

Introduced by

Representative Roers Jones

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the office of apprenticeship within the division of  
3 workforce development of the department of commerce; and to amend and reenact section  
4 54-60-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the division of workforce development;  
5 to provide an appropriation; and to provide a report.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
8 and enacted as follows:

9 **Office of apprenticeship - Duties.**

- 10 1. There is created an office of apprenticeship within the division of workforce  
11 development of the department.
- 12 2. Employees of the office of apprenticeship shall report to the director of the division of  
13 workforce development.
- 14 3. The director of the division of workforce development may appoint an office supervisor  
15 to oversee the office. If the director of the division of workforce development appoints  
16 an office supervisor, all employees shall report to the office supervisor and the office  
17 supervisor shall report to the director of the division of workforce development.
- 18 4. The office of apprenticeship:
- 19 a. Shall assist, coordinate, and collaborate with the state director from the office of  
20 apprenticeship of the United States department of labor to administer the federal  
21 apprenticeship system within the state.
- 22 b. Shall develop and implement a statewide strategy to support the state director  
23 from the office of apprenticeship of the United States department of labor to

1                   maintain and manage existing apprenticeship programs and develop and expand  
2                   newly created apprenticeship programs in the state.

3                   c. Shall develop a pilot program to support a business operating or seeking to  
4                   create an apprenticeship program under the federal apprenticeship system.

5                   d. May contract with other state agencies to develop and administer programs to  
6                   assist the state director from the office of apprenticeship of the United States  
7                   department of labor in promoting entrance in the federal apprenticeship system.

8                   **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10                   **54-60-17. Division of workforce development - Internships, apprenticeships, and work**  
11 **experience opportunities.**

12                   The division of workforce development shall administer a program to increase use of  
13 internships, apprenticeships, and work experience opportunities for higher education students,  
14 high school students enrolled in grade eleven or twelve, and educators. To increase  
15 apprenticeship in the state, the division shall utilize and collaborate with the office of  
16 apprenticeship. The primary focus of this program must be higher education internships in  
17 target industries. This program shall provide services to employers, communities, and business  
18 organizations to increase internship, apprenticeship, and work experience opportunities. The  
19 department shall maintain records of the number of internship, apprenticeship, and work  
20 experience opportunities subsidized within each funding recipient.

21                   **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICE OF**  
22 **APPRENTICESHIP - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - REPORT TO THE**  
23 **SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the  
24 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$650,000, or so much  
25 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of providing  
26 salaries and benefits for the office of apprenticeship staff, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
27 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The department of commerce is authorized three full-time  
28 equivalent positions to administer the office of apprenticeship. The department of commerce  
29 shall report to the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the number of apprentices and  
30 employers assisted through the office of apprenticeship and the number of new apprenticeship  
31 programs created during the 2025-27 biennium.