

Introduced by

Education Committee

(At the request of the Office of Management and Budget)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a quality schools commission for studying the provision of
2 education in public schools for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing educational quality
3 and to provide for the powers, duties, funding, and staffing of the commission; to provide an
4 appropriation; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

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

6 **SECTION 1. Quality schools commission - Membership - Purpose.**

- 7 1. The North Dakota quality schools commission consists of:
- 8 a. The governor or a designee of the governor.
 - 9 b. The superintendent of public instruction or a designee of the superintendent.
 - 10 c. The director of vocational and technical education or the director's designee.
 - 11 d. The commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's designee.
 - 12 e. The president of the North Dakota education association or the president's
13 designee.
 - 14 f. The executive director of the North Dakota council of educational leaders or
15 the executive director's designee.
 - 16 g. The executive director of the education standards and practices board or the
17 executive director's designee.
 - 18 h. The executive director of the North Dakota school boards association or the
19 executive director's designee.
 - 20 i. An appointee of the workforce development council.
 - 21 j. The director of the Indian affairs commission or the director's designee.
 - 22 k. An appointee of the North Dakota parent teachers association.
 - 23 l. The director of the information technology department or the director's
24 designee.

m. Three citizens appointed by the governor from the primary sector business community as defined in subsection 4 of section 10-30.5-01.

n. The executive director of the commission, who is a nonvoting member.

The governor or the governor's designee shall be the chairperson of the commission, and the commission shall organize itself with other officers as it deems necessary.

2. The purpose of the quality schools commission is to study the provision of education in public schools, review the assessment of quality of elementary and secondary schools, make recommendations to the legislative assembly and other appropriate entities to maintain and enhance educational quality, and address long-range planning needs for elementary and secondary education.

SECTION 2. Quality schools commission - Powers and duties. The quality schools commission shall implement and direct an assessment process based on a quality schools framework addressing the quality of elementary and secondary schools in this state and disseminate the results to the legislative assembly and other appropriate entities for integration into the school improvement process. At the request of the quality schools commission, every school district in this state shall complete a quality schools framework designed to assess the level of quality within its schools. Every school district shall report the assessment results to its school patrons and others at a public forum in local communities. State agencies and other appropriate entities shall provide the commission with data necessary for the inclusion in a quality schools framework. The commission shall receive assessment results and establish a methodology for long-range planning to maintain and enhance educational quality, assist in the development of a continuing process of assessment of the quality of schools, and develop strategic planning methods to maintain and enhance educational quality.

The commission may make recommendations to the legislative assembly and other appropriate entities for long-range planning to address school improvement needs.

SECTION 3. Acceptance and expenditure of funds. The quality schools commission may apply for and accept any funds, grants, gifts, or services from federal agencies, public and private foundations, and from other entities or citizens. Funds received by the commission under this section must be deposited in the state treasury in a special fund designated as the

1 quality schools fund. The commission may expend, pursuant to legislative appropriations, all
2 funds received by and appropriated to it.

3 **SECTION 4. Staff and expenses - Per diem.** The commission may employ an
4 executive director and other employees within the limits of legislative appropriations. The
5 executive director and all other employees serve at the pleasure of the quality schools
6 commission. The commission and its employees are entitled to be reimbursed for travel
7 expenses at the rate provided for state employees. The governor's appointees to the
8 commission from the primary sector business community are entitled to seventy-five dollars per
9 day for attendance at meetings of the commission.

10 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - ADDITIONAL REVENUE.** There is appropriated out
11 of any moneys in the quality schools fund \$575,192, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
12 to the quality schools commission for the purpose of the administration of this Act for the period
13 beginning on the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2003. Any revenue to the
14 quality schools fund in addition to the amount provided in this section is appropriated to the
15 quality schools commission for the period beginning on the effective date of this Act and ending
16 June 30, 2003, and may be spent only after approval by the emergency commission. Any
17 moneys remaining in the quality schools fund at the expiration of this chapter shall be paid over
18 to the general fund.

19 **SECTION 6. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through June 30, 2003, and
20 after that date is ineffective.

21 **SECTION 7. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.