

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1191**

Introduced by

Representatives Warrey, Bosch

Senator Klein

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of an office of entrepreneurship; to provide for a  
3 legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Office of entrepreneurship - Duties - Report.**

8 1. As used in this section:

9 a. "Business" means a corporation, partnership, company, cooperative, sole  
10 proprietorship, or other legal entity organized or operating for pecuniary or  
11 nonpecuniary gain.

12 b. "Entrepreneur" means an individual who initiates and assumes the financial risk  
13 of a business.

14 c. "State agency" means an agency, board, commission, bureau, office,  
15 department, institution, and any other state governmental entity. The term  
16 excludes the legislative and judicial branches of state government.

17 2. There is created an office of entrepreneurship within the department of commerce.  
18 Employees of the office of entrepreneurship report to the commissioner. The office of  
19 entrepreneurship shall:

20 a. Work to strengthen policies and programs supporting the growth of  
21 entrepreneurship in the state, including across demographic segments and  
22 geographic areas.

- 1           b. Work with stakeholders and organizations supporting entrepreneurship to:  
2           (1) Enhance the learning and skills of entrepreneurs;  
3           (2) Provide technical support to entrepreneurs; and  
4           (3) Expand access to resources for entrepreneurs.  
5           c. Serve as a point of contact to assist businesses that have been in operation less  
6           than five years, in their interactions with state agencies and, when appropriate,  
7           refer the businesses to other state or local agencies that provide assistance to  
8           businesses.  
9           3. A state agency shall cooperate with and assist the office of entrepreneurship in the  
10           performance of its duties and functions.  
11           4. Before August of each year, the office of entrepreneurship shall provide a report to the  
12           legislative management which includes:  
13           a. A summary of work accomplished in support of growing entrepreneurship in the  
14           state;  
15           b. A summary of events held to drive collaboration with stakeholders and  
16           organizations supporting entrepreneurship;  
17           c. The number of participating businesses that have been in operation less than five  
18           years;  
19           d. Recommendations for improving entrepreneurship in the state, including  
20           identifying regional challenges to entrepreneurship; and  
21           e. Any additional information deemed necessary to provide an accurate depiction of  
22           the condition of entrepreneurship in the state.  
23           5. All financial records, or records containing financial information made or received in  
24           accordance with this section are an exempt record under section 44-04-17.1.

25           **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICE OF**

26           **ENTREPRENEURSHIP - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS.** There is appropriated out of  
27 any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of  
28 \$485,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the  
29 purpose of providing salaries and benefits for office of entrepreneurship staff, for the biennium  
30 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The department of commerce is authorized  
31 two full-time equivalent positions to administer the office of entrepreneurship.