

SENATE BILL NO. 2032

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Commerce and Labor Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to creation of a department of commerce; to amend and reenact sections
3 4-14.1-03, 4-14.1-04, and 6-12-02, subsection 6 of section 10-30-04, subsection 4 of section
4 10-30.5-02, section 10-30.5-05, subsection 6 of section 10-30.6-04, subsection 3 of section
5 20.1-02-17.1, sections 20.1-02-18.1, 21-11-02, 21-11-03, 21-11-04, 21-11-05, 21-11-06, and
6 24-03-21, subsection 4 of section 26.1-50-01, sections 26.1-50-02, 28-32-01, 40-57.1-04, and
7 49-10.1-17, subsection 4 of section 50-06-01.8, section 52-01-03, subsection 5 of section
8 52-02.1-01, section 54-01.1-08, subsection 1 of section 54-06-04, section 54-21.2-03,
9 subsection 1 of section 54-21.3-03, sections 54-21.3-04.1, 54-34-12, 54-34-15, 54-34.3-01,
10 54-34.3-02, 54-34.3-03, 54-34.3-04, 54-34.3-05, 54-34.3-06, 54-34.3-08, 54-34.3-10,
11 54-34.3-11, 54-34.4-01, 54-34.4-02, and 54-34.4-04, subsection 15 of section 54-44.3-20,
12 sections 54-44.5-01, 54-44.5-02, 54-44.5-03, 54-44.5-05, 54-53-02, 55-01-01, and 55-06-01,
13 subsection 1 of section 57-38.5-01, section 57-38.5-08, and subsection 6 of section 57-39.2-28
14 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to merging the division of community services,
15 department of economic development and finance, and tourism department into a department
16 of commerce; to repeal section 54-34.3-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
17 department of economic development and finance; to provide an appropriation; and to provide
18 an effective date.

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

20 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-14.1-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
21 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **4-14.1-03. Agricultural products utilization commission - Composition -**

23 **Appointment.** The agricultural fuel tax fund must be administered by the agricultural products
24 utilization commission. The commission consists of nine members, five of whom must be

1 appointed by the governor for terms of two years each, arranged so that two terms expire in
2 odd-numbered years and three terms expire in even-numbered years. Three members
3 appointed by the governor must be actively engaged in farming in this state and two members
4 appointed by the governor must be actively engaged in business in this state. The
5 commissioner of agriculture shall appoint one member for a term of two years which expires in
6 odd-numbered years. The member appointed by the commissioner must be actively engaged
7 in farming in this state. Commission members may be reappointed to the commission. Terms
8 of commissioners shall run from the first day of July. The director of the department of
9 commerce division of economic development and finance, the president of North Dakota state
10 university, and the commissioner of agriculture, or their designees, are members of the
11 commission. The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 4-14.1-04 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
13 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **4-14.1-04. Agricultural products utilization commission - Meetings - Personnel -**
15 **Reports.** The agricultural products utilization commission, which is ~~a division~~ an office of the
16 department of commerce division of economic development and finance, shall meet as
17 necessary and shall report to each session of the legislative assembly. The commission may
18 secure office space, employ needed personnel for the performance of its duties, hire
19 consultants, spend any funds appropriated to the commission, and contract with public entities
20 or private parties for services.

21 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-12-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
22 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **6-12-02. (Effective for first four taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998)**
24 **Establishment - Organization.** Any financial institution or group of financial institutions may
25 establish a corporation or a limited liability company to own and operate the housing
26 development fund. Except as provided in this chapter, all authority regarding the articles of
27 incorporation or articles of organization is the province of the governing board, which must
28 include a representative of the Bank of North Dakota and a representative of the department of
29 commerce division of economic development and finance. The fund administrator shall
30 maintain the fund as an account at the Bank of North Dakota. The governing board is
31 responsible for adopting policies and procedures governing activities in connection with the

- 1 fund. The governing board may not distribute more than seventy-five percent of the net profit of
2 the fund in any of the first five years of operation.

3 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 10-30-04 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 5 6. Cooperate with and avail itself of the facilities of the department of commerce
6 division of economic development and finance and any other similar governmental
7 agencies; to cooperate with and assist, and otherwise encourage, local
8 organizations in the various communities of the state the purpose of which are the
9 promotion, assistance, and development of the business prosperity and economic
10 welfare of such communities and of this state.

11 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 10-30.5-02 of the North Dakota
12 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 13 4. The ~~director~~ commissioner of ~~the department of economic development and~~
14 ~~finance~~ commerce shall adopt rules, subject to the approval of the board of
15 directors, necessary to implement the administration of the fund. The rules to
16 implement the grant program must be developed to encourage local fundraising
17 initiatives for developing locations for businesses financed by the corporation.

18 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 10-30.5-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **10-30.5-05. Management.** The ~~deputy~~ director of the finance ~~division~~ office of the
21 department of commerce division of economic development and finance must be the chief
22 executive officer of the corporation. The board of directors shall determine minimum
23 qualifications of all other staff positions.

24 All investments, contracts, partnerships, limited liability companies, and business
25 transactions of the corporation are the responsibility of the deputy director and the board of
26 directors. The board may provide that normal operating costs anticipated in an approved
27 budget may be incurred and paid without prior board approval.

28 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 10-30.6-04 of the 1999
29 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 30 6. Cooperate with and avail itself of the facilities of the department of ~~economic~~
31 ~~development and finance~~ commerce and any other similar governmental agencies;

and cooperate with, assist, and otherwise encourage local organizations in the various communities of the state, the purpose of which are the promotion, assistance, and development of the business prosperity and economic welfare of the communities and of this state.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 20.1-02-17.1 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. A detailed impact analysis from the state game and fish department shall be included with the acquisition proposal for board of county commissioner consideration in making recommendations. The analysis by the game and fish department shall include, but shall not be limited to, the recreational and wildlife impacts. In addition, the county agent of the affected county or counties shall prepare an impact analysis for board of county commissioner consideration which shall include the fiscal, social, and agricultural impacts of the proposed acquisition. The state game and fish department shall reimburse the county or counties for any expenses incurred by the county agent in preparing the analysis. The analyses shall also be forwarded to the department of commerce division of community services which shall furnish copies to all interested state agencies and political subdivisions, which agencies and political subdivisions shall have thirty days to review the analyses and return their comments to the division of community services. Upon expiration of the thirty-day period, all comments received by the division of community services shall be forwarded to the state game and fish department. The state game and fish department may, after consideration of such comments, file a final impact analysis with the division of community services and the board of county commissioners.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 20.1-02-18.1 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20.1-02-18.1. Federal wildlife area acquisitions - Submission to county commissioners, opportunity for public comment, and impact analysis required. The governor, the director, or their designees, responsible under federal law for final approval of land, wetland, and water acquisitions by the United States department of the interior, its bureaus or agencies, for waterfowl production areas, wildlife refuges, or other wildlife or

1 waterfowl purposes, shall submit the proposed acquisitions by certified mail with return receipt
2 to the board of county commissioners of the county or counties in which the land, wetland, and
3 water areas are located for the board's recommendations.

