

SENATE BILL NO. 2117

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor 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 expenses of public service commission rate proceedings.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 49-02-02 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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