

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2022

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the commission on
2 legal counsel for indigents; to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-44.3-20 of the
3 North Dakota Century Code, relating to categories of positions in the state service; and to
4 provide for a legislative management study.

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

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

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
14 Commission on legal counsel	\$23,022,372	\$3,576,753	\$26,599,125
15 for indigents			
16 New and vacant FTE pool	<u>0</u>	<u>554,757</u>	<u>554,757</u>
17 Total all funds	\$23,022,372	\$4,131,510	\$27,153,882
18 Less other funds	<u>2,023,067</u>	<u>26,149</u>	<u>2,049,216</u>
19 Total general fund	\$20,999,305	\$4,105,361	\$25,104,666
20 Full-time equivalent positions	41.00	2.00	43.00

21 **SECTION 2. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST.** The
22 commission on legal counsel for indigents may not spend funds appropriated in the new and

1 vacant FTE pool line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and
2 budget to transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the commission on legal
3 counsel for indigents line item in accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions
4 included in House Bill No. 1015, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

5 **SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 54-44.3-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 Attorneys employed by the commission on legal counsel for indigents.

8 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - COMMISSION ON LEGAL**
9 **COUNSEL FOR INDIGENTS - NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE.** During the
10 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the potential impacts of
11 establishing the North Dakota public defenders office as an administrative agency under the
12 authority of the commission on legal counsel for indigents. The legislative management shall
13 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
14 recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.