

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2256

Introduced by

Senators Sorvaag, Patten, Sickler, Davison

Representatives Nathe, Swiontek

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-17 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a research technology park fund; to provide a continuing
3 appropriation; to provide a transfer; to authorize a line of credit; and to provide a report.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Research technology park fund - North Dakota state university - Continuing**
8 **appropriation - Report.**

- 9 1. The research technology park fund is a special fund in the state treasury. All moneys
10 deposited in the fund and interest upon moneys in the fund are appropriated on a
11 continuing basis to the industrial commission for distribution to the research
12 technology park at North Dakota state university. The research technology park shall
13 use the funds in accordance with this section.
- 14 2. The research technology park at North Dakota state university is created to conduct
15 exploratory, transformational, and innovative research and product development
16 activities that advance intelligent autonomous mobile equipment opportunities and
17 benefit the state's economy and environment through:
- 18 a. Exploratory research and development of technologies and methodologies that
19 facilitate the prudent development and efficient use of the state's autonomous
20 agriculture resources and defense capabilities;

- 1 b. Access to advanced robotics and artificial intelligence expertise for timely
- 2 scientific and engineering activities to support the state's interests; and
- 3 c. Education and outreach related to the state's advanced technology resources,
- 4 including the advancement of engineering and technical readiness.
- 5 3. Each biennium, the research technology park shall develop a plan for the use of funds
- 6 received under this section, including industry matching requirements. The plan must
- 7 be approved by the industrial commission.
- 8 4. The research technology park may:
- 9 a. Select research topics and projects;
- 10 b. Enter into contracts or agreements with other institutions of higher education to
- 11 support the selected research topics and projects;
- 12 c. Enter into contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit
- 13 organizations to carry out the selected research topics and projects; and
- 14 d. Accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to finance the
- 15 selected research topics and projects.
- 16 5. Annually, the research technology park shall report all research activities, product
- 17 development, and accomplishments to the industrial commission and the legislative
- 18 management. Upon request, the research technology park shall report to the
- 19 appropriations committees of the legislative assembly on the use of funding under this
- 20 section.

21 **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**
22 **RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY PARK FUND.** The office of management and budget shall transfer
23 the sum of ~~\$15,000,000~~ \$7,500,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the
24 research technology park fund, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
25 June 30, 2027.

26 **SECTION 3. BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION - LINE OF**
27 **CREDIT - RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY PARK FUND - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION**
28 **REQUEST.** If the funding in the research technology park fund is insufficient for the distributions
29 from the research technology park fund, the industrial commission may borrow up to
30 \$7,500,000 through a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota during the biennium
31 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the proceeds of which must be deposited in

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- 1 the research technology park fund. The interest rate on the line of credit may not exceed the
- 2 prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota governmental entities. If the industrial
- 3 commission accesses the line of credit, the industrial commission or the Bank shall request a
- 4 deficiency appropriation from the legislative assembly to repay the line of credit.