4 The board of county commissioners of the county affected, or a designee or designees
5 of the board, shall, within twenty-one days of receipt of an acquisition proposal, physically
6 inspect the proposed acquisition areas. The board shall give public notice of the date, hour,
7 and place where the public may comment on the proposed acquisitions. The notice must be
8 published once each week for two successive weeks in the official newspaper of the county or
9 counties in which the land and water areas are located. The notice must set forth the
10 substance of the proposed action, and must include a legal description of the proposed
11 acquisitions. The board of county commissioners shall make its recommendations by certified
12 mail with return receipt within sixty days after receipt of an acquisition proposal.

13 A detailed impact analysis from the federal agency involved must be included with the
14 acquisition proposal for board of county commissioner consideration in making
15 recommendations. The analysis must include the recreational and wildlife impacts. In addition,
16 the county agent of the affected county or counties shall prepare an impact analysis for board of
17 county commissioner consideration which must include the fiscal, social, and agricultural
18 impacts of the proposed acquisitions. The department of the interior shall reimburse the county
19 or counties for any expenses incurred by the county agent in preparing the analysis. The
20 analyses must also be forwarded to the department of commerce division of community
21 services, which shall furnish copies to all interested state agencies and political subdivisions,
22 which agencies and political subdivisions have thirty days to review the analyses and return
23 their comments to the division of community services. Upon expiration of the thirty-day period,
24 all comments received by the division of community services must be forwarded to the federal
25 agency involved and to the state official or agency responsible for final acquisition approval.
26 The federal agency may, after consideration of the comments, file a final impact analysis with
27 the governor, the board of county commissioners, and any other state official or agency
28 responsible for final acquisition approval.

29 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 21-11-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
30 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21-11-02. Application for loan - Form - Contents - Preference of applications. Any

privately or cooperatively owned enterprise for the purpose of securing a loan from this state for purposes of planning, constructing, acquiring, equipping, improving, or extending facilities for the conversion of North Dakota's natural resources into low cost power and the generation and transmission of such power, and the acquisition of real and personal property and water and mineral rights needed for such facilities, or any of such purposes, may file an application with the department of commerce division of economic development and finance. The application must be in the form required by the ~~department~~ division and must be accompanied by a complete and fully detailed outline and description of the applicant's plan of operation. In the consideration of applications the ~~department~~ division shall consider the following factors:

1. Preference must be given to applicants with the following qualifications:

a. Applicants who are experienced in the generation or transmission of power, and who at the time of application have access to alternate markets for the sale of such power.

b. Applicants who are residents of North Dakota, or private or cooperative enterprises incorporated under the laws of North Dakota and having their headquarters in the state, whether or not a nonresident person, corporation, or limited liability company owns part or all of the stock of the applicant or limited liability companies organized under the laws of North Dakota and having their headquarters in the state, whether or not a nonresident person, limited liability company, or corporation owns part or all of the membership interests of the applicant, or is engaged in a partnership or joint enterprise with the applicant.

2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not prohibit the ~~department~~ division from approving loans to applicants not possessing the qualifications therein described, if in the judgment of the ~~department~~ division such approval would better carry out the objectives of this chapter as stated in section 21-11-01.

3. Each application shall include information for the purpose of showing to the ~~department~~ division and may be approved only if the ~~department~~ division determines:

a. That the facilities proposed to be financed by the loan will result in significant additional industrial or other economic activity in North Dakota which would not occur in the absence of a state loan.

b. That the cost of power furnished by the facilities financed by the loan will be significantly lower than it would be without a loan made under this chapter.

c. That the facilities financed will furnish power at the lowest possible cost to stimulate industrial development, benefit the general public, and expand the use of North Dakota fuel resources.

4. In considering applications the ~~department~~ division may establish additional reasonable criteria with respect to the financial qualification of individuals and organizations requesting loans.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Section 21-11-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21-11-03. Processing of application - Fee - Purpose. The department of commerce division of economic development and finance shall process each application and if it determines the applicant is eligible for the loan and has complied with all requirements, it shall request an application fee of not more than fifty thousand dollars. The fee must be deposited in a special and separate fund in the state treasury and must be expended by the ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance for purposes of investigating the applicant and evaluating the technical and economic feasibility of the plans and specifications as submitted by the applicant. The ~~department~~ division may consult or contract with any person or private, state, or federal department, agency, or entity, for purposes of that investigation or evaluation. All departments, agencies, institutions, and officials of this state and its political subdivisions shall provide to the ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance such aid, information, and assistance as it may request in regard to any matter relative to the applicant or such applicant's plans and specifications. The ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance may conduct any private or public hearing it may deem necessary in the course of that investigation or evaluation. Any unexpended portion of the funds received as an application fee must be refunded to the applicant after the payment of all costs of investigation and evaluation of the application. There is hereby appropriated from each application fee these

funds as may be necessary to pay all costs of investigation and evaluation and pay refunds as provided in this section.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 21-11-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21-11-04. Approval or rejection of application. Upon completion of all investigations and evaluations of any matter relative to the applicant or the submitted application and plan, the department of commerce division of economic development and finance shall either reject the application as submitted, approve the application as submitted, or offer to approve the application if modified in accordance with any recommendation made by the commission as a result of any such investigation or evaluation. If the applicant fails or refuses to agree to those modifications, the application must be rejected.

SECTION 13. AMENDMENT. Section 21-11-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21-11-05. Approved application filed with industrial commission. Upon approval of the application, as submitted or modified, the department of commerce division of economic development and finance shall file the application, along with its report and recommendations, received by it as a result of any investigation and evaluation, with the ~~state~~ industrial commission. The department of ~~economic development and finance~~ commerce shall prepare and submit any necessary legislation for the appropriation of additional funds or the authorization of the issuance of bonds at the following session of the legislative assembly, or at a special session if called in accordance with the constitution.

SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 21-11-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21-11-06. Disbursements of loan - Inspection fee. If the industrial commission finds that the approved loan application has been filed and processed as required by this chapter and the proposed loan agreement is in proper legal form and the amount to be disbursed thereunder, with other previous disbursements, does not exceed the funds appropriated for that purpose, it shall authorize the execution of the loan agreement with the applicant by the director of the department of commerce division of economic development and finance on behalf of the state. Prior to the disbursement of any funds pursuant to the loan agreement, the applicant shall deliver to the director of the division of economic development and finance a supervision

1 fee in such amount as may be specified in the loan agreement, which fee must be deposited in
2 a special fund in the state treasury. The fee must be expended by the ~~department~~ division of
3 economic development and finance for the purpose of periodic inspection of the construction of
4 such power generation or transmission facilities, and disbursements to the borrower under the
5 loan agreement may be made only upon certification by the director or a person appointed by
6 the director ~~that~~ which the construction is being carried on in accordance with the loan
7 agreement and that the loan funds are due the borrower under the agreement. Upon the
8 completion of the construction of the facilities, any unexpended balance of the inspection fee
9 must be refunded to the borrower. There is hereby appropriated from each inspection fee those
10 funds as may be necessary to provide for the inspections and refunds as provided in this
11 section.

12 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 24-03-21 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
13 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **24-03-21. Preparation of road maps - Publication of tourist information.** The
15 commissioner shall prepare for general distribution; road maps of the state highway system and
16 other roads as the commissioner determines necessary. Any tourist-oriented material printed
17 on road maps must be prepared by the department of commerce division of tourism ~~department~~
18 at no cost to the department of transportation.

