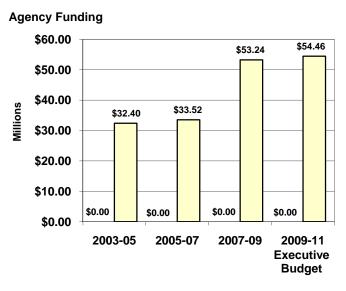
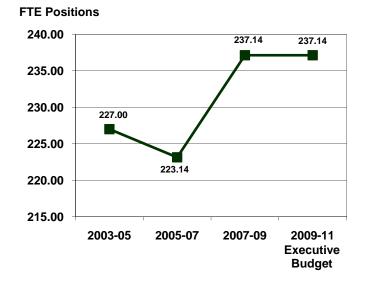
## Department 485 - Workforce Safety and Insurance House Bill No. 1021

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2009-11 Executive Budget	237.14	\$0	\$54,455,605	\$54,455,605
2007-09 Legislative Appropriations	237.14	0	53,241,155	53,241,155
Increase (Decrease)	0.00	\$0	\$1,214,450	\$1,214,450





■General Fund □Other Funds

biennium

## **Executive Budget Highlights**

General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Adjusts funding for operating expenses as follows:		
Travel	\$88,928	\$88,928
Supplies - Information technology software	(898,747)	(898,747)
Supply/material - Professional	(2,872)	(2,872)
Miscellaneous supplies	(53,420)	(53,420)
Postage	(42,226)	(42,226)
Printing	31,390	31,390
Information technology equipment under \$5,000	(107,850)	(107,850)
Rentals/leases - Building and land	87,423	87,423
Information technology - Data processing	72,000	72,000
Information technology - Communications	81,674	81,674
Information technology - Contractual services	(1,380,663)	(1,380,663)
Professional development	(791,226)	(791,226)
Operating fees and services	(22,412)	(22,412)
Fees - Professional services	608,932	608,932
Total	(\$2,329,069)	(\$2,329,069)
2. Removes capital asset funding provided for the 2007-09	(\$13,000)	(\$13,000)

## **Continuing Appropriations**

**Building maintenance account** - North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 65-02-05.1 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance building maintenance account is appropriated on a continuing basis for bond principal and interest payments, operating, maintenance, repair, and payment in lieu of taxes expenses of the building and grounds.

Reinsurance and other states' coverage - NDCC Section 65-02-13.1 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance fund is appropriated on a continuing basis to allow the agency to establish a program of reinsurance and a program of extraterritorial coverage and other states' insurance.

**Allocated loss adjustment expenses** - NDCC Section 65-02-06.1 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the payment of all allocated loss adjustment expenses experienced by the agency.

**Preferred worker program** - NDCC Section 65-05-36 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the payment of any employment-related expenses for the preferred worker program.

**Performance evaluation** - NDCC Section 65-02-30 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the payment of the expense of conducting a biennial independent performance evaluation.

**Insurance fraud unit** - NDCC Section 65-02-23 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the payment of costs associated with identifying, preventing, and investigating employer or provider fraud.

**Information fund** - NDCC Section 65-01-13 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance information fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the payment of publication and statistical processing expenses incurred by the agency.

**Safety programs** - NDCC Section 65-03-04 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the purpose of funding work safety and loss prevention programs.

**Educational revolving loan fund** - NDCC Section 65-05.1-08 - Money in the Workforce Safety and Insurance educational revolving loan fund is appropriated on a continuing basis to maintain the fund and provide loans to individuals wanting to pursue a postsecondary education.

## **Major Related Legislation**

**House Bill No. 1035** - **Workforce Safety and Insurance reserve level** - This bill provides that the level of financial reserves plus available surplus of Workforce Safety and Insurance may not exceed 150 percent of the actuarially established discounted reserve. The bill excludes from the calculation of available surplus any funds designated or obligated to specific programs or projects pursuant to a directive or specific approval by the Legislative Assembly.

**House Bill No. 1036** - **Workforce Safety and Insurance premiums** - This bill requires Workforce Safety and Insurance to establish premium rates annually on an actuarial basis. The statewide average premium rate level may not deviate by more than five percentage points from the recommended actuarial-indicated premium level for that year.

House Bill No. 1037 - Workforce Safety and Insurance independent performance evaluation - This bill requires that the biennial independent performance evaluation of Workforce Safety and Insurance address performance measurements, including a review of trends in workplace injuries; whether claims are being handled fairly and efficiently; whether claims or premium decisions have been subject to inappropriate political influence; whether work safety and loss prevention programs are effective in reducing claims and the severity of claims; whether injured employees, employers, and service providers are satisfied with the services of the organization; whether litigation rates and the number of contested claims are appropriate as compared with other workers' compensation programs or systems; and whether premiums are appropriate and reserve levels are adequate.

House Bill No. 1160 - Workforce Safety and Insurance oversight - This bill provides the Insurance Department regulatory oversight and examination authority over Workforce Safety and Insurance.

House Bill No. 1201 - Workforce Safety and Insurance Office of Independent Review - This bill changes the name of the Office of Independent Review to Decision Review Office.

**Senate Bill No. 2059** - **Attorney's fees** - This bill provides for Workforce Safety and Insurance to pay an injured employee's attorney's fees and costs for a case review. The bill allows an injured employee who uses the services of the Office of Independent Review to be eligible for payment of \$500 for attorney's fees and \$150 for costs associated with an attorney consultation before an administrative hearing is held.