

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a transportation study and for a report to the legislative council.

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

3 **SECTION 1. TRANSPORTATION STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

4 During the 2005-06 interim, the upper great plains transportation institute shall conduct a study
5 of how improvements to the transportation infrastructure of this state might enhance the
6 business climate and the state's competitive position in economic development, with a focus on
7 the potential to expand the sale of goods to markets outside the state by strengthening the
8 state's transportation infrastructure. The study must include consideration of how to improve
9 the load-carrying limits of the state's highways and associated costs and benefits; consideration
10 of what enhancements must be made to the state's highways to allow load limits to be raised to
11 more efficiently move goods to market and associated costs and benefits; exploration of the
12 phenomenon of the decline of freight service by rail, including the prospects for offering
13 incentives to rail providers to expand the availability of rail for transportation of goods to market
14 and the associated costs and benefits; recommendations on how to enhance the state's
15 transportation infrastructure; and an analysis of the projected economic development impacts
16 associated with the recommended infrastructure improvements. Before July 1, 2006, the upper
17 great plains transportation institute shall report to the legislative council the outcome of the
18 study and identify proposed legislative changes necessary to implement any recommended
19 changes to the state's transportation infrastructure.