19 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 26.1-50-01 of the 1999
20 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 21 4. "Primary sector business" means an individual, corporation, limited liability
22 company, partnership, or association that through the employment of knowledge or
23 labor adds value to a product, process, or service which results in the creation of
24 new wealth. Qualification as a primary sector business under this subsection must
25 be determined by the department of commerce division of economic development
26 and finance.

27 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 26.1-50-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
28 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **26.1-50-02. Establishment - Organization.** Any insurer or group of insurers may
30 establish a corporation or limited liability company to own and operate the North Dakota low-risk
31 incentive fund. Except as provided in this chapter, all authority regarding the articles of

incorporation or articles of organization is the province of the governing board, which must include a representative of the Bank of North Dakota and the director of the department of commerce division of economic development and finance. The Bank of North Dakota shall administer the fund; however, the governing board is responsible for adopting fund policies and procedures. The governing board may not distribute more than seventy-five percent of the net profit of the fund in any of the first five years of operation.

SECTION 18. AMENDMENT. Section 28-32-01 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

28-32-01. (Effective through December 31, 2002) Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise provides:

1. "Adjudicative proceeding" means an administrative matter resulting in an agency issuing an order after an opportunity for hearing is provided or required. An adjudicative proceeding includes administrative matters involving a hearing on a complaint against a specific-named respondent; a hearing on an application seeking a right, privilege, or an authorization from an agency, such as a ratemaking or licensing hearing; or a hearing on an appeal to an agency. An adjudicative proceeding includes reconsideration, rehearing, or reopening. Once an adjudicative proceeding has begun, the adjudicative proceeding includes any informal disposition of the administrative matter under section 28-32-05.1 or another specific statute or rule, unless the matter has been specifically converted to another type or proceeding under section 28-32-05.1. An adjudicative proceeding does not include a decision or order to file or not to file a complaint, or to initiate an investigation, an adjudicative proceeding, or any other proceeding before the agency, or another agency, or a court. An adjudicative proceeding does not include a decision or order to issue, reconsider, or reopen an order that precedes an opportunity for hearing or that under another section of this code is not subject to review in an adjudicative proceeding. An adjudicative proceeding does not include rulemaking under this chapter.
2. "Administrative agency" or "agency" means each board, bureau, commission, department, or other administrative unit of the executive branch of state government, including one or more officers, or employees, or other persons directly

1 or indirectly purporting to act on behalf or under authority of the agency. An
2 administrative unit located within or subordinate to an administrative agency shall
3 be treated as part of that agency to the extent it purports to exercise authority
4 subject to this chapter. The term administrative agency does not include:

- 5 a. The office of management and budget except with respect to rules made
6 under section 32-12.2-14, rules relating to conduct on the capitol grounds and
7 in buildings located on the capitol grounds under section 54-21-18, ~~rules~~
8 ~~relating to the state building code as authorized or required under section~~
9 ~~54-21.3-03, rules relating to the Model Energy Code as required under section~~
10 ~~54-21.2-03~~, rules relating to the central personnel system as authorized under
11 section 54-44.3-07, rules relating to state purchasing practices as required
12 under section 54-44.4-04, rules relating to records management as authorized
13 or required under chapter 54-46, and rules relating to the central microfilm unit
14 as authorized under chapter 54-46.1.
- 15 b. The adjutant general with respect to the division of emergency management.
- 16 c. The council on the arts.
- 17 d. The state auditor.
- 18 e. The department of commerce with respect to the division of economic
19 development and finance.
- 20 f. The dairy promotion commission.
- 21 g. The education factfinding commission.
- 22 h. The educational telecommunications council.
- 23 i. The board of equalization.
- 24 j. The board of higher education.
- 25 k. The Indian affairs commission.
- 26 l. The industrial commission with respect to the activities of the Bank of North
27 Dakota, the North Dakota housing finance agency, the North Dakota
28 municipal bond bank, the North Dakota mill and elevator association, and the
29 North Dakota farm finance agency.
- 30 m. The department of corrections and rehabilitation except with respect to the
31 activities of the division of adult services under chapter 54-23.4.

- 1 n. The pardon advisory board.
- 2 o. The parks and recreation department.
- 3 p. The parole board.
- 4 q. The state fair association.
- 5 r. The state department of health with respect to the state toxicologist.
- 6 s. The board of university and school lands except with respect to activities
- 7 under chapter 47-30.1.
- 8 t. The administrative committee on veterans' affairs except with respect to rules
- 9 relating to the supervision and government of the veterans' home and the
- 10 implementation of programs or services provided by the veterans' home.
- 11 u. The industrial commission with respect to the lignite research fund except as
- 12 required under section 57-61-01.5.
- 13 v. The secretary of state with respect to rules adopted for the presidential
- 14 preference contest under section 16.1-11-02.2.
- 15 3. "Agency head" means an individual or body of individuals in whom the ultimate
- 16 legal authority of the agency is vested by law.
- 17 4. "Complainant" means any person who files a complaint before an administrative
- 18 agency pursuant to section 28-32-05; and any administrative agency which, when
- 19 authorized by law, files such a complaint before such agency or any other agency.
- 20 5. "Hearing officer" means any agency head or one or more members of the agency
- 21 head when presiding in an administrative proceeding, or, unless prohibited by law,
- 22 one or more other persons designated by the agency head to preside in an
- 23 administrative proceeding, an administrative law judge from the office of
- 24 administrative hearings, or any other person duly assigned, appointed, or
- 25 designated to preside in an administrative proceeding pursuant to statute or rule.
- 26 6. "License" means a franchise, permit, certification, approval, registration, charter, or
- 27 similar form of authorization required by law.
- 28 7. "Order" means any agency action of particular applicability that determines the
- 29 legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of one or more
- 30 specific persons, but does not mean an executive order issued by the governor.

- 1 8. "Party" means each person named or admitted as a party or properly seeking and
2 entitled as of right to be admitted as a party. An administrative agency may be a
3 party. In a hearing for the suspension, revocation, or disqualification of an
4 operator's license under title 39, the term may include each city and each county in
5 which the alleged conduct occurred, but the city or county may not appeal the
6 decision of the hearing officer.
- 7 9. "Person" includes an individual, association, partnership, corporation, limited
8 liability company, state governmental agency or governmental subdivision, or an
9 agency of such governmental subdivision.
- 10 10. "Relevant evidence" means evidence having any tendency to make the existence
11 of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the administrative action
12 more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.
- 13 11. "Rule" means the whole or a part of an agency statement of general applicability
14 that implements or prescribes law or policy, or the organization, procedure, or
15 practice requirements of the agency. The term includes the adoption of new rules
16 and the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule. The term does not
17 include:
- 18 a. A rule concerning only the internal management of an agency which does not
19 directly or substantially affect the substantive or procedural rights or duties of
20 any segment of the public.
- 21 b. A rule that sets forth criteria or guidelines to be used by the staff of an agency
22 in the performance of audits, investigations, inspections, and settling
23 commercial disputes or negotiating commercial arrangements, or in the
24 defense, prosecution, or settlement of cases, if the disclosure of the statement
25 would:
- 26 (1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;
- 27 (2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or
- 28 (3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse
29 position to the state.
- 30 c. A rule establishing specific prices to be charged for particular goods or
31 services sold by an agency.

