

HOUSE BILL 1191 AMENDMENT

Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

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.

23 b. Work with stakeholders and organizations supporting entrepreneurship to:

24 (1) Enhance the learning and skills of entrepreneurs;

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- 1 (2) Provide technical support to entrepreneurs; and
2 (3) Expand access to resources for entrepreneurs.
3 c. Serve as a point of contact to assist businesses that have been in operation less
4 than five years, in their interactions with state agencies and, when appropriate,
5 refer the businesses to other state or local agencies that provide assistance to
6 businesses.
7 3. A state agency shall cooperate with and assist the office of entrepreneurship in the
8 performance of its duties and functions.
9 4. Before August of each ~~even-numbered~~ year, the office of entrepreneurship shall
10 provide a report to the legislative management which includes:
11 a. A summary of work accomplished in support of growing entrepreneurship in the
12 state, events held to drive collaboration with stakeholders and organizations
13 supporting entrepreneurship, number of participating businesses that have been
14 in operation less than five years, types of resources provided, and outcomes of
15 the entrepreneurship program;. ~~The number and total dollar amount of state~~
16 ~~contracts awarded to businesses that have been in operation less than five~~
17 ~~years, including a breakdown by demographic segments and geographical areas~~
18 ~~of the state;~~
19 ~~b. The percentage of state contracts awarded to businesses that have been in~~
20 ~~operation less than five years compared to the total number of contracts~~
21 ~~awarded;~~
22 ~~c. The percentage of the dollar amount of state contracts awarded to businesses~~
23 ~~that have been in operation less than five years compared to the total dollar~~
24 ~~amount of contracts awarded;~~
25 ~~d. The types of businesses awarded a state contract;~~
26 ~~e. Recommendations for improving access to state contracts for businesses that~~
27 ~~have been in operation less than five years, including those businesses in~~
28 ~~statistically underrepresented demographic segments and geographic areas of~~
29 ~~the state;~~
30 b.f. Recommendations for improving entrepreneurship in the state, including
31 identifying regional challenges to entrepreneurship; and

1 c.g. Any additional information deemed necessary to provide an accurate depiction of
2 the condition of entrepreneurship in the state.

3 ~~5. The office of entrepreneurship shall encourage five percent of the number of state~~
4 ~~contracts to be awarded to businesses that have been in operation less than five years~~
5 ~~and which have the principal place of the business located in the state.~~

6 6. All financial records, or records containing financial information, made or received
7 ~~files, and communications of the office of entrepreneurship made or received in~~
8 accordance with this section are an exempt record under section 44-04-17.1.

9 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICE OF**
10 **ENTREPRENEURSHIP - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS.** There is appropriated out of
11 any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
12 \$485,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the
13 purpose of providing salaries and benefits for office of entrepreneurship staff, for the biennium
14 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The department of commerce is authorized
15 two full-time equivalent positions to administer the office of entrepreneurship.