

State of South Dakota

EIGHTIETH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

363L0601

HOUSE BILL NO. 1187

Introduced by: Representatives Bradford, Hargens, Sigdestad, Valandra, and Van Norman
and Senators Hanson (Gary) and Bartling

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish the prairie dog management assistance program
2 and to make an appropriation therefor.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. The prairie dog management assistance program is hereby established within the
5 Department of Agriculture. Under the program, any real property owner who qualifies under the
6 provisions of this Act may receive financial assistance for the control of prairie dogs on the
7 landowner's property as a means of protecting the value and productivity of the property.

8 Section 2. Any land on which the minimum ecological site similarity index/range condition
9 is degraded below a similarity index percentage/range condition of twenty-five to fifty percent,
10 as described in the Natural Resources Conservation Service South Dakota State Technical
11 Guide, as amended to January 1, 2005, is eligible for assistance under the prairie dog
12 management assistance program. The Department of Agriculture may substitute a substantially
13 similar set of criteria for determining lands that have sufficient damage from prairie dogs to
14 warrant eligibility for the program. The department shall determine lands that are eligible for
15 assistance under the program and may direct the county assessors and the county extension



1 agents of the South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service in the respective
2 counties to provide assistance in making such determinations.

3 Section 3. The owner of land eligible for assistance under this Act may receive an amount
4 not to exceed fifty percent of the cost of controlling prairie dogs on the eligible land as
5 determined by the Department of Agriculture. Application shall be made to the department, and
6 the department shall administer the program.

7 Section 4. The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26
8 to provide for the administration of the prairie dog management assistance program established
9 pursuant to this Act. The rules shall include:

- 10 (1) Methods of determining land that is eligible for assistance under this Act;
- 11 (2) Methods that may be used for the control of prairie dogs. Methods shall include the
12 use of rodenticides;
- 13 (3) Methods for determining the cost of prairie dog control activities;
- 14 (4) Limits on the number of consecutive years that a person may receive benefits under
15 the program for a specific parcel of property;
- 16 (5) Method, procedures, and forms by which property owners may apply for and receive
17 assistance under the program;
- 18 (6) Reporting and record keeping requirements associated with the program.

19 Section 5. There is hereby appropriated from the property tax reduction fund the sum of
20 eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the
21 Department of Agriculture to be used to implement the prairie dog management assistance
22 program established pursuant to section 1 of this Act..

23 Section 6. The secretary of agriculture shall approve vouchers and the state auditor shall
24 draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

1 Section 7. Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated by
2 June 30, 2006, shall revert in accordance with § 4-8-21.