

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Conference Committee Amendments  
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2018**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of commerce; to provide an appropriation to the attorney general; to provide an appropriation to the department of career and technical education; to provide an appropriation to the state fair association; to provide a contingent appropriation; to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to department of commerce grant reporting requirements; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 10-30.5-02, sections 54-60-09, 54-60-19, 54-60-28, 54-60-29, 54-60-29.1, and 54-60-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the purpose of the North Dakota development fund, duties and talent strategy of the division of workforce development, the uncrewed aircraft systems program, the uncrewed aircraft systems program fund, the beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system program, and changing the name of the office of legal immigration to the global talent office; to authorize a Bank of North Dakota line of credit; to provide for a transfer; to provide an application; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a legislative management report.

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

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

		Adjustments or	
	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

1	Salaries and wages	\$15,785,306	\$1,912,342	\$17,697,648
2	New and vacant FTE pool	0	582,600	582,600
3	Operating expenses	19,462,643	7,220,023	26,682,666
4	Grants	47,636,118	53,921,197	101,557,315
5	Discretionary funds	2,150,000	0	2,150,000
6	Workforce programs	0	7,000,000	7,000,000
7	Partner programs	907,920	0	907,920
8	Entrepreneurship grants and vouchers	<u>948,467</u>	<u>759,044</u>	<u>1,707,511</u>
9	Total all funds	\$86,890,454	\$71,395,206	\$158,285,660
10	Less other funds	<u>53,344,371</u>	<u>62,645,336</u>	<u>115,989,707</u>
11	Total general fund	\$33,546,083	\$8,749,870	\$42,295,953
12	Full-time equivalent positions	62.80	3.00	65.80

**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>
19 Temporary salaries	\$50,000	\$103,590	\$153,590
20 Tourism marketing awareness	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
21 Operation intern	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
22 Global talent office	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
23 Tourism destination development grants	0	15,000,000	15,000,000
24 Uncrewed aerial vehicle replacement grant	0	9,000,000	9,000,000
25 program			
26 Beyond visual line of sight uncrewed	0	15,000,000	15,000,000
27 aircraft system program			
28 Enhanced use lease grant	0	2,500,000	2,500,000
29 Autonomous agriculture grants	0	7,500,000	7,500,000
30 Base enhancement grants	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
31 Tribally controlled community college grants	750,000	0	750,000

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

1	Native American small business grant	0	600,000	600,000
2	Historic theater restoration grant	0	500,000	500,000
3	Historic opera house restoration grant	0	250,000	250,000
4	Historic theater improvement grant	0	250,000	250,000
5	Medora transportation improvement grant	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
6	Community hall grant	0	175,000	175,000
7	Regional planning council grants	1,400,000	0	1,400,000
8	Entrepreneurship grants and vouchers	759,044	0	759,044
9	Regional workforce impact program grants	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
10	Technical skills training grants	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
11	Total	\$6,959,044	\$62,878,590	\$69,837,634

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

**SECTION 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - CHILDREN'S EDUCATION**

**SCIENCE CENTER GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$2,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of providing grants of up to \$1,000,000 to support the construction of children's education science centers in cities in the state with a population of at least 50,000 residents, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding appropriated in this section is available only if the state treasurer certifies to the office of management and budget that oil and gas tax revenue allocations to the strategic investment and improvements fund under section 57-51.1-07.5 have exceeded \$402,000,000 during the 2025-27 biennium. The appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

**SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**  
**FUND - ATTORNEY GENERAL - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - MATCHING**  
**FUNDS REQUIREMENT - ONE-TIME FUNDING - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.**

1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the attorney general for the purpose of providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the bureau of criminal investigation in conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law enforcement first response operations, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.
2. For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or technologies.
3. The attorney general shall develop an application process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be eligible for a grant, an individual or entity shall certify to the attorney general that the operation of the autonomous technology is related to conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law enforcement first response operations. The attorney general may require an individual or entity to provide one dollar of matching funds for every four dollars awarded by the state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the attorney general.
4. During the 2025-26 interim, the attorney general shall provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

**SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**  
**FUND - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION - AUTONOMOUS**  
**TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT - ONE-TIME FUNDING -**  
**LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.**

