

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the ethics
2 commission; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative
3 management report; and to declare an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
6 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the ethics commission for the purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the ethics commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending
9 June 30, 2025, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Ethics commission	\$623,984	\$427,992	\$1,051,976
Total general fund	\$623,984	\$427,992	\$1,051,976
Full-time equivalent positions	1.00	1.00	2.00
Ethics commission	\$623,984	\$514,258	\$1,138,242
Total general fund	\$623,984	\$514,258	\$1,138,242
Full-time equivalent positions	1.00	2.00	3.00

18 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-**
19 **NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items
20 included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Attorney fees	\$0	\$72,000
Office relocation	0	25,000

1	New FTE position one-time costs	<u>0</u>	<u>1,825</u>
2	Total general fund	\$0	\$98,825

3 The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget
4 for the 2025-27 biennium. The ethics commission shall report to the appropriations committees
5 of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium
6 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

7 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - FEE STRUCTURE.** During the
8 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the feasibility and
9 desirability of establishing a rate structure to offset the operating expenses of the ethics
10 commission. The study must include a comparison of the funding method for ethics
11 commissions used by other states within the region. The legislative management shall report its
12 findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
13 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

14 **SECTION 4. REPORT - ETHICS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.** During the 2023-24 interim,
15 the ethics commission shall provide reports to the legislative management regarding the
16 activities and operations of the commission. The reports must include information regarding the
17 number of complaints received by the commission, education and outreach efforts, and the
18 status of the commission's budget.

19 **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** The sum of \$97,000 for attorney fees and office relocation
20 costs included in the ethics commission line item in section 1 of this Act is declared to be an
21 emergency measure.