

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1414

Introduced by

Representatives Berg, Pietsch, B. Thoreson, Weiler

Senator Espegard

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the business products utilization commission; to amend and
2 reenact sections 54-34.3-08 and 54-34.3-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
3 powers of the business products utilization commission; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-34.3-08 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **54-34.3-08. Patents.** The department of economic development and finance, the
8 North Dakota development fund, incorporated, the business products utilization commission,
9 and the North Dakota agricultural products utilization commission may hold or assign for
10 remuneration all or a portion of their interest in patents or royalty rights acquired in the course
11 of their operation and performance of duties as provided by law.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-34.3-11 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
13 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **54-34.3-11. Mutual fund capital pool - Authorization.** The department of economic
15 development and finance, in conjunction with the agricultural products utilization commission
16 and the business products utilization commission, may establish a mutual fund capital pool to
17 attract farm and nonfarm investments in value-added processing projects and to attract
18 investments in entrepreneurial startup projects.

19 **SECTION 3. Business products utilization commission.** The business products
20 utilization commission shall administer the business products utilization commission program.
21 The director of the department of economic development and finance shall assign the duties of
22 the commission to an existing board or commission within the department.

23 **SECTION 4. Business products utilization commission - Powers.** The business
24 products utilization commission may apply for, accept, and expend any appropriation, grant,

1 gift, or service made available from public or private sources. The commission may administer
2 grant programs to assist entrepreneurs in research, development, testing, and marketing. The
3 grant programs may include a feasibility program, market evaluation program, legal
4 organization program, marketing and research grant program, cooperative marketing grant
5 program, business and product planning grant program, product prototype development grant
6 program, and a North American marketing grant program. The commission may require, by
7 contract, repayment of a grant, in whole or in part, if the grant recipient does not fulfill the
8 conditions under which the grant was awarded.

9 **SECTION 5. Business products utilization commission - Meetings - Reports.** The
10 business products utilization commission is a division of the department of economic
11 development and finance. The commission shall meet as necessary and shall report to each
12 session of the legislative assembly. The commission may contract with public entities or
13 private parties for services.

14 **SECTION 6. Business products utilization commission - Reimbursement -**
15 **Compensation.** Members of the business products utilization commission are entitled to
16 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of commission
17 duties, in the same manner as other state officials, according to sections 44-08-04 and
18 54-06-09, and if not otherwise employed by the state of North Dakota, may receive up to fifty
19 dollars for each regular meeting attended.

20 **SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
21 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much
22 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of economic development and finance for
23 the purpose of funding the business products utilization commission, for the biennium
24 beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003.