

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2076

Introduced by

Natural Resources Committee

(At the request of the Public Service Commission)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 6 of section 49-02-02 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the employment and compensation of expert help and assistance for  
3 hearings or investigations regarding gas or electric public utilities.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 49-02-02 of the 1995

6 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 6. Employ, and fix the compensation of, rate experts, engineers, auditors, attorneys,  
8 and all other expert help and assistance for hearings or investigations on ~~rate~~  
9 ~~increase~~ applications filed by gas or electric public utilities and rate decrease  
10 proceedings concerning gas or electric public utilities. The expense of any  
11 hearings or investigations and the actual expenses of any employees of the  
12 commission while engaged upon any hearing or investigation must upon the order  
13 of the commission be paid by the public utility involved. The commission shall  
14 ascertain the costs and expenditures. After giving the public utility notice and  
15 opportunity to demand a hearing, and after a hearing, if any, is held, the  
16 commission shall render a bill and make an order for payment by certified mail or  
17 by personal delivery to one of the managing officers of the public utility. The billing  
18 and order may be made from time to time during the hearing or investigation or at  
19 the conclusion thereof, as the commission determines. Upon receipt of the bill and  
20 order for payment, as evidenced by return receipt or other proof, the public utility  
21 shall pay to the commission the amount billed. All amounts not paid within thirty  
22 days after receipt of the order for payment draw interest at the rate of six percent

- 1 per annum from the date of receipt of the order. All costs and expenses collected
- 2 by the commission under this subsection must be deposited in a special account
- 3 within the public service commission.