- d. A rule concerning only the physical servicing, maintenance, or care of agency owned or operated facilities or property.
- e. A rule relating only to the use of a particular facility or property owned, operated, or maintained by the state or any of its subdivisions, if the substance of the rule is adequately indicated by means of signs or signals to persons who use the facility or property.
- f. A rule concerning only inmates of a correctional or detention facility, students enrolled in an educational institution, or patients admitted to a hospital, if adopted by that facility, institution, or hospital.
- g. A form whose contents or substantive requirements are prescribed by rule or statute or are instructions for the execution or use of the form.
- h. An agency budget.
- i. An opinion of the attorney general.
- j. A rule adopted by an agency selection committee under section 54-44.7-03.
- k. Any material, including a guideline, interpretive statement, statement of general policy, manual, brochure, or pamphlet, that is explanatory and not intended to have the force and effect of law.

(Effective January 1, 2003) Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise provides:

1. "Adjudicative proceeding" means an administrative matter resulting in an agency issuing an order after an opportunity for hearing is provided or required. An adjudicative proceeding includes administrative matters involving a hearing on a complaint against a specific-named respondent; a hearing on an application seeking a right, privilege, or an authorization from an agency, such as a ratemaking or licensing hearing; or a hearing on an appeal to an agency. An adjudicative proceeding includes reconsideration, rehearing, or reopening. Once an adjudicative proceeding has begun, the adjudicative proceeding includes any informal disposition of the administrative matter under section 28-32-05.1 or another specific statute or rule, unless the matter has been specifically converted to another type or proceeding under section 28-32-05.1. An adjudicative proceeding does not include a decision or order to file or not to file a complaint, or

to initiate an investigation, an adjudicative proceeding, or any other proceeding before the agency, or another agency, or a court. An adjudicative proceeding does not include a decision or order to issue, reconsider, or reopen an order that precedes an opportunity for hearing or that under another section of this code is not subject to review in an adjudicative proceeding. An adjudicative proceeding does not include rulemaking under this chapter.

2. "Administrative agency" or "agency" means each board, bureau, commission, department, or other administrative unit of the executive branch of state government, including one or more officers, or employees, or other persons directly or indirectly purporting to act on behalf or under authority of the agency. An administrative unit located within or subordinate to an administrative agency shall be treated as part of that agency to the extent it purports to exercise authority subject to this chapter. The term administrative agency does not include:

- a. The office of management and budget except with respect to rules made under section 32-12.2-14, rules relating to conduct on the capitol grounds and in buildings located on the capitol grounds under section 54-21-18, ~~rules relating to the state building code as authorized or required under section 54-21.3-03, rules relating to the Model Energy Code as required under section 54-21.2-03,~~ rules relating to the central personnel system as authorized under section 54-44.3-07, rules relating to state purchasing practices as required under section 54-44.4-04, rules relating to records management as authorized or required under chapter 54-46, and rules relating to the central microfilm unit as authorized under chapter 54-46.1.
- b. The adjutant general with respect to the division of emergency management.
- c. The council on the arts.
- d. The state auditor.
- e. The department of commerce with respect to the division of economic development and finance.
- f. The dairy promotion commission.
- g. The education factfinding commission.
- h. The educational telecommunications council.

- 1 i. The board of equalization.
- 2 j. The board of higher education.
- 3 k. The Indian affairs commission.
- 4 l. The industrial commission with respect to the activities of the Bank of North
5 Dakota, the North Dakota housing finance agency, the North Dakota
6 municipal bond bank, the North Dakota mill and elevator association, and the
7 North Dakota farm finance agency.
- 8 m. The department of corrections and rehabilitation except with respect to the
9 activities of the division of adult services under chapter 54-23.4.
- 10 n. The pardon advisory board.
- 11 o. The parks and recreation department.
- 12 p. The parole board.
- 13 q. The state fair association.
- 14 r. The state department of health with respect to the state toxicologist.
- 15 s. The board of university and school lands except with respect to activities
16 under chapter 47-30.1.
- 17 t. The administrative committee on veterans' affairs except with respect to rules
18 relating to the supervision and government of the veterans' home and the
19 implementation of programs or services provided by the veterans' home.
- 20 u. The industrial commission with respect to the lignite research fund except as
21 required under section 57-61-01.5.
- 22 v. The secretary of state with respect to rules adopted for the presidential
23 preference contest under section 16.1-11-02.3.
- 24 3. "Agency head" means an individual or body of individuals in whom the ultimate
25 legal authority of the agency is vested by law.
- 26 4. "Complainant" means any person who files a complaint before an administrative
27 agency pursuant to section 28-32-05; and any administrative agency which, when
28 authorized by law, files such a complaint before such agency or any other agency.
- 29 5. "Hearing officer" means any agency head or one or more members of the agency
30 head when presiding in an administrative proceeding, or, unless prohibited by law,
31 one or more other persons designated by the agency head to preside in an

- 1 administrative proceeding, an administrative law judge from the office of
2 administrative hearings, or any other person duly assigned, appointed, or
3 designated to preside in an administrative proceeding pursuant to statute or rule.
- 4 6. "License" means a franchise, permit, certification, approval, registration, charter, or
5 similar form of authorization required by law.
- 6 7. "Order" means any agency action of particular applicability that determines the
7 legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of one or more
8 specific persons, but does not mean an executive order issued by the governor.
- 9 8. "Party" means each person named or admitted as a party or properly seeking and
10 entitled as of right to be admitted as a party. An administrative agency may be a
11 party. In a hearing for the suspension, revocation, or disqualification of an
12 operator's license under title 39, the term may include each city and each county in
13 which the alleged conduct occurred, but the city or county may not appeal the
14 decision of the hearing officer.
- 15 9. "Person" includes an individual, association, partnership, corporation, limited
16 liability company, state governmental agency or governmental subdivision, or an
17 agency of such governmental subdivision.
- 18 10. "Relevant evidence" means evidence having any tendency to make the existence
19 of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the administrative action
20 more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.
- 21 11. "Rule" means the whole or a part of an agency statement of general applicability
22 that implements or prescribes law or policy, or the organization, procedure, or
23 practice requirements of the agency. The term includes the adoption of new rules
24 and the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule. The term does not
25 include:
- 26 a. A rule concerning only the internal management of an agency which does not
27 directly or substantially affect the substantive or procedural rights or duties of
28 any segment of the public.
- 29 b. A rule that sets forth criteria or guidelines to be used by the staff of an agency
30 in the performance of audits, investigations, inspections, and settling
31 commercial disputes or negotiating commercial arrangements, or in the

defense, prosecution, or settlement of cases, if the disclosure of the statement would:

- (1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;
- (2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or
- (3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse position to the state.

