Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 1008**

Introduced by

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**Appropriations Committee** 

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the public service
- 2 commission; to provide for a legislative management study; and to authorize a transfertransfers.

## 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the public service commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the public service commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, as follows:

10			Adjustments or	
11		Base Level	<b>Enhancements</b>	<u>Appropriation</u>
12	Salaries and wages	\$9,643,095	\$0	\$9,643,095
13	Operating expenses	1,877,562	0	1,877,562
14	Capital assets	26,400	0	26,400
15	Grants	20,000	0	20,000
16	Abandoned mined lands contractual	8,000,000	0	8,000,000
17	Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0	900,000
18	Railroad safety program	523,345	0	523,345
19	Specialized legal services	150,000	<u>0</u>	<u>150,000</u>
20	Total all funds	\$21,140,402	\$0	<del>\$21,140,402</del>
21	Less estimated income	<u>13,964,575</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,964,575</u>
22	Total general fund	\$7,175,827	<del>\$0</del>	<del>\$7,175,827</del>
23	Full-time equivalent positions	46.00	0.00	46.00
24	Salaries and wages	\$9,643,095	(\$662,102)	\$8,980,993

1	Operating expenses	1,877,562	(47,736)	1,829,826
2	Capital assets	26,400	(26,400)	0
3	Grants	20,000	0	20,000
4	Abandoned mined lands contractual	8,000,000	(2,000,000)	6,000,000
5	Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0	900,000
6	Railroad safety program	523,345	5,743	529,088
7	Specialized legal services	150,000	580,000	730,000
8	Total all funds	\$21,140,402	(\$2,150,495)	\$18,989,907
9	Less estimated income	13,964,575	(1,375,972)	12,588,603
10	Total general fund	\$7,175,827	(\$774,523)	\$6,401,304
11	Full-time equivalent positions	46.00	(2.00)	44.00

**SECTION 2. HEALTH INSURANCE INCREASE.** The appropriation in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$125,934, of which \$76,487 is from the general fund, for increases in employee health insurance premiums from \$1,130 to \$1,249 per month.

SECTION 3. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-fourth legislative assembly for the 2015-17 biennium and the 2017-19 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

19	One-Time Funding Description	<u>2015-17</u>	<u>2017-19</u>
20	Specialized legal services	\$ <del>575,624</del>	<u>\$0</u>
21	Total all funds	<del>\$575,624</del>	<del>\$0</del>
22	Total special funds	336,000	<u>0</u>
23	Total general fund	\$239,624	<del>\$0</del>
24	Specialized legal services	\$575,624	\$636,000
25	Total all funds	\$575,624	\$636,000
26	Total special funds	336,000	636,000
27	Total general fund	\$239,624	\$0

The 2017-19 one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2019-21 biennium. The public service commission shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-sixth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.

## 1 SECTION 4. TRANSFER AND REPAYMENT - BEGINNING FARMER REVOLVING LOAN 2 FUND. The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer from the beginning farmer revolving loan fund to 3 the public service commission the sum of \$900,000, or so much of the sum as may be 4 necessary, included in the estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act to pay for costs 5 associated with a rail rate complaint case. Transfers must be made during the biennium 6 beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, upon order of the commission. If any 7 amounts are spent pursuant to this section, the public service commission shall reimburse the 8 beginning farmer revolving loan fund using amounts available from damages or proceeds 9 received, net of legal fees, from a successful outcome of a rail complaint case. 10 SECTION 5. ESTIMATED INCOME - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS 11 FUND. The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$300,000, of one-time 12 funding from the strategic investment and improvements fund for specialized legal service costs 13 during the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019. 14 SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - IMPACT OF WIND ENERGY. 15 During the 2017-18 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the 16 impact of wind energy development on the environment, addressing and researching 17 issues common to North Dakota landowners, and identifying potential issues for 18 legislation. The study may include consideration of: 19 The impact of wind energy development on the environment, including aesthetic a. 20 impacts: 21 b. The impact of wind energy development on property values; 22 The impact of wind energy development on agriculture; C. 23 d. The advantages and disadvantages of implementing legislation for pooling or 24 unitization of wind resources similar to that of the oil and gas industry in chapter 25 38-08; and 26 The necessary processes for the decommissioning of a wind energy project. 27 2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together 28 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-sixth 29 legislative assembly.