- 1       1.   There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and  
2           improvements fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of  
3           the sum as may be necessary, to the department of career and technical education for  
4           the purpose of providing autonomous technology grants to a workforce training center  
5           serving the northwest area of the state for providing workforce training to address  
6           workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in the oil and gas industry, for the  
7           biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation in this  
8           section is considered a one-time funding item.
- 9       2.   For purposes of this section, autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft  
10           systems; autonomous vehicles; or other autonomous systems, processes, or  
11           technologies.
- 12      3.   The department of career and technical education shall develop an application  
13           process and guidelines for the grants, including eligibility criteria, matching  
14           requirements, eligible uses of grant funding, and maximum grant awards. To be  
15           eligible for a grant, a workforce training center shall certify to the department of career  
16           and technical education that the operation of the autonomous technology is related to  
17           workforce training to address workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in  
18           the oil and gas industry. The department of career and technical education may  
19           require a workforce training center to provide one dollar of matching funds for every  
20           four dollars awarded by the state. A workforce training center may use grant funding  
21           for education or training curriculum expenses related to autonomous technology,  
22           autonomous technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous  
23           technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the department of career and  
24           technical education.
- 25      4.   During the 2025-26 interim, the department of career and technical education shall  
26           provide at least one report to the legislative management regarding the grants,  
27           including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use  
28           of the grant funding.

29       **SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - STATE FAIR ASSOCIATION - SANITATION**

30       **RESTORATION PROJECT - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in  
31       the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$350,000, or so

1 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state fair association for the purpose of a  
2 sanitation restoration project, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,  
3 2027. The appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

4 **SECTION 8. TRANSFER - INTERNSHIP FUND.** The office of management and budget  
5 shall transfer \$3,000,000 of the amount appropriated in the operating expenses line item in  
6 section 1 of this Act to the internship fund for the purpose of administering the operation intern  
7 program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

8 **SECTION 9. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**  
9 **LEGACY INVESTMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY FUND.** The office of management and budget  
10 shall transfer the sum of \$10,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to  
11 the legacy investment for technology fund for the purpose of providing legacy investment  
12 technology loans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

13 **SECTION 10. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**  
14 **NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND - EXEMPTION.** The office of management and  
15 budget shall transfer the sum of \$25,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements  
16 fund to the North Dakota development fund for programs under chapter 10-30.5, for the  
17 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Notwithstanding section  
18 10-30.5-02, the North Dakota development fund may use up to \$10,000,000 of the funds  
19 provided in this section for nonprimary sector business activities.

20 **SECTION 11. BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA LINE OF CREDIT - TRANSFER TO NORTH**  
21 **DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND.** The department of commerce may borrow up to  
22 \$25,000,000 through a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota during the biennium  
23 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the proceeds of which must be transferred  
24 to the North Dakota development fund for programs under chapter 10-30.5. The interest rate  
25 associated with the line of credit may not exceed the prevailing interest rate charged to North  
26 Dakota governmental entities. The department of commerce shall repay the line of credit from  
27 moneys available in the North Dakota development fund. If the moneys available in the North  
28 Dakota development fund are not sufficient to repay the line of credit, the department of  
29 commerce shall request a deficiency appropriation from the seventieth legislative assembly to  
30 repay the line of credit.

1       **SECTION 12. RURAL HEALTH CARE GRANT PROGRAM - MATCHING FUNDS**

2       **REQUIREMENT.** The grants line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$444,000 from the  
3 general fund for providing matching funds to an organization assisting in the recruitment,  
4 distribution, and supply, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of personnel providing health  
5 services in rural areas of the state. The department of commerce may spend the funds  
6 appropriated in this section only to the extent the organization has secured matching funds from  
7 nonstate sources on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

8       **SECTION 13. OTHER FUNDS - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

9       **FUND - MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT - APPLICATION.** The other funds line item in  
10 section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$62,775,000 from the strategic investment and  
11 improvements fund, of which:

- 12       1.   \$5,000,000 is for tourism marketing awareness, including \$250,000 for supporting the  
13           continuation of the North Dakota state magazine with the current publisher of the  
14           magazine;
- 15       2.   \$15,000,000 is for tourism destination development grants;
- 16       3.   \$9,000,000 is for an uncrewed aerial vehicle replacement program;
- 17       4.   \$15,000,000 is for the beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system program;
- 18       5.   \$2,500,000 is for the enhanced use lease grant program;
- 19       6.   \$7,500,000 is for autonomous agriculture grants;
- 20       7.   \$1,000,000 is for providing base enhancement grants to communities with an air force  
21           base or air national guard facilities, including \$600,000 to eligible organizations in  
22           Minot, \$250,000 to eligible organizations in Grand Forks, and \$150,000 to eligible  
23           organizations in Fargo;
- 24       8.   \$600,000 is for a Native American small business grant;
- 25       9.   \$500,000 is for a historic theater restoration grant, which the department of commerce  
26           may spend only to the extent an organization has secured one dollar of matching  
27           funds from nonstate sources for every one dollar provided by the department of  
28           commerce;
- 29       10.   \$250,000 is for a historic opera house restoration grant;
- 30       11.   \$250,000 is for a historic theater improvement grant;
- 31       12.   \$1,000,000 is for a Medora transportation improvement grant;

