

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1385  
(Representatives Bernstein, Carlson, Skarphol)  
(Senator B. Stenehjem)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 54-35-02.5 and 54-35-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the composition of the administrative rules committee and the retention of legal counsel by the legislative branch; and to declare an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-35-02.5 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-35-02.5. ~~Committee on administrative~~ Administrative rules committee.** The legislative council ~~shall~~, during each biennium, ~~shall appoint a committee on an~~ administrative rules ~~committee~~ in the same manner as the council appoints other interim committees. The legislative council shall designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to the statutes and procedure governing the operation of other legislative council interim committees. The membership of the administrative rules committee must include at least one of the members who served during the most recently completed regular session of the legislative assembly from each of the standing committees of either the house of representatives or the senate.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-35-17 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-35-17. Retention of legal counsel.** When the legislative assembly is in session, either house by resolution may authorize, or both houses by concurrent resolution may direct, the legislative council to appoint or retain legal counsel to appear in, commence, prosecute, defend, or intervene in any action, suit, matter, cause, or proceeding in any court or agency when deemed necessary or advisable to protect the official interests of the legislative branch. When the legislative assembly is not in session, the legislative council, by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority vote, may appoint or retain legal counsel to appear in, commence ~~or~~, prosecute, ~~or by a majority vote, may appoint or retain legal counsel to~~ defend, or intervene in; any action, suit, matter, cause, or proceeding in any court or agency when deemed necessary or advisable to protect the official interests of the legislative branch. Section 54-12-08 does not apply to a person appointed or retained under this section.

**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1385 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas          92              Nays          0              Absent        5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas          47              Nays          0              Absent        2

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State