- c. A rule establishing specific prices to be charged for particular goods or services sold by an agency.
- d. A rule concerning only the physical servicing, maintenance, or care of agency owned or operated facilities or property.
- e. A rule relating only to the use of a particular facility or property owned, operated, or maintained by the state or any of its subdivisions, if the substance of the rule is adequately indicated by means of signs or signals to persons who use the facility or property.
- f. A rule concerning only inmates of a correctional or detention facility, students enrolled in an educational institution, or patients admitted to a hospital, if adopted by that facility, institution, or hospital.
- g. A form whose contents or substantive requirements are prescribed by rule or statute or are instructions for the execution or use of the form.
- h. An agency budget.
- i. An opinion of the attorney general.
- j. A rule adopted by an agency selection committee under section 54-44.7-03.
- k. Any material, including a guideline, interpretive statement, statement of general policy, manual, brochure, or pamphlet, that is explanatory and not intended to have the force and effect of law.

SECTION 19. AMENDMENT. Section 40-57.1-04 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

40-57.1-04. Exemption from income tax - Notice to competitors - Limitations.

Upon application by a project operator to the state board of equalization, the net income of a project may be exempt from state income tax for a period not exceeding five years from commencement of project operations. The application for the exemption must be reviewed as

1 to the eligibility of the project by the department of commerce division of economic development
2 and finance and its recommendations forwarded to the state board of equalization. The project
3 operator shall provide notice to competitors in the manner prescribed by the state board of
4 equalization. The board shall determine whether the granting of the exemption is in the best
5 interest of the people of North Dakota and, if it so determines, approve the exemption. The
6 board shall, after making its determination, certify the findings back to the applicant and to the
7 tax commissioner. Nothing contained herein shall have the effect of exempting the project from
8 filing an annual income tax return.

9 **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-10.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **49-10.1-17. Agreements to restore Amtrak service.** The governor or the director of
12 the department of transportation may make agreements in accordance with applicable federal
13 law with the state of Montana and relevant federal agencies for the renewal of service on the
14 Amtrak north coast Hiawatha route from Fargo to Spokane, Washington. The governor, the
15 director of the department of transportation, or the ~~director of the department of economic~~
16 ~~development and finance~~ commerce commissioner of commerce may enter agreements with any political
17 subdivision, state, and federal agency for the restoration of daily service on the Amtrak empire
18 builder route.

19 **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 50-06-01.8 of the North Dakota
20 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 21 4. The department of ~~economic development and finance~~ commerce, job service
22 North Dakota, county social service boards, and any other state agency
23 determined appropriate shall cooperate with the department to ensure the success
24 of the program. Local government agencies are encouraged to cooperate with the
25 department.

26 **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 52-01-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **52-01-03. Disclosure of information.** Except as otherwise provided in this section,
29 information obtained from any employing unit or individual pursuant to the administration of the
30 North Dakota Unemployment Compensation Law and determinations as to the benefit rights of
31 any individual must be held confidential and may not be disclosed or be open to public

1 inspection in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity. Any claimant or
2 claimant's legal representative must be supplied with information from the records of the job
3 insurance division, to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of the claimant's claim in
4 any proceeding under the North Dakota Unemployment Compensation Law with respect to the
5 claim. Subject to restrictions as the bureau by rule may prescribe, the information may be
6 made available to any agency of this or any other state, or any federal agency, charged with the
7 administration of any unemployment compensation law or the maintenance of a system of
8 public employment offices, or the bureau of internal revenue of the United States department of
9 the treasury, and information obtained in connection with the administration of the employment
10 service may be made available to persons or agencies for purposes appropriate to the
11 operation of a public employment service. Upon a request, the bureau shall furnish to any
12 agency of the United States charged with the administration of public works or assistance
13 through public employment, and may furnish to any state agency similarly charged, the name,
14 address, ordinary occupation, and employment status of each recipient of benefits and the
15 recipient's rights to further benefits under the North Dakota Unemployment Compensation Law.
16 The bureau may request the comptroller of the currency of the United States to cause an
17 examination of the correctness of any return or report of any national banking association,
18 rendered pursuant to the North Dakota Unemployment Compensation Law, and in connection
19 with the request, may transmit any report or return to the comptroller of the currency of the
20 United States as provided in subsection c of section 3305 of the federal Internal Revenue Code.
21 The bureau shall request and exchange information for purposes of income and eligibility
22 verification to meet the requirements of section 1137 of the Social Security Act.

23 The bureau may provide the workers compensation bureau, the state commissioner of
24 labor, the department of ~~economic development and finance~~ commerce, the state tax
25 commissioner, and the North Dakota occupational information coordinating committee with
26 information obtained pursuant to the administration of the North Dakota Unemployment
27 Compensation Law. Any information so provided may be used only for the purpose of
28 administering the duties of the workers compensation bureau, the state commissioner of labor,
29 the state department of ~~economic development and finance~~ commerce, the state tax
30 commissioner, and the North Dakota occupational information coordinating committee. The
31 bureau may provide any state agency or a private entity with the names and addresses of

1 employing units for the purpose of jointly publishing or distributing publications or other
2 information as provided in section 54-06-04.3. Any information so provided may only be used
3 for the purpose of jointly publishing or distributing publications or other information as provided
4 in section 54-06-04.3.

5 Whenever the bureau obtains information on the activities of a contractor doing
6 business in this state of which officials of the secretary of state, workers compensation bureau,
7 or the tax commissioner may be unaware and that may be relevant to duties of those officials,
8 the bureau shall provide any relevant information to those officials for the purpose of
9 administering their duties.

10 The bureau shall request and exchange information as required of the bureau under
11 federal law with any specified governmental agencies. Any information so provided may be
12 used only for the purpose of administering the duties of such governmental agencies.

13 **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 52-02.1-01 of the North Dakota
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15 5. "Department" means the department of ~~economic development and finance~~
16 commerce.

17 **SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-01.1-08 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
18 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **54-01.1-08. Adoption of rules and regulations.** State agencies may consult with the
20 department of commerce division of community services to establish regulations and
21 procedures for implementation of the provisions of this chapter and to establish such
22 regulations and procedures necessary to assure:

- 23 1. That the payments and assistance authorized by this chapter shall be administered
24 in a manner which is fair and reasonable, and as uniform as practicable;
- 25 2. That a displaced person who makes proper application for a payment authorized
26 by this chapter shall be paid promptly after a move or, in hardship cases, be paid in
27 advance; and
- 28 3. That any displaced person aggrieved by a determination as to eligibility for a
29 payment, or as to the amount of a payment, may have the application reviewed by
30 the head or governing body of the state agency.

SECTION 25. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 54-06-04 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The following executive and administrative officers and departments shall submit to the governor and the secretary of state reports covering their operations for the two preceding fiscal years, except as otherwise provided by law, not later than the first day of December each year after the regular session of the legislative assembly:

- a. Secretary of state.
- b. State auditor.
- c. Insurance commissioner.
- d. Attorney general.
- e. Agriculture commissioner.
- f. Superintendent of public instruction.
- g. State tax commissioner.
- h. Public service commission.
- i. Department of corrections and rehabilitation.
- j. Department of transportation.
- k. State department of health.
- l. Department of human services.
- m. Workers compensation bureau.
- n. Office of management and budget.
- o. State treasurer.
- p. Commissioner of labor.
- q. Department of banking and financial institutions.
- r. ~~Department of economic development and finance.~~
- s. Game and fish department.
- t. s. Industrial commission.
- u. ~~t.~~ Job service North Dakota.
- v. u. Board of university and school lands.