1       13.   \$175,000 is for a community hall grant; and

2       14.   \$5,000,000 is for regional workforce impact program grants.

3   The requirements of chapter 54-44.4 do not apply to the selection of a grant recipient, the grant  
4   award, or payments made under this section.

5       **SECTION 14. OTHER FUNDS - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

6       **FUND - UNCREWED AERIAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM - LEGISLATIVE**

7       **MANAGEMENT REPORT.** The other funds line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of  
8   \$9,000,000 which the department of commerce shall use for the purpose of administering an  
9   uncrewed aerial vehicle replacement program, for the period beginning with the effective date of  
10 this Act, and ending June 30, 2027.

11       1.   The department of commerce shall collaborate with the uncrewed aircraft systems test  
12       site established in section 54-60-28 and state agencies, including institutions under  
13       the control of the state board of higher education, to replace uncrewed aerial vehicles  
14       owned by the state which do not comply with requirements of the federal National  
15       Defense Authorization Act and the American Security Drone Act of 2023. The  
16       information technology department, in consultation with the department of commerce  
17       and the uncrewed aircraft systems test site, may implement an enterprise uncrewed  
18       aerial vehicle data management solution. An enterprise uncrewed aerial vehicle data  
19       management solution implemented under this section must ensure all data collected,  
20       transmitted, stored, and consumed by an uncrewed aerial vehicle remain under the  
21       control of the state. As used in this section "enterprise uncrewed aerial vehicle data  
22       management solution" means a system for secure, end-to-end data collection,  
23       transportation, storage, processing, and consumption through enterprise software. A  
24       state agency owning an uncrewed aerial vehicle before January 1, 2025, is eligible to  
25       receive a new uncrewed aerial vehicle that is in compliance with federal requirements  
26       and is of equivalent capability to the agency's existing uncrewed aerial vehicle. The  
27       department of commerce shall purchase each uncrewed aerial vehicle based on the  
28       needs of the agency and a recommendation from the uncrewed aircraft systems test  
29       site and provide the uncrewed aerial vehicle to the agency. The department of  
30       commerce shall use a portion of the funding provided in this section to pay for training  
31       needed for agency staff to operate the new uncrewed aerial vehicle. The department



of commerce and uncrewed aircraft systems test site shall give priority to state agencies willing to share uncrewed aerial vehicles rather than purchasing multiple uncrewed aerial vehicles.

2. Any uncrewed aerial vehicle replaced under this section must be remitted to the uncrewed aircraft systems test site for proper decommissioning and disposal pursuant to federal and state regulations, which may include the sale of uncrewed aerial vehicles to the United States department of homeland security at market rates for use in the counter unmanned aircraft system program. The department of commerce shall remit any funding received under this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

3. The department of commerce shall maintain an inventory of uncrewed aerial vehicles purchased for state agencies under this section and encourage state agencies to use the state beyond visual line of sight program. The uncrewed aircraft systems test site shall provide guidance to state agencies regarding the integration of uncrewed aerial vehicles into the beyond visual line of sight system and proper maintenance schedules for uncrewed aerial vehicles. The uncrewed aircraft systems test site shall establish a centralized system for state agencies to register uncrewed aerial vehicles and authorized operators for accessing the beyond visual line of sight system and shall provide operational support when state agencies use uncrewed aircraft systems test site integrated platforms.

4. During the 2025-26 interim, the department of commerce shall compile information from state agencies and provide a report to the legislative management by June 30, 2026, regarding the status of the program, funding spent on uncrewed aerial vehicle replacements and training costs, the number of uncrewed aerial vehicles replaced in each state agency, the number of uncrewed aerial vehicles sold or disposed, and any future needs for each state agency to be compliant with the federal National Defense Authorization Act and the American Security Drone Act of 2023.

