

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 health care immigration; to provide ~~an~~
3 ~~appropriation~~for a legislative management study; 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 health care immigration - Duties - Fees.**

8 There is created an office of health care immigration within the department of commerce.

9 Employees of the office of health care immigration report to the commissioner and shall:

- 10 1. Coordinate and expedite the immigration process and placement of international
11 health care workers immigrating to North Dakota for employment in health care
12 facilities.
- 13 2. Support recently immigrated individuals working in a health care facility by assisting
14 with any financial, legal, housing, or other immigration-related applications, forms, or
15 communications necessary to provide for successful immigration to the state.
- 16 3. Collaborate with health care facilities to establish a system to assist immigrants with
17 accessing basic housing, food, and other essential services necessary to provide for
18 successful immigration to the state.
- 19 4. Create a communication system among health care immigrated and other immigrated
20 individuals to provide a network for immigrants to share community resources and
21 provide immigration process assistance.
- 22 5. Provide outreach services to current and potential health care immigrants to
23 encourage additional individuals to immigrate to North Dakota for employment in
24 health care facilities.

1 6. Develop guidelines and procedures for a fee system to be assessed to each business
2 benefiting from employment of immigrant workers as a result of assistance provided
3 by the office of health care immigration to offset administrative costs of the office of
4 health care immigration by July 1, 2025. Revenue collected from health care
5 immigration assistance fees and any interest earned on these moneys must be
6 deposited in the economic development fund for the benefit of the office of health care
7 immigration, subject to legislative appropriations.

8 ~~—SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION -- DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE -- OFFICE OF HEALTH~~
9 ~~CARE IMMIGRATION -- FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS -- REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH~~
10 ~~LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY -- ONE-TIME FUNDING.~~ There is appropriated out of any moneys in
11 the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$536,257, or so
12 much of the sum as may be necessary, and out of any moneys in the economic development
13 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$536,257, or so much of the
14 sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of providing salaries
15 and benefits for office of health care immigration staff, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,
16 and ending June 30, 2025. The department of commerce is authorized five full-time equivalent
17 positions to administer the office of health care immigration, including one attorney, one
18 administrative assistant, and three nurse positions. The department of commerce shall report to
19 the sixty-ninth legislative assembly regarding the number of health care immigrants and health
20 care facilities assisted through the office of health care immigration during the 2023-25
21 biennium. The \$536,257 appropriation from the general fund in this section is considered a
22 one-time funding item.

23 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - HEALTH CARE IMMIGRATION -**
24 **REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** During the 2023-24 interim, the
25 legislative management shall consider studying health care immigration needs in the state. The
26 study must include input from the department of commerce regarding the implementation of the
27 office of health care immigration, the number of health care immigrants assisted, efficiencies
28 gained in helping immigrant individuals with the immigration process, collaborative efforts with
29 health care facilities and other health care organizations, the status of the immigration
30 communication system, the status of developing a fee system to defray the administrative costs
31 of the office, and other health care immigration needs in the state. The legislative management

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to
- 2 implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.