

February 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### SENATE BILL NO. 2018

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of  
2 commerce; ~~and to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century~~  
3 ~~Code, relating to department of commerce grant reporting requirements; to amend and reenact~~  
4 ~~section 54-60-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to changing the name of the office~~  
5 ~~of legal immigration to the office of global talent; to provide for a transfer; to provide an~~  
6 ~~exemption; and to provide for a legislative management report.~~

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

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

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
14			
15			
16	<del>Salaries and wages</del>	<del>\$15,785,306</del>	<del>\$0</del>
17	<del>Operating expenses</del>	<del>19,462,643</del>	<del>19,462,643</del>
18	<del>Grants</del>	<del>47,636,118</del>	<del>47,636,118</del>
19	<del>Discretionary funds</del>	<del>2,150,000</del>	<del>2,150,000</del>

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

1	<del>Partner programs</del>	<del>907,920</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>907,920</del>
2	<del>Entrepreneurship grants and vouchers</del>	<del>948,467</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>948,467</del>
3	<del>Total all funds</del>	<del>\$86,890,454</del>	<del>\$0</del>	<del>\$86,890,454</del>
4	<del>Less other funds</del>	<del>53,344,371</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>53,344,371</del>
5	<del>Total general fund</del>	<del>\$33,546,083</del>	<del>\$0</del>	<del>\$33,546,083</del>
6	<del>Full-time equivalent positions</del>	<del>62.80</del>	<del>0.00</del>	<del>62.80</del>
7	Salaries and wages	\$15,785,306	\$1,723,056	\$17,508,362
8	New and vacant FTE pool	0	582,600	582,600
9	Operating expenses	19,462,643	9,210,023	28,672,666
10	Grants	47,636,118	40,746,197	88,382,315
11	Discretionary funds	2,150,000	0	2,150,000
12	Workforce programs	0	8,000,000	8,000,000
13	Partner programs	907,920	0	907,920
14	Entrepreneurship grants and vouchers	948,467	759,044	1,707,511
15	Total all funds	\$86,890,454	\$61,020,920	\$147,911,374
16	Less other funds	53,344,371	52,870,336	106,214,707
17	Total general fund	\$33,546,083	\$8,150,584	\$41,696,667
18	Full-time equivalent positions	62.80	(1.00)	61.80

**SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**

**SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
25	Temporary salaries	\$50,000	\$103,590	\$153,590
26	Tourism marketing awareness	0	7,000,000	7,000,000
27	Operation intern	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
28	Office of global talent	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
29	Tourism destination development grants	0	20,000,000	20,000,000
30	Beyond visual line of sight uncrewed			

1	aircraft system program	0	10,000,000	10,000,000
2	Enhanced use lease grant	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
3	Autonomous agriculture grants	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
4	Base enhancement grants	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
5	Tribally controlled community college grants	750,000	0	750,000
6	Entrepreneurship grants and vouchers	759,044	0	759,044
7	Regional workforce impact program grants	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
8	Technical skills training grants	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>
9	Total	\$6,559,044	\$53,103,590	\$59,662,634

10       **SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST.** The  
 11 department of commerce may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool  
 12 line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to  
 13 transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item in  
 14 accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as  
 15 approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

16       **SECTION 4. TRANSFER - INTERNSHIP FUND.** The office of management and budget  
 17 shall transfer ~~\$1,006,896~~\$3,000,000 of the amount appropriated in the operating expenses line  
 18 item in section 1 of this Act to the internship fund for the purpose of administering the operation  
 19 intern program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

20       **SECTION 5. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**  
 21 **LEGACY INVESTMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY FUND.** The office of management and budget  
 22 shall transfer the sum of \$5,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to  
 23 the legacy investment for technology fund for the purpose of providing legacy investment  
 24 technology loans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

25       **SECTION 6. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**  
 26 **NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND.** The office of management and budget shall transfer  
 27 the sum of \$30,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the North  
 28 Dakota development fund for programs under chapter 10-30.5, for the biennium beginning  
 29 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

30       **SECTION 7. RURAL HEALTH CARE GRANT PROGRAM - MATCHING FUNDS**  
 31 **REQUIREMENT.** The grants line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$444,000 from the

1 general fund for providing matching funds to an organization assisting in the recruitment,  
2 distribution, and supply, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of personnel providing health  
3 services in rural areas of the state. The department of commerce may spend the funds  
4 appropriated in this section only to the extent the organization has secured matching funds from  
5 nonstate sources on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

6 **SECTION 8. OTHER FUNDS - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND.**

7 The other funds line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$53,000,000 from the  
8 strategic investment and improvements fund, of which:

- 9 1. \$7,000,000 is for tourism marketing awareness, including \$150,000 for supporting the  
10 continuation of the North Dakota state magazine with the current publisher of the  
11 magazine;
- 12 2. \$20,000,000 is for tourism destination development grants;
- 13 3. \$10,000,000 is for the beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system program;
- 14 4. \$5,000,000 is for the enhanced use lease grant program;
- 15 5. \$5,000,000 is for autonomous agriculture grants, which may be provided for  
16 autonomous trucking grants;
- 17 6. \$1,000,000 is for providing base enhancement grants to communities with an air force  
18 base or air national guard facilities, including \$600,000 to eligible organizations in  
19 Minot, \$250,000 to eligible organizations in Grand Forks, and \$150,000 to eligible  
20 organizations in Fargo; and
- 21 7. \$5,000,000 is for regional workforce impact program grants.

