

**SENATE BILL NO. 2311**

Introduced by

Senators Barta, Kessel, Rummel

Representatives Hagert, Schreiber-Beck

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 4.1-01-20.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the bioscience innovation grant program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-20.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **4.1-01-20.1. Bioscience innovation grant program - Continuing appropriation.**

7 1. The commissioner shall collaborate with a local an association in the state having  
8 bioscience experience to develop and administer a bioscience innovation ~~grant-~~  
9 program through the bioscience innovation grant fund. ~~The commissioner shall~~  
10 ~~collaborate with the department of commerce when awarding bioscience innovation~~  
11 ~~grants to coordinate the management of the commissioner's bioscience innovation~~  
12 ~~grant program and the department of commerce's biotechnology grant~~  
13 ~~program~~ association collaborating with the commissioner shall:

14 a. Promote the bioscience innovation program;

15 b. Engage in recruiting bioscience and biotechnology organizations to the state;

16 c. Determine eligibility of applicants; and

17 d. Conduct performance reviews and audits of program participants and provide a  
18 report to the commissioner.

19 2. The commissioner may reimburse the collaborating association under subsection 1 up  
20 to six hundred thousand dollars per biennium for costs incurred and services rendered  
21 under this program.

22 2.3. The commissioner shall collaborate with the committee established under  
23 subsection 56 to adopt rules and criteria necessary to administer the bioscience  
24 innovation grant program. The rules must include criteria for program eligibility,

1 including requiring a bioscience business that receives funding through the program  
2 match up to fifty percent of the amount of the grant received.

3 ~~3.4.~~ The bioscience innovation grant fund is a special fund created in the state treasury.  
4 Moneys in the fund are appropriated on a continuing basis to the commissioner to  
5 award grants to:

- 6 a. Support biotechnology innovation and commercialization in areas including crop  
7 genetics, biofuels, biomaterials, biosensors, and biotechnology in relation to food,  
8 nutrition, animals, humans, equipment, medical and health products and  
9 services, medical diagnostics, medical therapeutics, and farm-based  
10 pharmaceuticals;
- 11 b. Promote the creation of bioscience jobs in the state to be filled by graduates from  
12 institutions under the control of the state board of higher education;
- 13 c. Encourage the development of new bioscience technologies and bioscience  
14 startup companies in the state;
- 15 d. Leverage the agriculture industry in the state to support the development of  
16 bioscience technologies impacting livestock operations and crop production;
- 17 e. Promote bioscience research and development at institutions under the control of  
18 the state board of higher education; and
- 19 f. Encourage coordination and collaboration among other entities and programs in  
20 the state to promote bioscience innovation goals.

21 ~~4.5.~~ A bioscience business operating in the state is eligible to receive a grant funds under  
22 the program if the business:

- 23 a. Employs at least two employees;
- 24 b. Has documented annual sales of less than two million five hundred thousand  
25 dollars; and
- 26 c. Is a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, limited  
27 partnership, or limited liability partnership registered in the state and is in good  
28 standing.

29 ~~5.6.~~ The bioscience innovation program shall award grant funding through a committee  
30 consisting of:

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1           a. One representative from the department of agriculture appointed by the  
2           agriculture commissioner;
- 3           b. One representative from the bioscience association of North Dakota appointed by  
4           the board of the bioscience association of North Dakota; ~~and~~
- 5           c. One representative from the department of commerce appointed by the  
6           commissioner of the department of commerce;
- 7           d. One representative from the university of North Dakota appointed by the  
8           university of North Dakota; and
- 9           e. One representative from North Dakota state university appointed by North  
10          Dakota state university.
- 11        ~~6-7.~~ Grant funds awarded under this section may not be used for capital improvements,  
12          academic programming or curriculum, or workforce training.