

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact four new sections to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the department of commerce division of workforce development  
3 duties; to amend and reenact section 54-60-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to  
4 the duties of the department of commerce division of workforce development, including  
5 developing a talent strategy and intelligence coordination; and to provide for studies and reports  
6 to the legislative council.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-60-09. Division of workforce development - Duties.** The division of workforce  
11 development shall ~~actively~~:

- 12 1. Actively monitor local, regional, and national private and public workforce
- 13 development initiatives.
- 14 2. Develop and implement the state's talent strategy.
- 15 3. Develop and implement a statewide intelligence coordination strategy.

16 **SECTION 2.** Four new sections to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code are  
17 created and enacted as follows:

18 **Division of workforce development - Talent strategy - Performance and**  
19 **accountability - Annual report.**

- 20 1. The division of workforce development, in developing and implementing the state's  
21 talent strategy, shall:
  - 22 a. Consult with partners in the state's system for workforce development,  
23 workforce training, and talent attraction, including job service North Dakota,  
24 the department of career and technical education, the superintendent of public

instruction, the state board of higher education, the department of human services, and other divisions of the department of commerce.

b. Develop a comprehensive, consolidated biennial statewide strategic plan for the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction.

c. Continuously review, identify how to improve, and implement improvements to the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction.

d. Develop linkages between partners of the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction, to assure coordination and nonduplication of programs and services provided in the state.

2. The division of workforce development shall develop and implement a system of performance and accountability measures for the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction. Each partner of the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction shall cooperate in providing the division the data necessary to implement these measures.

3. Periodically the director of the division of workforce development shall report to the commissioner on the state's talent strategy and the status of the system of performance and accountability measures for the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction.

**Division of workforce development - Intelligence coordination - Annual report.**

1. The division of workforce development, in developing and implementing the statewide intelligence coordination strategy system, shall address workforce development, workforce training, talent attraction, business needs, and employment statistics.

2. The system developed under this section:

a. Must provide for dissemination of intelligence to stakeholders and partners of workforce development, workforce training, business, and talent attraction; and

b. Must use data from the followup information on North Dakota education and training system as a central source of intelligence.

3. The division of workforce development shall consult with users, holders, and creators of intelligence to determine what intelligence is needed, what intelligence needs are unmet, and barriers to using existing intelligence.

4. The division of workforce development shall administer the followup information on North Dakota education and training system, which the information technology department shall host on its network.

5. The division shall provide an annual report on the status of the statewide intelligence coordination strategy system which includes an update on the followup information on North Dakota education and training system.

**Workforce development - Report to governor and legislative council.** Biennially the commissioner shall report to the governor and the legislative council. The report must include information regarding the state's talent strategy; the status of the system of performance and accountability measures for the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction; the status of the statewide intelligence coordination strategy system; and any recommended legislative changes necessary to improve the state's talent strategy and related performance and accountability measures and the statewide intelligence coordination strategy system.

**Workforce development - Higher education internships.**

1. The workforce development division shall administer a higher education internship program to increase use of higher education internships. The primary focus of this program must be higher education internships in target industries. This program shall provide services to employers, communities, and business organizations to increase higher education internship opportunities.

2. As part of the higher education internship program, the division of workforce development shall:

a. Collect and analyze data on for-credit and not-for-credit higher education internships.

b. Market internship opportunities to private and public sector employers.

c. In consultation with the state board of higher education, develop and implement strategies to reduce barriers to students and businesses in participating in higher education internships.

d. Develop and implement a program to incentivize state and local government employers to use higher education internships.

**SECTION 3. WORKFORCE INTELLIGENCE STUDY AND REPORT.** During the 2007-08 interim, the department of commerce shall study the workforce intelligence needs of the state. The study must include what workforce intelligence is needed to support a successful talent initiative; identification of workforce intelligence that currently exists and where it is located; and development of an ongoing method to share existing workforce intelligence, identify gaps in existing workforce intelligence, fill gaps in workforce intelligence, and ensure workforce intelligence is disseminated to workforce system partners, stakeholders, education and training providers, students, and parents of school-age children. Before July 1, 2008, the department of commerce shall report to the legislative council the outcome of the study, along with any recommendations and any legislative language required to implement the recommendations. The legislative council shall receive the report of the department of commerce and consider whether to recommend any of the proposed recommendations of the department of commerce. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-first legislative assembly.

**SECTION 4. HIGHER EDUCATION INTERNSHIPS STUDY AND REPORT.**

1. During the 2007-08 interim, the department of commerce, in consultation with the state board of higher education, shall study the status of higher education internship opportunities in the state and strategies to increase higher education internships in the state. The study must include:

a. Consideration of the feasibility of the North Dakota university system providing expanded technical assistance and outreach to North Dakota target industry employers to increase participation in for-credit and not-for-credit higher education internships.

- 1                   b.    Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of creating a matching fund
- 2                         grant program for businesses and communities to incentivize participation in
- 3                         higher education internship programs.
- 4            2.    Before July 1, 2008, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative
- 5                   council the outcome of the study, along with any recommendations and any
- 6                   legislative language required to implement the recommendations.
- 7            3.    The legislative council shall receive the report of the department of commerce and
- 8                   consider whether to recommend any of the proposed recommendations of the
- 9                   department of commerce. The legislative council shall report its findings and
- 10                  recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
- 11                  recommendations, to the sixty-first legislative assembly.