SECTION 26. AMENDMENT. Section 54-21.2-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **54-21.2-03. Energy conservation standards.** The standards for energy conservation
2 in new building construction, for thermal design conditions and criteria for buildings, and for
3 adequate thermal resistance in regard to the design and selection of mechanical, electrical
4 service, and illumination systems and equipment which will enable the effective use of energy in
5 new buildings, must at least equal the energy conservation code based on the Council of
6 American Building Officials Model Energy Code, 1989 Edition. The ~~office of management and~~
7 ~~budget~~ department of commerce shall adopt rules to implement, update, and amend the Model
8 Energy Code.

9 **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 54-21.3-03 of the 1999
10 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 11 1. The state building code consists of the Uniform Building Code with any existing
12 supplements and the Uniform Mechanical Code with any existing supplements as
13 referenced by the Uniform Building Code, except that section 504(f) of the Uniform
14 Mechanical Code is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 504(f). LPG Appliances.

16 Liquefied petroleum gas burning appliances, both automatically and manually
17 controlled, may be installed in basements or similar locations only if (a) the
18 appliances are of an American gas association-approved type and installed in
19 accordance with national fire protection association pamphlets 54 and 58, (b)
20 automatically controlled appliances are equipped with safety shutoff devices
21 of the complete shutoff type, and (c) gas piping has been pressure tested and
22 proven to be gastight.

23 The ~~director of the office of management and budget~~ department of commerce
24 shall adopt rules to implement and periodically update the code and may adopt
25 rules to amend the code.

26 **SECTION 28. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-21.3-04.1 of the 1999 Supplement to the
27 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **54-21.3-04.1. Accessibility standards.** Notwithstanding section 54-21.3-04, every
29 building or facility subject to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 [Pub. L.
30 101-336; 104 Stat. 327] must conform to the accessibility standards of the Americans with
31 Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities as contained in the appendix

1 to title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, part 36 [28 CFR 36]. State and political subdivision
2 entities may not claim the exceptions to the requirement that elevators be installed in certain
3 buildings as those exceptions are stated in exception 1 to section 4.1.3(5) and in section
4 4.1.6(1)(k)(i) in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and
5 Facilities found in the appendix to 28 CFR 36. A structural change to an existing state or
6 political subdivision building or facility is not required if another method is effective in achieving
7 compliance with regulations adopted under Public Law 101-336. For public accommodations,
8 an alternative to a structural change in existing buildings or facilities is permitted only after it has
9 been documented, in accordance with regulations adopted under Public Law 101-336, that a
10 particular structural change is not readily achievable. A state agency or the governing body of a
11 political subdivision shall require from any person preparing plans and specifications for a
12 building or facility subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 [Pub. L. 101-336; 104
13 Stat. 327], a statement that the plans and specifications are, in the professional judgment of
14 that person, in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for
15 Buildings and Facilities found in the appendix to 28 CFR 36, subject to the exception stated in
16 this section. A statement of conformance must be submitted to the department of commerce
17 division of community services for recording.

18 **SECTION 29. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-34-12 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
19 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **54-34-12. ~~Department~~ Division of economic development and finance to establish**
21 **venture capital network - Duties and functions.** The department of commerce division of
22 economic development and finance may establish, from funds appropriated to or otherwise
23 available to the department of commerce, the venture capital network as a clearinghouse for
24 information on informal risk capital investment opportunities in the state. The ~~department~~
25 division of economic development and finance may:

- 26 1. Enter ~~into~~ service contracts on a competitive bid basis with public and private
27 agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals for the purpose of establishing
28 and operating the venture capital network.
- 29 2. Receive and approve contract proposals for the purpose of establishing the
30 venture capital network.

3. Solicit the support and contributions of public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals.

4. Accept and administer contributions for the purpose of operating the venture capital network.

5. Advertise and promote the venture capital network.

SECTION 30. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34-15 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34-15. Private sponsor. The department of commerce division of economic development and finance may endeavor to locate a private sector sponsor or group of sponsors to assume administration of the venture capital network.

SECTION 31. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-01 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-01. Department of commerce division of economic development and finance established - Mission. The ~~North Dakota~~ department of commerce division of economic development and finance is established to assume the functions, powers, and duties of the department of economic development ~~commission~~ and finance with respect to programs and other efforts intended to enhance the economic development of the state. The mission of the ~~department~~ division is to develop strategies and programs to:

1. Facilitate the growth, diversification, and expansion of existing enterprises and the attraction and creation of new wealth-generating enterprises in the state;
2. Promote economic diversification and innovation within the basic industries and economic sectors of this state, including strategies and programs designed to specialize and focus the state's economy on advanced agriculture and food processing, energy byproduct development, export services and tourism, and advanced manufacturing;
3. Promote increased productivity and value-added products, processes, and services in the state, and the export of those goods and services by North Dakota enterprises to the nation and to the world;
4. Maintain and revitalize economically depressed rural areas by working in close collaboration with local communities and by encouraging communities to enter into

cooperative relationships for more efficient and effective education, health care, government service, and infrastructure maintenance;

5. Forge a supportive partnership with the Bank of North Dakota, the board of higher education and the state's institutions of higher education, regional planning councils, local development organizations and authorities, the Myron G. Nelson Fund, Incorporated, the state's nonprofit development corporations, and other appropriate private and public sector organizations in achieving the economic goals of the state; and
6. Identify those statutes, administrative rules, and policies that impede the attraction, creation, and expansion of businesses and job creation in this state.

SECTION 32. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-02. Definitions. As used in ~~sections 54-34.3-01 through 54-34.3-08~~ this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Department" means the department of ~~economic development and finance~~ commerce.
2. "Director" means the director of the department of commerce division of economic development and finance.
3. "Division" means the department division of economic development and finance.

SECTION 33. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-03. ~~Department~~ Division structure. The ~~department~~ division consists of:

1. A ~~division of finance~~ office; and
2. Other ~~divisions~~ offices that the director organizes and establishes as necessary to carry out most efficiently and effectively the mission and duties of the ~~department~~ division.

SECTION 34. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-04 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-04. ~~Department director~~ Director - Appointment - Compensation - Duties.

