

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the public service  
2 commission; and to provide loan authorization.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds  
5 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
6 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from other funds derived from special funds and  
7 federal funds, to the public service commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the  
8 public service commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027,  
9 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	Adjustments or <u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
10			
11			
12	Salaries and wages	\$11,026,304	\$0
13	Operating expenses	2,205,487	0
14	Capital assets	25,000	0
15	Grants	20,000	0
16	Abandoned mined lands contractual	6,000,000	0
17	services		
18	Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0
19	Railroad safety program	672,206	0
20	Specialized legal services	<u>420,000</u>	<u>0</u>
21	Total all funds	\$21,268,997	\$0
22	Less other funds	<u>13,779,645</u>	<u>0</u>
23	Total general fund	\$7,489,352	\$0
24	Full-time equivalent positions	45.00	0.00

1       **SECTION 2. RAIL RATE COMPLAINT CASE - LOAN AUTHORIZATION.** The public  
2 service commission may obtain a loan from the Bank of North Dakota for costs associated with  
3 a rail rate complaint case. The loan may not exceed \$900,000, and the interest rate associated  
4 with the loan must be the prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota governmental  
5 entities. The public service commission shall repay the loan from amounts available from  
6 damages or proceeds received, net of legal fees, from a successful outcome of a rail complaint  
7 case. If moneys anticipated to be available on June 30, 2027, are not sufficient to repay the  
8 loan, the public service commission may request a deficiency appropriation from the legislative  
9 assembly to repay the loan.