

February 19, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
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; and 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:

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

28 ~~—SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION -- DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE -- OFFICE OF~~
29 ~~ENTREPRENEURSHIP -- FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS. There is appropriated out of~~
30 ~~any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of~~
31 ~~\$485,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the~~

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- 1 ~~purpose of providing salaries and benefits for office of entrepreneurship staff, for the biennium-~~
- 2 ~~beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The department of commerce is authorized-~~
- 3 ~~two full-time equivalent positions to administer the office of entrepreneurship.~~