

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2312

Introduced by

Senators St. Aubyn, Holmberg, W. Stenehjem

Representatives Delmore, Nottestad, Poolman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-17.2-03, a new subsection
2 to section 54-44.5-04, and a new section to chapter 54-44.5 of the North Dakota Century Code,
3 relating to powers of the North Dakota building authority and the office of governmental
4 assistance to implement a state facility energy improvement program.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 54-17.2-03 of the North Dakota Century Code
7 is created and enacted as follows:

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, issue evidences of indebtedness to
9 implement the state facility energy improvement program under section 3 of this
10 Act.

11 **SECTION 2.** A new subsection to section 54-44.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code
12 is created and enacted as follows:

13 Implement a state facility energy improvement program.

14 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 54-44.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 created and enacted as follows:

16 **State facility energy improvement program.** By August fifteenth of each
17 odd-numbered year, the office shall inform all state agencies and institutions of the state facility
18 energy improvement program. The office shall work with interested agencies and institutions to
19 identify potential state facility energy improvement programs and select facilities for indepth
20 energy audits designed to provide information on project costs along with estimated energy
21 savings from implementation of those projects. The office shall notify affected utilities to
22 discuss the potential impact on the utility and its customers of the proposed energy savings or
23 conservation project. Upon completion of the energy audit, the office shall submit a list of
24 proposed projects to the governor, accompanied with the estimated cost of each project and

1 energy savings resulting from the projects. The office shall submit a report listing the proposed
2 energy savings or conservation projects to the governor by September first of each
3 even-numbered year. The governor shall include the proposed energy efficiency or
4 conservation projects in the biennial budget. The governor shall make available to the
5 legislative assembly a report prepared by the office on each energy efficiency or conservation
6 project, a description of the improvements to be financed, the estimated cost of each project,
7 the total cost of the program, and the proposed method of financing the program. If the office
8 proposes that evidences of indebtedness be issued to finance the energy efficiency or
9 conservation improvements, the office shall provide an assurance that energy savings resulting
10 from the improvements will be sufficient to equal or exceed the annual debt service of the
11 evidences of indebtedness. In determining whether the energy savings will be sufficient to
12 equal or exceed the annual debt service, the office may analyze state agency utility data to
13 identify potential projects; perform detailed energy audits of state facilities, including contracting
14 for audits if necessary; and provide training to facility maintenance staff to ensure that sufficient
15 cost-savings are realized from projects to cover the debt service. The governor shall include in
16 the executive budget recommendation for each state agency or institution participating in the
17 state facility energy improvement program an estimate of the annual energy cost-savings
18 expected for that agency, and, if needed, a projection of the debt service on program bonds that
19 is apportioned to that agency. The executive budget recommendation must then reduce the
20 current level of utility appropriations by the amount needed for debt service retirement and
21 recommend an appropriation of that amount to the state building authority.