

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~~ a division of
3 immigration assistance; to amend and reenact section 54-60-02 of the North Dakota Century
4 Code, relating to divisions of the department of commerce; to provide an appropriation; and to
5 provide for 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 health care immigration - Duties - Fees.**~~

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

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

12 ~~1. Coordinate and expedite the immigration process and placement of international~~
13 ~~health care workers immigrating to North Dakota for employment in health care~~
14 ~~facilities.~~

15 ~~2. Support recently immigrated individuals working in a health care facility by assisting~~
16 ~~with any financial, legal, housing, or other immigration-related applications, forms, or~~
17 ~~communications necessary to provide for successful immigration to the state.~~

18 ~~3. Collaborate with health care facilities to establish a system to assist immigrants with~~
19 ~~accessing basic housing, food, and other essential services necessary to provide for~~
20 ~~successful immigration to the state.~~

21 ~~4. Create a communication system among health care immigrated and other immigrated~~
22 ~~individuals to provide a network for immigrants to share community resources and~~
23 ~~provide immigration process assistance.~~

1 ~~5. Provide outreach services to current and potential health care immigrants to~~
2 ~~encourage additional individuals to immigrate to North Dakota for employment in~~
3 ~~health care facilities.~~

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

11 **Division of immigration assistance**

12 There is created a division of immigration assistance in the department of commerce. The
13 division of immigration assistance shall assist:

- 14 1. Individuals residing in North Dakota that recently immigrated to the state and
15 individuals considering immigrating to the state for work or education related
16 purposes; and
17 2. North Dakota businesses attempting to attract and retain immigrant workers.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **54-60-02. Department of commerce - Divisions.**

21 The North Dakota department of commerce is created.

22 1. The department must consist of:

- 23 a. A division of community services;
24 b. A division of economic development and finance;
25 c. A division of tourism;
26 d. A division of workforce development;
27 e. A division of immigration assistance; and

28 e.f. Any division or office the commissioner determines necessary to carry out this
29 chapter.

30 2. The commissioner shall appoint the director of each division of the department. Each
31 director appointed by the commissioner serves at the pleasure of the commissioner

1 and is entitled to receive a salary set by the commissioner within the limits of
2 legislative appropriations.

3 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICE OF HEALTH-**
4 **CARE IMMIGRATION DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS -**
5 **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS -- REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE-**
6 **ASSEMBLY -- ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
7 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$536,257, or so much of the~~
8 ~~sum as may be necessary, and out of any moneys in the economic development fund in the~~
9 ~~state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$536,257~~ \$2,036,541, or so much of the
10 sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce, of which \$1,036,541 is for the
11 purpose of providing salaries and benefits for ~~office of health care immigration~~ division of
12 immigration assistance staff and \$1,000,000 is for the purpose of contracting with a third-party
13 vendor to assist the division of immigration assistance with services required in section 1 of this
14 Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department of
15 commerce is authorized five full-time equivalent positions to administer the ~~office of health care-~~
16 ~~immigration, including one attorney, one administrative assistant, and three nurse positions. The~~
17 ~~department of commerce shall report to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly regarding the~~
18 ~~number of health care immigrants and health care facilities assisted through the office of health-~~
19 ~~care immigration during the 2023-25 biennium. The \$536,257 appropriation from the general-~~
20 ~~fund in this section is considered a one-time funding item~~ division of immigration assistance.

21 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - IMMIGRATION**
22 **ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM - MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT - REPORT TO**
23 **SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
24 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000,000, or so
25 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of
26 providing grants to North Dakota businesses to attract and retain immigrant workers, for the
27 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department of commerce may
28 spend the funds appropriated in this section only to the extent the organization has secured
29 matching funds from nonstate sources on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The department of commerce
30 shall report to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly regarding the number of North Dakota

- 1 businesses assisted and number of workers added as a result of grants provided by the division
- 2 of immigrant assistance during the 2023-25 biennium.