

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2076

Introduced by

Natural Resources Committee

(At the request of the Public Service Commission)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 6 of section 49-02-02 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the employment and compensation of expert help and assistance for
3 hearings or investigations regarding gas or electric public utilities.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 49-02-02 of the 1995 Supplement
6 to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 6. Employ, and fix the compensation of, rate experts, engineers, auditors, attorneys,
8 and all other expert help and assistance for hearings or investigations ~~on rate~~
9 ~~increase applications filed by~~ concerning gas or electric public utilities. The
10 expense of any hearings or investigations and the actual expenses of any
11 employees of the commission while engaged upon any hearing or investigation
12 must upon the order of the commission be paid by the public utility involved. The
13 commission shall ascertain the costs and expenditures. After giving the public
14 utility notice and opportunity to demand a hearing, and after a hearing, if any, is
15 held, the commission shall render a bill and make an order for payment by certified
16 mail or by personal delivery to one of the managing officers of the public utility.
17 The billing and order may be made from time to time during the hearing or
18 investigation or at the conclusion thereof, as the commission determines. Upon
19 receipt of the bill and order for payment, as evidenced by return receipt or other
20 proof, the public utility shall pay to the commission the amount billed. All amounts
21 not paid within thirty days after receipt of the order for payment draw interest at the
22 rate of six percent per annum from the date of receipt of the order. All costs and

- 1 expenses collected by the commission under this subsection must be deposited in
- 2 a special account within the public service commission.