

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the commissioner of commerce's duty to establish a toll-free business
3 development program; to provide for a report to the legislative council; and to provide an
4 expiration date.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Toll-free business development program.** The commissioner shall create and
9 implement a toll-free business development program. The program must provide for a toll-free
10 telephone number through which the department shall provide in-state and out-of-state callers
11 with direct information regarding how to do business in the state, the services and assistance
12 available to businesses, the advantages of doing business in the state, and information on state
13 and other resources that provide assistance to businesses in the state. In addition to directly
14 providing information, the department may use the toll-free number as a clearinghouse through
15 which to refer callers to other federal, state, local, or private sector economic developers. The
16 program must include an in-state and out-of-state marketing campaign in support of the
17 program. The commissioner shall follow up on business leads gained through the program and
18 shall gather data on the results of calls, including business expansion, location, and startup.

19 **SECTION 2. REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.** During the 2005-06 interim, the
20 commissioner of commerce shall report the legislative council on the status of the toll-free
21 business development program. This report must include information regarding what
22 information the program provides to callers; the number of calls made to the toll-free business
23 development program; the manner in which the information is provided to callers; followup data;
24 how the program is marketed; whether the program should continue; and whether there are

1 potential changes that could be made to improve the dissemination of business information to
2 businesses in the state, to persons planning on starting a business in the state, and to
3 businesses wishing to do business in the state.

4 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2007, and
5 after that date is ineffective.