

**SENATE BILL NO. 2161**

Introduced by

Senators Sickler, Bekkedahl, Patten, Sorvaag

Representatives Mitskog, Nathe

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15-11-40 and 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the state energy research center and the center's funding.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-11-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15-11-40. State energy research center - Report. (Effective through June 30, 2027)**

7 1. The state energy research center at the university of North Dakota energy and  
8 environmental research center is created ~~for the purpose of conducting~~to conduct  
9 exploratory, transformational, and innovative research that advances future energy  
10 opportunities and benefits the state's economy and environment through:

11 a. Exploratory research of technologies and methodologies that facilitate the  
12 prudent development, and clean and efficient use, of the state's energy  
13 resources;

14 b. Greater access to energy experts for timely scientific and engineering studies to  
15 support the state's interests; and

16 c. Education and outreach related to the state's energy resources.

17 2. The state energy research center shall report all research activities and  
18 accomplishments annually to the interim legislative energy development and  
19 transmission committee and to the industrial commission. Upon request, the state  
20 energy research center shall report all research activities and accomplishments to the  
21 appropriations committees of the legislative assembly.

22 3. To ~~effectuate~~carry out the purposes of this section, the energy and environmental  
23 research center may:

24 a. Select the research topics and projects to be pursued;

- 1           b. Enter contracts or agreements with other North Dakota institutions of higher  
2           education to support select research topics and projects;
  - 3           c. Enter contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit organizations  
4           to carry out selected research topics and projects; and
  - 5           d. ~~Aaccepting~~Accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to  
6           carry out the selected research topics and projects.
- 7           4. The state energy research center may not conduct research or pursue projects that  
8           will result in the exploration, storage, treatment, or disposal of high-level radioactive  
9           waste in North Dakota.

10           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12           **57-51.1-07.9. State energy research center fund - Continuing appropriation. (Effective**  
13 **through June 30, 2027)**

14           The state energy research center fund is a special fund in the state treasury. Before  
15 depositing oil and gas gross production tax and oil extraction tax revenues under section  
16 57-51.1-07.5, one percent of the revenues must be deposited monthly into the state energy  
17 research center fund, up to ~~five~~tenseven million ~~five hundred thousand~~ dollars per biennium. All  
18 moneys deposited in the state energy research center fund and interest on all such moneys are  
19 appropriated on a continuing basis to the industrial commission for distribution to the state  
20 energy research center. The state energy research center shall use the funds in accordance  
21 with section 15-11-40.