

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

SENATE BILL NO. 2022
(Appropriations Committee)

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

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 commission on legal counsel for indigents for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the commission on legal counsel for indigents, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

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

SECTION 2. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST. The commission on legal counsel for indigents 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 commission on legal counsel for indigents 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 3. A new subsection to section 54-44.3-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Attorneys employed by the commission on legal counsel for indigents.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2022.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 81 Nays 9 Absent 4

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State