#### **SECTION 15. TRIBALLY CONTROLLED COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANTS -**

**LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT.** The grants line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$750,000 from the general fund for the purpose of providing workforce development grants to a tribally controlled community college. To be eligible for a grant under this section, a tribally

1 controlled community college shall partner with at least one high school in the state for  
2 programs under section 54-60.2-02. During the 2025-26 interim, a tribally controlled community  
3 college receiving funding under this program shall report to the department of commerce by  
4 August 1, 2026, regarding the use of grant funds and the department of commerce shall provide  
5 a report to the legislative management by October 1, 2026, regarding the use of grant funds.

6 **SECTION 16. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS - REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL GRANTS.**

7 The discretionary funds line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$2,150,000 from the general  
8 fund, of which \$600,000 is designated for grants to support regional planning councils under  
9 chapter 54-40.1.

10 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 10-30.5-02 of the North Dakota  
11 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 12 1. It is the purpose of this chapter to create a statewide nonprofit development  
13 corporation that will have the authority to take equity positions in, to provide loans to,  
14 erto form a management and operations entity, and to use other innovative financing  
15 mechanisms to provide capital for new or expanding businesses in this state, or  
16 relocating businesses to this state. The corporation's principal mission is the  
17 development and expansion of primary sector business in this state. The corporation  
18 may form additional corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, joint  
19 ventures, or other forms of business associations in order to further its mission of  
20 primary sector economic development.

21 **SECTION 18.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
22 and enacted as follows:

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

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

- 27 1. The purpose of the grant program;  
28 2. Funding history;  
29 3. The number of days the grant application was open to applicants;  
30 4. The name of each grant recipient and the amount of each grant award; and  
31 5. The distribution date of grant funds or the anticipated distribution date of grant funds.

1       **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **54-60-09. Division of workforce development - Duties - Report.**

4       The division of workforce development shall:

- 5       1. Actively monitor local, regional, and national private and public workforce development  
6       initiatives.
- 7       2. Develop and implement the state's talent strategy.
- 8       3. Develop and implement ~~a statewide intelligence coordination strategy~~continually refine  
9       the state workforce mission, vision, and strategies.
- 10      4. Conduct regular employer talent and skills supply and demand studies, the results of  
11      which must be reported to a standing committee of each house of the legislative  
12      assembly as determined by the legislative management during each regular legislative  
13      session.

14      **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16      **54-60-19. Division of workforce development - Talent strategy - Performance and**  
17 **accountability - Report.**

- 18      1. The division of workforce development, in developing and implementing the state's  
19      talent strategy, shall:
  - 20      a. ~~Consult with partners in the state's system for workforce development, workforce~~  
21      ~~training, and talent attraction~~Collect data on all workforce programs administered  
22      by state agencies, including job service North Dakota, the department of career  
23      and technical education, the superintendent of public instruction, the state board  
24      of higher education, the department of health and human services, and other  
25      divisions of the department of commerce, to determine standard measurements  
26      of success and to compile and analyze the program data in a report to be  
27      provided to a standing committee of each house of the legislative assembly as  
28      determined by the legislative management during each regular legislative  
29      session.

- 1           b.    Develop a comprehensive, consolidated biennial statewide strategic plan for the
- 2                state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent
- 3                attraction.
- 4           c.    Continuously review, identify how to improve, and implement improvements to
- 5                the state's system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent
- 6                attraction.
- 7           d.    ~~Develop linkages between partners of the state's system for workforce~~
- 8                ~~development, workforce training, and talent attraction, to assure coordination and~~
- 9                ~~nonduplication of programs and services provided in the state~~Review all
- 10              workforce development programs administered by state agencies for the
- 11              coordination and prevention of duplication of workforce development services.
- 12        2.    The division of workforce development shall develop and implement a system of
- 13              performance and accountability measures for the state's system for workforce
- 14              development, workforce training, and talent attraction. Each partner of the state's
- 15              system for workforce development, workforce training, and talent attraction shall
- 16              cooperate in providing the division the data necessary to implement these measures.

