs in the Department of Career and Technical Education to the Agriculture Commissioner.

Senate Bill No. 2009 - Department of Agriculture - Conference Committee Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Salaries and wages	\$15,717,126	\$17,410,572	(\$819,558)	\$16,591,014	\$16,591,014	
Operating expenses	6,848,052	7,436,173	(10,000)	7,426,173	7,426,173	
Capital assets	15,000	7,000		7,000	7,000	
Grants	9,031,774	10,953,969	2,000,000	12,953,969	12,953,969	
State Board of Animal Health	865,718	865,718		865,718	865,718	
Wildlife services	1,457,400	1,657,400		1,657,400	1,657,400	
Crop Harmonization Board	75,000	75,000		75,000	75,000	
Pipeline restoration and reclamation	200,000	200,000		200,000	200,000	
Ag. Products Utilization Commission	1,760,417	5,110,417		5,110,417	5,110,417	
North Dakota trade office	1,600,000	2,100,000		2,100,000	2,100,000	
Bioscience innovation program transfer			6,500,000	6,500,000	6,500,000	
Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$45,816,249	\$7,670,442	\$53,486,691	\$53,486,691	\$0
Less estimated income	24,110,775	30,135,848	831,270	30,967,118	30,967,118	0
General fund	\$13,459,712	\$15,680,401	\$6,839,172	\$22,519,573	\$22,519,573	\$0
FTE	79.00	81.00	(1.00)	80.00	80.00	0.00

Department 602 - Department of Agriculture - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ¹	Removes Funding for Elected Official Salary Equity ²	Removes FTE Position ³	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool ⁴	Adjusts One-Time Funding for Bioscience Innovation Grants ⁵	Adds One-Time Funding ⁶
Salaries and wages	\$230,303	(\$2,535)	(\$170,326)	(\$877,000)		
Operating expenses			(10,000)			
Capital assets						
Grants						\$2,000,000
State Board of Animal Health						
Wildlife services						
Crop Harmonization Board						
Pipeline restoration and reclamation						
Ag. Products Utilization Commission						
North Dakota trade office						
Bioscience innovation program transfer					\$6,500,000	
Total all funds	\$230,303	(\$2,535)	(\$180,326)	(\$877,000)	\$6,500,000	\$2,000,000
Less estimated income	99,543	0	0	(268,273)	0	1,000,000
General fund	\$130,760	(\$2,535)	(\$180,326)	(\$608,727)	\$6,500,000	\$1,000,000
FTE	0.00	0.00	(1.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Total Conference Committee Changes
Salaries and wages	(\$819,558)
Operating expenses	(10,000)
Capital assets	
Grants	2,000,000
State Board of Animal Health Wildlife services	
Crop Harmonization Board	
Pipeline restoration and reclamation	
Ag. Products Utilization Commission	
North Dakota trade office	
Bioscience innovation program transfer	6,500,000
Total all funds	\$7,670,442
Less estimated income	831,270
General fund	\$6,839,172
FTE	(1.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$141,284	\$103,774	\$245,058
Health insurance adjustment	(10,524)	(4,231)	(14,755)
Total	\$130,760	\$99,543	\$230,303

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024. The House approved the same salary and health insurance adjustments as the Conference Committee.

² Funding of \$2,535 from the general fund for a salary equity increase for the Agriculture Commissioner is removed. The House also removed this funding.

³ Funding of \$180,326 added by the Senate from the general fund for 1 FTE project manager and systems coordinator position, including \$170,326 for salaries and wages and \$10,000 for operating expenses, is removed. The House also removed this position.

⁴ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
New FTE positions	(\$214,930)	\$0	(\$214,930)
Vacant FTE positions	(393,797)	(268,273)	(662,070)
Total	(\$608,727)	(\$268,273)	(\$877,000)

The House also removed this funding.

⁵ One-time funding for the bioscience innovation grant program is adjusted by removing \$6.5 million from the legacy earnings fund and adding \$6.5 million from the general fund to provide a total of \$12 million, of which \$5.5 million is from the strategic investment and improvements fund (SIIF), the same as provided by the House. Funding provided by the Conference Committee from the general fund is added in a new bioscience innovation program transfer line item, the same as provided by the House.

The Senate provided \$12 million, of which \$5.5 million was from SIIF and \$6.5 million was from the legacy earnings fund.

⁶ One-time funding is added as follows:

- Adds \$1 million from SIIF for grasslands grazing grants, the same as provided by the House. The Senate did not provide funding for this program.
- Adds \$1 million from the general fund for a food distribution grant program to be used for the purchase of food and equipment and any distribution costs associated with assisting local food banks to provide food to individuals in the state, the same as provided by the House. The Senate did not provide funding for this program.

This amendment also:

- Amends a section providing for a transfer of \$6.5 million to the bioscience innovation grant fund. The Senate provided the transfer from the legacy earnings fund. The Conference Committee and the House provided the transfer from the general fund.
- Amends a section identifying funding in Section 1 from the environment and rangeland protection fund. The Conference Committee did not change the House version.
- Adds a section identifying funding in Section 1 from SIIF. The Conference Committee and the House provided one-time funding of \$1 million for grasslands grazing grants. The Senate did not provide funding for this program. To be eligible for a grant under this program, an organization must provide \$1 of matching funds from nonstate sources for every \$4 of grant funding. An organization that receives a grant under this program may distribute the funding to cooperative grazing associations for eligible infrastructure projects, which must be located on national grasslands within the state. Eligible infrastructure projects include water development; fencing; conservation initiatives; compliance with federal permitting requirements, including fees for professional services; and other projects to enhance wildlife habitat or capture carbon, or to increase the health of grasslands. Program participants shall develop and implement a grazing land plan in compliance with local soil conservation district guidance and the plan must be approved by the local soil conservation district. The Agriculture Commissioner shall establish additional guidelines for the program.
- Amends a section to provide the statutory changes necessary for the salary of the Agriculture Commissioner, the same as provided by the House.
- Removes a section added by the Senate that established a postproduction royalty oversight program. This program was created in Senate Bill No. 2194 (2023). The House also removed this section.
- Adds a section to amend Section 4.1-01-18 to provide of the two individuals from the energy community that serve on the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee, the Governor will appoint one individual and the Agriculture Commissioner will appoint one individual, instead of the Agriculture Commissioner appointing both individuals. The House did not add this section.
- Amends two sections related the environmental impact mitigation fund and mitigation of environmental impacts. The House also amended these sections.
- Removes a section added by the Senate that amended Section 49-22-09 related to factors to be considered in evaluating applications and designations of sites, corridors, and routes. The House also removed this section.
- Amends a section to provide an exemption to the Agriculture Commissioner for the COVID-19 specialty crop block grant program (\$5 million) and COVID-19 stress assistance program operating expenses (\$500,000) that were appropriated for the 2019-21 biennium and continued into the 2021-23 biennium to be continued into the 2023-25 biennium. The Senate and House provided an exemption for the COVID-19 specialty crop block grant program but not for COVID-19 stress assistance program operating expenses.
- Adds a section to provide an exemption to authorize the Agriculture Commissioner to continue \$5 million appropriated from SIIF for grasslands grazing grants for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. The House also added this section.
- Adds a section to provide for a Legislative Management study of plans for mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental impacts and monetary payments made to state agencies, contractors, nongovernmental organizations, and others by applicants or other persons for mitigation during the siting and operation of energy conversion or transmission facilities. The House also added this section.
- Adds a section to provide for a Legislative Management study of the feasibility and desirability of transferring agriculture education programs in the Department of Career and Technical Education to the Agriculture Commissioner. The House also added this section.