

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the workers
2 compensation bureau; to authorize and provide an appropriation for additional full-time
3 equivalent positions for the workers compensation bureau; to authorize and provide an
4 appropriation for the issuance of bonds and use of bond proceeds; to create and enact a new
5 section to chapter 65-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of a building
6 maintenance account; and to amend and reenact section 65-02-03.2 of the North Dakota
7 Century Code, relating to compensation of workers compensation board members.

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

9 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the
10 funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from special funds derived from the workers
11 compensation fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the workers
12 compensation bureau for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the workers compensation
13 bureau for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003, as follows:

14 Total special funds appropriation \$31,141,340

15 **SECTION 2. NORTH DAKOTA WORKERS COMPENSATION BUREAU FULL-TIME**
16 **EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE POSITIONS AUTHORIZATION - APPROPRIATION - REPORT**
17 **TO BUDGET SECTION.** The North Dakota workers compensation board of directors may

18 authorize the workers compensation bureau to hire, upon a determination that employees are
19 needed to facilitate the economic and efficient administration of the bureau, up to ten full-time
20 equivalent employee positions in addition to the full-time equivalent employee positions
21 authorized in section 1 of this Act for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30,
22 2003. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the workers' compensation fund, not
23 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
24 the workers compensation bureau for the purpose of providing wages, salaries, and benefits for

any additional full-time equivalent positions authorized under this section. The workers compensation board of directors shall report to the budget section of the legislative council on any additional full-time equivalent employee positions and related funding authorized.

SECTION 3. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION. The industrial commission, acting as the North Dakota building authority, may, at the request of the workers compensation board of directors, arrange for funding of the project authorized in this section, declared to be in the public interest, through the issuance of evidences of indebtedness under chapter 54-17.2, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003. The proceeds of the evidences of indebtedness and other available funds are appropriated during the period beginning July 1, 2001, and ending July 31, 2003, for the following project:

Workers compensation bureau	Office building	\$14,000,000
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The industrial commission may issue evidences of indebtedness in the principal amount of \$14,000,000 plus costs of issuance, capitalized interest, and any reasonable required reserves under this section with the condition that lease rental payments need not begin until July 1, 2003. This authority of the industrial commission to issue evidences of indebtedness ends June 30, 2003, but the industrial commission may continue to exercise all other powers granted to it under chapter 54-17.2 and this Act and to comply with any covenants entered before that date.

SECTION 4. BOND ISSUANCE REPAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY. A total of \$14,000,000 in principal amount plus interest must be made available by the workers compensation bureau from non-general fund sources to be appropriated to the industrial commission to retire the evidences of indebtedness issued for the project costs associated with the construction of the project authorized by this Act.

SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - WORKERS COMPENSATION BUREAU BUILDING - OTHER STATE AGENCIES LEASING. It is the intent of the legislative assembly that if a new facility is built to house the operations of the workers compensation bureau that the facility be built to include rental space for other state agencies and that the workers compensation bureau work with the office of management and budget to identify which agencies will lease space in the workers compensation bureau building and report to the budget section of the legislative council on plans for leasing to other agencies. The bureau

1 shall have exclusive responsibility for setting and collecting rental amounts and for the
2 maintenance and control of the building and its grounds.

3 **SECTION 6.** A new section to chapter 65-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 created and enacted as follows:

5 **Building maintenance account - Continuing appropriation.** There is a building
6 maintenance account within the workers' compensation fund, to which the workers
7 compensation bureau shall deposit all building rental proceeds if the workers compensation
8 bureau builds a building that includes rental space for other state entities. The moneys in the
9 account are appropriated on a continuing basis to the workers compensation bureau to pay
10 bond principal and interest payments, operating, maintenance, repair, and payments in lieu of
11 taxes expenses of the building and grounds. This account may be used only for the purposes
12 identified in this section. The workers compensation bureau may either hire or contract for
13 building maintenance and repair services anticipated by this section. The bureau shall report to
14 the budget section of the legislative council on a biennial basis on all revenues deposited into
15 this account and expenditures made from the account.

16 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 65-02-03.2 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
17 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **65-02-03.2. Compensation of board members.** A board member is entitled to
19 receive compensation ~~in the amount of sixty two dollars and fifty cents per day~~ as determined
20 by the board for days spent in attendance at board meetings or other business as approved by
21 the board. A board member is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses as provided
22 for state officers.