17        **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-28 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18    amended and reenacted as follows:

19        **54-60-28. Uncrewed aircraft systems program - Report to legislative management.**

- 20        1.    The department may operate and administer an uncrewed aircraft systems test site,
- 21              contingent upon receiving official designation by the federal aviation administration.
- 22              The department may cooperate and contract with the university of North Dakota, the
- 23              North Dakota aeronautics commission, the adjutant general, and other public or
- 24              private entities as determined by the commissioner in the operation and administration
- 25              of the test site. The department may charge fees sufficient to operate the test site. The
- 26              department shall, to the extent possible, use competitive bidding in the operation and
- 27              administration of the test site. The commissioner may charter a public corporation to
- 28              operate the test site. The corporation must possess all of the powers of a business
- 29              corporation consistent with this chapter. The department shall report to the legislative
- 30              management semiannually on the status of the program.

2. In administering the uncrewed aircraft systems program, the uncrewed aircraft systems test site established in subsection 1 may:
  - a. Enter contracts and agreements with public, private, and nonprofit organizations for projects, activities, and research topics, and for the operation and management of a public-private partnership under chapter 48-02.1;
  - b. Enter partnerships, limited liability companies, joint ventures, or other contractual arrangements with private businesses for the purpose of business or industrial development; and
  - c. Adopt policies governing ownership or transfer of ownership rights and distribution of income that may be derived from an invention or discovery resulting from research or employment in the uncrewed aircraft systems test site.

**SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-60-29. Uncrewed aircraft systems program fund - Continuing appropriation.**

1. There is created in the state treasury a special fund known as the uncrewed aircraft systems fund, which may be used to defray the expenses of the:
  - a. Operations of an uncrewed aircraft systems test site officially designated by the federal aviation administration;
  - b. Beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system program; and
  - c. Enhanced use lease grant program.
2. The fund consists of fees, royalties, gifts, grants, devises, bequests, donations, assignments, and other revenue collected for the administration of the test site and federal and other funds appropriated by the legislative assembly. All moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department of commerce on a continuing basis for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the programs identified in subsection 1. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be credited to the fund.

**SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-60-29.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **54-60-29.1. Beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system program -**  
2       **Requirements - Report to legislative management.**

3       The department may establish and administer a beyond visual line of sight uncrewed  
4       aircraft system program for the design, purchase, implementation, and operating costs of a  
5       beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system. The department may enter contracts,  
6       agreements, and contractual arrangements and adopt policies related to the beyond visual line  
7       of sight uncrewed aircraft system program in the same manner authorized for the uncrewed  
8       aircraft system program under section 54-60-28. The department shall require any entity  
9       receiving funding for this program which is operating the beyond visual line of sight uncrewed  
10      aircraft system to provide quarterly payments to the state treasurer based on a fee structure  
11      determined by the commissioner. The state treasurer shall deposit any funds received under  
12      this section in the state general fund. The department shall provide semiannual reports to the  
13      legislative management regarding the development of the beyond visual line of sight uncrewed  
14      aircraft system program and the total amount deposited by the state treasurer in the state  
15      general fund.

16      **SECTION 24. 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 office - Duties.**

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

- 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.

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~~ legal immigration global talent office.

**SECTION 25. EXEMPTION - UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.** The following appropriations are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11 and any unexpended funds from these appropriations may be continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027:

1. The sum of \$3,000,000 appropriated from federal COVID-19 funds for the community development block grant program in section 1 of chapter 27 of the 2021 Session Laws and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
2. The sum of \$56,234,176 appropriated from federal COVID-19 funds for the state small business credit initiative program in section 2 of chapter 28 of the 2021 Session Laws and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
3. The sum of \$15,000,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund for the workforce development incentive grant program in subsection 38 of section 1 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Special Session Session Laws and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
4. The sum of \$5,000,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund for the technical skills training grant program in subsection 39 of section 1 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Special Session Session Laws and continued into the 2023-25 biennium in section 29 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
5. The sum of \$28,500,000 appropriated from the general fund for workforce programs, of which \$12,000,000 was for workforce talent attraction initiative operating expenses, \$12,500,000 was for workforce investment program grants, \$2,000,000 was for technical skills training grants, and \$2,000,000 was for new Americans workforce 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, which may be used for  
17      operating expenses of the program.
- 18      13.   The sum of \$572,143 appropriated from federal funds for the state small business  
19      credit initiative program in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 20      14.   The sum of \$948,467, of which \$740,956 is from the general fund and \$207,511 is  
21      from the economic development fund, for the entrepreneurship grants and vouchers  
22      program in section 1 of chapter 18 of the 2023 Session Laws.
- 23      15.   The sum of \$2,000,000 appropriated from the general fund for the office of legal  
24      immigration in section 1 of chapter 639 of the 2023 Special Session Session Laws.