A director shall supervise and control the ~~department~~ division. The ~~governor~~ commissioner of commerce shall appoint as director a person who is qualified by training, knowledge, and

1 experience that is necessary to ensure a high degree of professional competency in carrying
2 out the duties of the director as enumerated in this section. The director shall serve at the will
3 of the ~~governor~~ commissioner and shall receive a salary set by the ~~governor~~ commissioner
4 within the limits of legislative appropriations. The director shall:

- 5 1. Manage the internal operations of the ~~department~~ division and establish policies
6 that promote the orderly and efficient administration of the ~~department~~ division;
- 7 2. Appoint personnel as may be determined necessary to carry out ~~sections~~
8 ~~54-34.3-01 through 54-34.3-08~~ this chapter and fix their compensation within the
9 limits of legislative appropriations;
- 10 3. Assume central responsibility to develop, implement, and coordinate within state
11 government a comprehensive program of economic development consistent with
12 the mission of the ~~department~~ division;
- 13 4. Coordinate that program of economic development with all other appropriate state
14 and local government departments, agencies, institutions, and organizations that
15 perform research, develop and administer programs, gather statistics, or perform
16 other functions relating to economic development, and those government entities
17 shall advise, cooperate, and provide reasonable assistance to the director in
18 carrying out ~~sections 54-34.3-01 through 54-34.3-08~~ this chapter;
- 19 5. Advise, and cooperate with, departments and agencies of the federal government
20 and of other states, private business and agricultural organizations and
21 associations, research institutions, and any individual or other private or public
22 entity, and call upon those entities or individuals for consultation and assistance in
23 their respective fields of endeavor or interest in order that the ~~department~~ division
24 and the state may benefit from up-to-date technical advice, information, and
25 assistance;
- 26 6. Cooperate with individuals and both public and private entities, including the state's
27 congressional delegation, in identifying and pursuing potential sources of funding
28 and to receive those funds to be expended for purposes consistent with ~~sections~~
29 ~~54-34.3-01 through 54-34.3-08~~ this chapter;

7. Have authority to enter into contracts upon terms and conditions as determined by the director to be reasonable and to effectuate the purposes of ~~sections 54-34.3-01 through 54-34.3-08~~ this chapter;
8. Report at least annually to an interim committee designated by the legislative council on performance of all divisions of the ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance. The report must include the amount of success and satisfaction the ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance has in meeting business-client, economic-developer, and community-client needs and expectations. The report must also include a comparison of dollars spent to the economic benefits created of all programs administered or supervised by the director; and
9. Have authority to do any and all other things necessary and proper to carry out ~~sections 54-34.3-01 through 54-34.3-08~~ this chapter.

SECTION 35. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-05. ~~Division of finance~~ Finance office - Deputy director. The director shall appoint a deputy director who shall administer the ~~division of finance~~ office. The deputy director shall serve at the will of the director and receive a salary set by the director within the limits of legislative appropriations. The purpose of the ~~division of finance~~ office is to identify and coordinate sources of capital and financial assistance, including lending programs of the Bank of North Dakota, and administer programs of financial assistance placed under the administration of the ~~division~~ office, to business and industry, local governments, and other entities and individuals in the state consistent with the mission of the ~~department~~ office. The ~~division of finance~~ office shall:

1. Administer other programs of financial assistance assigned to it by law or otherwise.
2. Perform such other duties as assigned to it by the director.

SECTION 36. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-06 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **54-34.3-06. ~~Divisions~~ Division offices.** The director shall organize and establish
2 other ~~divisions~~ offices as necessary to carry out most efficiently and effectively the mission and
3 duties of the ~~department~~ division, except that the ~~department~~ division must contain:

- 4 1. ~~An office of~~ A North Dakota American Indian business development office to assist
5 North Dakota tribal and individual economic development representatives and
6 North Dakota American Indian entrepreneurs with access to state and federal
7 programs designed to assist them.
- 8 2. ~~An office of~~ A North Dakota women's business development office to develop and
9 administer the North Dakota women's business program, to establish and fund the
10 women's business leadership council, certify women-owned businesses for federal
11 or state contracting and to recruit, train, and assist women entrepreneurs to
12 develop and diversify their businesses. The office must have an administrator and
13 staff sufficient to implement ~~its~~ the office's programs.

14 **SECTION 37. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-34.3-08 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
15 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **54-34.3-08. Patents.** The ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance,
17 the North Dakota development fund, incorporated, and the North Dakota agricultural products
18 utilization commission may hold or assign for remuneration all or a portion of their interest in
19 patents or royalty rights acquired in the course of their operation and performance of duties as
20 provided by law.

21 **SECTION 38. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-34.3-10 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
22 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **54-34.3-10. Commission on the status of women - Appointment - Expenses -**
24 **Duties.** There is established a commission on the status of women. ~~The~~ This commission
25 consists of five members. The governor shall appoint each member for a term of four years,
26 staggered so that the term of at least one member expires July first of each year. A vacancy
27 occurring other than by reason of the expiration of a term must be filled in the same manner as
28 original appointments, except that the appointment may be made for only the remainder of the
29 unexpired term. The members are entitled to be paid for mileage and actual expenses incurred
30 in attending meetings and in performance of their official duties in amounts provided by law for
31 other state officers and employees. ~~The~~ This commission shall coordinate activities and serve

as a clearinghouse and an advisory group to the ~~department~~ division for information relating to economic development programs that focus on career development for women. ~~The~~ This commission shall prepare for and perform followup duties in connection with state, regional, and national conferences, encourage interest, participation, and cooperation with state departments, agencies, and other organizations in developing needed services, facilities, and opportunities, and provide consultant help to local organizations created for the purpose of coordinating activities for the economic and career development of women.

SECTION 39. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-11 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-11. Mutual fund capital pool - Authorization. The ~~department~~ division of economic development and finance, in conjunction with the agricultural products utilization commission, may establish a mutual fund capital pool to attract farm and nonfarm investments in value-added processing projects.

SECTION 40. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.4-01 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.4-01. ~~Tourism department~~ Division of tourism - Director.

1. The division of tourism ~~department~~ is established to foster and promote tourism to, and within, the state and the full development of the state's tourism resources, and to serve as a planning and coordinating agency for tourism-related programs of the state and the state's political subdivisions.
2. The ~~governor~~ commissioner of commerce shall appoint a director of the division of tourism ~~department~~ who shall serve at the will of the ~~governor~~ commissioner. The director shall supervise and control the division of tourism ~~department~~.

SECTION 41. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.4-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.4-02. Duties of director. The director of the department of commerce division of tourism ~~department~~, within the limits of legislative appropriations, shall:

1. Implement the state's tourism policy;
2. Prepare and update annually a tourism master plan for the development of tourism in the state which identifies the state's tourism resources, estimates the impact of

- 1 tourism on the state's economy, and proposes a five-year plan for activities of the
- 2 division;
- 3 3. Measure and forecast visitor volume, receipts, and related social and economic
- 4 impacts;
- 5 4. Work with the private sector and local, state, and federal agencies to develop the
- 6 state's tourism-related infrastructure, facilities, services, and attractions, including
- 7 the state's highways and parks;
- 8 5. Organize and coordinate programs designed to promote tourism to, and within, the
- 9 state through various means. Those means may include:
- 10 a. Display advertising in magazines and newspapers;
- 11 b. Advertising on radio and television or other advertising media;
- 12 c. Publishing pamphlets, brochures, and other graphic and pictorial materials;
- 13 and
- 14 d. Aiding and assisting representatives of the media to ensure greater coverage
- 15 of the state's visitor attractions;
- 16 6. Participate in travel shows;
- 17 7. Supervise and administer visitor information centers that receive funding from the
- 18 state;
- 19 8. Develop opportunities for professional and technical education and training in the
- 20 visitor industry;
- 21 9. Foster an understanding among the state's residents of the economic importance
- 22 to the state of hospitality and tourism;
- 23 10. Cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations and the private
- 24 sector for the promotion and development of tourism to, and within, the state;
- 25 11. Provide advice and technical assistance to local, public, and private tourism
- 26 organizations in promoting and developing tourism; and
- 27 12. Monitor the policies and programs of state agencies that significantly affect the
- 28 visitor industry, notify those agencies of the effects of their actions on travel to, and
- 29 within the state, and if necessary recommend programs or policy changes to those
- 30 agencies.

