

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2142

Page 1, line 7, remove "**- Fees**"

Page 1, line 9, replace "and shall" with ". The office of immigration"

Page 1, remove lines 10 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 4 with:

- "1. Shall develop and implement a statewide strategy to support businesses in recruiting and retaining foreign labor, including immigrants already in the United States and integration of immigrants into the state to promote economic opportunities for immigrant communities.
2. Shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, legislative assembly, and state agencies regarding immigrant integration and foreign labor issues.
3. Shall develop a pilot program to support businesses pursuing or employing legal immigrants and to support communities to develop immigration integration plans and activities.
4. May contract with other state agencies to develop and administer programs or services related to immigration integration and access to basic needs that promote entrance and movement throughout the workforce.
5. May contract with an organization with expertise related to the goals of the office of immigration."

Page 2, line 7, remove "**- ONE-TIME FUNDING**"

Page 2, line 8, replace "\$242,500" with "\$485,000"

Page 2, line 9, remove "and out of any moneys in the economic development"

Page 2, remove line 10

Page 2, line 11, remove "sum as may be necessary,"

Page 2, line 13, replace "one" with "two"

Page 2, line 13, replace "position" with "positions"

Page 2, line 16, remove "The \$242,500 appropriation from the general"

Page 2, remove line 17

Page 2, line 18, replace "**LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**" with "**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**"

Page 2, line 18, remove "**BUDGET**"

Page 2, line 19, remove "**SECTION REPORT -**"

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2142

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, K. Roers, Sorvaag

Representatives Ista, Meier, Mitskog

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 an office of immigration; to provide an appropriation;
3 and to provide for a report.

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

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

7 **Office of immigration - Duties -- Fees.**

8 There is created an office of immigration within the department of commerce. Employees of
9 the office of immigration report to the commissioner ~~and shall.~~ The office of immigration:

10 ~~1. Coordinate and expedite the immigration process and placement of international~~
11 ~~workers immigrating to North Dakota for employment.~~

12 ~~2. Support recently immigrated individuals by assisting with any financial, legal, housing,~~
13 ~~or other immigration-related applications, forms, or communications necessary to~~
14 ~~provide for successful immigration to the state.~~

15 ~~3. Collaborate with employers to establish a system to assist immigrants with accessing~~
16 ~~basic housing, food, and other essential services necessary to provide for successful~~
17 ~~immigration to the state.~~

18 ~~4. Create a communication system among immigrated individuals to provide a network~~
19 ~~for immigrants to share community resources and provide immigration process~~
20 ~~assistance.~~

21 ~~5. Provide outreach services to current and potential immigrants to encourage additional~~
22 ~~individuals to immigrate to North Dakota for employment.~~

23 ~~6. Develop guidelines and procedures for a fee system to be assessed to each business~~
24 ~~benefiting from employment of immigrant workers as a result of assistance provided.~~

1 2023-25 biennium. ~~The \$242,500 appropriation from the general fund in this section is~~
2 ~~considered a one-time funding item.~~

3 **SECTION 3. ~~LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT~~ DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STUDY -**
4 **IMMIGRATION - ~~BUDGET SECTION REPORT~~ - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE**
5 **ASSEMBLY.** During the 2023-24 interim, the ~~legislative management~~ department of commerce
6 shall conduct a study ~~the immigration needs in the state.~~ ~~The study must include input from the~~
7 ~~department of commerce regarding the implementation of the office of immigration, the number~~
8 ~~of immigrants assisted, efficiencies gained in helping immigrant individuals with the immigration~~
9 ~~process, collaborative efforts with businesses, the status of the immigration communication~~
10 ~~system, the status of developing a fee system to defray the administrative costs of the office,~~
11 ~~and other immigration needs in the state. The study must be completed by July 1, 2024. The~~
12 ~~interim committee assigned the responsibility for this study shall provide a recommendation~~
13 ~~regarding the current and future immigration needs of the state and the role of the office of~~
14 ~~immigration to the budget section. The legislative management~~ to determine immigration
15 opportunities in the state, goals of the office of immigration, performance indicators to measure
16 progress and success of immigration goals, and a structure for a pilot program to support
17 businesses and communities pursuing legal immigration, and to develop a fee-based system for
18 services to be implemented in the 2025-27 biennium. The study must include input from
19 employers in the state. The department of commerce shall report its findings and
20 recommendations, ~~together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations,~~ to
21 the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.