

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2396**

Introduced by

Senators Weston, Boehm, Hogue, Paulson

Representatives Steiner, Tveit

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a performance audit of the department of commerce and the  
2 North Dakota development fund; and to provide an appropriation.

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

4 **SECTION 1. PERFORMANCE AUDIT - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND NORTH**  
5 **DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND.** The legislative management shall contract with an  
6 out-of-state and independent third party for the completion of a performance audit of the  
7 department of commerce and the North Dakota development fund, for the biennium beginning  
8 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The chairman of the legislative management shall  
9 arrange for the audit and by August 30, 2026, receive the audit report. The performance audit  
10 must address the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the economic development  
11 programs at the department of commerce and the North Dakota development fund relative to  
12 industry best practices criteria for the years 2020 to 2024 by examining internal processes,  
13 controls, and results to identify areas for improvement and provide recommendations for  
14 corrective actions.

15 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT - PERFORMANCE**  
16 **AUDIT - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND.**  
17 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise  
18 appropriated, the sum of \$350,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the  
19 legislative management for the purpose of contracting for a performance audit of the  
20 department of commerce and the North Dakota development fund, for the biennium beginning  
21 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.