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Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2249

Introduced by

Senators Holmberg, Bekkedahl, Meyer

Representatives Mock, J. Nelson, Porter

A BILL for an Act to create and enact sections 15-11-40 and 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state energy research center and the state energy research center fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Section 15-11-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

15-11-40. State energy research center.

1. The state energy research center at the university of North Dakota energy and environmental research center is created for the purpose of conducting exploratory, transformational, and innovative research that advances future energy opportunities and benefits the state's economy and environment through:
   a. Exploratory research of technologies and methodologies that facilitate the prudent development, and clean and efficient use, of the state's energy resources;
   b. Greater access to energy experts for timely scientific and engineering studies to support the state's interests; and
   c. Education and outreach related to the state's energy resources.
2. The state energy research center shall report all research activities and accomplishments biennially to the interim legislative energy development and transmission committee and to the industrial commission.
3. To effectuate the purposes of this section, the energy and environmental research center may:
   a. Select the research topics and projects to be pursued;

b. Enter contracts or agreements with other North Dakota institutions of higher education to support select research topics and projects;

c. Enter contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit organizations to carry out selected research topics and projects; and

d. Accepting donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to carry out the selected research topics and projects.

SECTION 2. Section 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

57-51.1-07.9. State energy research center fund - Continuing appropriation.

The state energy research center fund is a special fund in the state treasury. Before depositing oil and gas gross production tax and oil extraction tax revenues in the general fund, tax relief fund, or lignite research fund, two percent of the revenues must be deposited monthly into the state energy research center fund, up to six million dollars per biennium. All moneys deposited in the state energy research center fund and interest on all such moneys are appropriated as a continuing appropriation to the state energy research center to be used in accordance with section 15-11-40.