22 **SECTION 9. TRIBALLY CONTROLLED COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANTS -**

23 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.** The grants line item in section 1 of this Act includes  
24 \$750,000 from the general fund for the purpose of providing workforce development grants to a  
25 tribally controlled community college in the Turtle Mountain area. To be eligible for a grant under  
26 this section, a tribally controlled community college shall partner with at least one high school in  
27 the state for programs under section 54-60.2-02. During the 2025-26 interim, a tribally  
28 controlled community college receiving funding under this program shall report to the  
29 department of commerce by August 1, 2026, regarding the use of grant funds and the  
30 department of commerce shall provide a report to the legislative management by October 1,  
31 2026, regarding the use of grant funds.

1       **SECTION 10. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS - NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS**

2       **GRANT.** The discretionary funds line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$2,150,000 from the  
3 general fund, of which \$600,000 is designated for a grant to support an organization dedicated  
4 to assisting Native American small businesses in North Dakota.

5       **SECTION 11.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7       **Reporting requirements - Budget section - Grant programs.**

8       The department shall compile a report regarding grant programs administered by the  
9 department, excluding federally funded programs, to be provided semiannually to the budget  
10 section. The report must include the following for each grant program:

- 11       1. The purpose of the grant program;
- 12       2. Funding history;
- 13       3. The number of days the grant application was open to applicants;
- 14       4. The name of each grant recipient and the amount of each grant award; and
- 15       5. The distribution date of grant funds or the anticipated distribution date of grant funds.

16       **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18       **54-60-31. Office of ~~legal-immigration~~global talent - Duties.**

19       There is created an office of ~~legal-immigration~~global talent within the department of  
20 commerce. Employees of the office of ~~legal-immigration~~global talent report to the commissioner.  
21 The office of ~~legal-immigration~~global talent:

- 22       1. Shall develop and implement a statewide strategy to support businesses in recruiting  
23       and retaining foreign labor, including immigrants already in the United States and  
24       integration of immigrants into the state to promote economic opportunities for  
25       immigrant communities.
- 26       2. Shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, legislative assembly, and  
27       state agencies regarding immigrant integration and foreign labor issues.
- 28       3. Shall develop a pilot program to support businesses pursuing or employing legal  
29       immigrants and to support communities to develop immigration integration plans and  
30       activities.

- 1 4. May contract with other state agencies to develop and administer programs or  
2 services related to immigration integration and access to basic needs that promote  
3 entrance and movement throughout the workforce.
- 4 5. May contract with an organization with expertise related to the goals of the office of  
5 [legal immigration](#) [global talent](#).

6 **SECTION 13. EXEMPTION - UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.** The following  
7 appropriations are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11 and any unexpended  
8 funds from these appropriations may be continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,  
9 and ending June 30, 2027:

- 10 1. The sum of \$3,000,000 appropriated from federal COVID-19 funds for the community  
11 development block grant program in section 1 of chapter 27 of the 2021 Session Laws  
12 and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023  
13 Session Laws.
- 14 2. The sum of \$56,234,176 appropriated from federal COVID-19 funds for the state small  
15 business credit initiative program in section 2 of chapter 28 of the 2021 Session Laws  
16 and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023  
17 Session Laws.
- 18 3. The sum of \$15,000,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund for  
19 the workforce development incentive grant program in subsection 38 of section 1 of  
20 chapter 550 of the 2021 Special Session Session Laws and continued into the  
21 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 22 4. The sum of \$5,000,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund for the  
23 technical skills training grant program in subsection 39 of section 1 of chapter 550 of  
24 the 2021 Special Session Session Laws and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in  
25 section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 26 5. The sum of \$28,500,000 appropriated from the general fund for workforce programs,  
27 of which \$12,000,000 was for workforce talent attraction initiative operating expenses,  
28 \$12,500,000 was for workforce investment program grants, \$2,000,000 was for  
29 technical skills training grants, and \$2,000,000 was for new Americans workforce  
30 development and training grants, in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.

- 1       6.    The sum of \$25,000,000 appropriated from the strategic investment and  
2       improvements fund for the tourism destination development initiative in section 1 of  
3       chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 4       7.    The sum of \$10,000,000 appropriated from the strategic investment and  
5       improvements fund for the enhanced use lease grant program in section 1 of  
6       chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 7       8.    The sum of \$120,000,000 appropriated from federal funds for weatherization and  
8       energy assistance programs in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 9       9.    The sum of \$2,150,000 appropriated from the general fund for discretionary funds in  
10      section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 11     10.   The sum of \$3,258,084 appropriated from federal funds for heating, furnace, and  
12      cooling assistance grants in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 13     11.   The sum of \$14,081,719 appropriated from federal funds for energy conservation  
14      assistance grants in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 15     12.   The sum of \$1,550,000 appropriated from federal funds for the parks and recreation  
16      program in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 17     13.   The sum of \$572,143 appropriated from federal funds for the state small business  
18      credit initiative program in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 19     14.   The sum of \$2,000,000 appropriated from the general fund for the office of legal  
20      immigration in section 1 of chapter 639 of the 2023 Special Session Session Laws.