SECTION 42. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.4-04 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.4-04. North Dakota motion picture development office - Advisory board.

The North Dakota motion picture development office is a part of the department of commerce division of tourism ~~department~~. The office shall promote North Dakota as a location for shooting films, television shows, documentaries, and commercials, and shall provide technical expertise to persons desiring to use the state as a filming location. The director of the division of tourism ~~department~~ shall appoint staff necessary to fulfill the functions and duties of the office and shall appoint an advisory board of no more than ten members to assist in advising the office and to provide technical expertise to offer prospective film companies seeking locations and advice. The board shall serve without compensation, except reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses at the same rate as allowed other state officers to be paid from funds available to the office within the limits of legislative appropriations.

SECTION 43. A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Cabinet" means the North Dakota commerce cabinet.
2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of commerce.
3. "Department" means the department of commerce.
4. "Foundation" means the North Dakota economic development foundation.

Department of commerce - Divisions. The North Dakota department of commerce is created. All records, materials, supplies, and equipment used by the division of community services, department of economic development and finance, and the department of tourism are transferred to the department.

1. The department must consist of:
 - a. A division of community services;
 - b. A division of economic development and finance;
 - c. A division of tourism;
 - d. A division of international trade;
 - e. A division of workforce development; and
 - f. Any division the commissioner determines necessary to carry out this chapter.

2. Each division director serves at the will of the commissioner and receives a salary set by the commissioner within the limits of legislative appropriations.

Commissioner of commerce - Duties. With the advice and counsel of the North Dakota development foundation, the governor shall appoint a commissioner to supervise, control, and administer the department. The commissioner serves at the pleasure of the governor and receives a salary set by the governor within the limits of legislative appropriations.
The commissioner:

1. Shall file an oath of office in the usual form before commencing to perform the duties of the commissioner;
2. Shall serve as chairman of the cabinet;
3. Shall prepare the cabinet's list identifying economic development moneys included in budget requests of cabinet agencies;
4. Shall appoint directors to administer each of the department divisions;
5. Shall appoint personnel as may be determined necessary to carry out the duties of the department;
6. Shall manage the operations of the department and oversee each of the divisions;
7. Shall assume central responsibilities to develop, implement, and coordinate a working network of commerce service providers;
8. Shall coordinate the department's services with commerce-related services of other state agencies;
9. Shall advise and cooperate with departments and agencies of the federal government and of other states; private businesses, agricultural organizations, and associations; and research institutions; and with any individual or other private or public entity;
10. May enter contracts upon terms and conditions as determined by the commissioner to be reasonable and to effectuate the purposes of this chapter;
11. Shall report between the first and tenth legislative days of each regular legislative session to a standing committee of each house of the legislative assembly as determined by the legislative council and shall report annually to the foundation on the department's goals and objectives since the last report, on the department's goals and objectives for the period until the next report, on the department's

long-term goals and objectives, and summarizing the department's activities and measurable results occurring since the last report;

12. Shall adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter; and

13. May take any actions necessary and proper to implement this chapter.

North Dakota economic development foundation - Executive committee -

Purpose. The North Dakota economic development foundation is created.

1. The foundation is composed of a minimum of fifteen and a maximum of thirty members appointed by the governor for two-year terms, except the governor shall appoint approximately one-half of the initial foundation members to one-year terms in order to initiate a cycle of staggered terms. Appointment of the foundation members must ensure a cross section of business and economic development representation.

2. The foundation members shall elect an executive committee with a minimum of five and a maximum of nine foundation members. The executive committee members shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and a secretary.

3. The purpose of the foundation is to:

a. Provide the governor advice and counsel in selecting the commissioner;

b. Serve in an advisory role to the commissioner, including counsel in the development of the division of economic development and finance's strategic plan;

c. Monitor economic development activities and initiatives of the department; and

d. Set accountability measurements for the department.

4. The foundation shall seek funding for administrative expenses from private sector sources and shall seek and distribute private sector funds for use in commerce-related activities in the state.

Compensation and reimbursement of foundation members. The foundation may establish the level of compensation to which a foundation member is entitled. A foundation member is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses as provided for state officers.

Commerce cabinet. The North Dakota commerce cabinet is created. The cabinet is composed of the executive heads, or other authorized representatives, of the state board for

vocational and technical education, the state board of higher education, the Bank of North Dakota, the department of agriculture, the workers compensation bureau, and of any other state agency appointed by the commissioner. The commissioner is the chairman of the cabinet and shall determine which agencies are members of the cabinet. The cabinet shall:

1. Coordinate and communicate economic development efforts of the agencies represented.
2. Meet a minimum of four times and a maximum of twelve times each year.
3. Develop and make available before each regular session of the legislative assembly a list that identifies economic development moneys included in budget requests of cabinet agencies.

Cooperation with other agencies or private entities to jointly publish or mail publications. The department may cooperate with other state agencies or with a private entity for the purpose of jointly publishing or distributing information or publications as provided in section 54-06-04.3.

SECTION 44. AMENDMENT. Subsection 15 of section 54-44.3-20 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15. Officers and employees of the department of commerce division of economic development and finance.

SECTION 45. AMENDMENT. Section 54-44.5-01 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-44.5-01. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Community action agency" means a not-for-profit corporation that has authority under its charter and bylaws to receive funds to administer community action programs and which was officially designated as a community action agency or a community action program under section 210 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 [Pub. L. 88-452; 78 Stat. 508; 42 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.], unless the community action agency or a community action program lost its designation as a result of failure to comply with the provisions of the federal act.
2. "Community action program" means a community-based and operated program that includes an intake assessment and referral capability in each of its counties

and is designed to include a number of projects or components to provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes and conditions of poverty in the community or those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem. These services and activities may include activities designed to provide opportunities for eligible persons to:

- a. Secure and retain meaningful employment;
- b. Attain an adequate education;
- c. Make better use of available income;
- d. Obtain and maintain adequate housing and suitable living environment;
- e. Obtain emergency assistance through grants and loans to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment-related assistance;
- f. Maximize the role community action agencies play in supportive mechanisms available to North Dakota families;
- g. Remove obstacles and solve problems that block achievement of self-sufficiency;
- h. Achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community; and
- i. Make more effective use of other programs.

3. "Department" means the department of commerce.

4. "Director" means the director of the division of community services.

4. "Division" means the department division of community services.

SECTION 46. AMENDMENT. Section 54-44.5-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-44.5-02. Division of community services - Creation. The division of community services is established in the ~~office of management and budget~~ department to provide technical assistance to local governments, state agencies, and the executive branch in the area of community and rural planning and development, policy research and development, and grant program implementation. The ~~director of the office of management and budget~~ commissioner shall appoint a director of the division upon the basis of education and experience. The position of director is not a classified position and the director shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~director~~

1 ~~of the office of management and budget commissioner.~~ The director of the division may
2 employ such other professional, technical, and clerical persons as may be necessary and may
3 fix their compensation within the limits of legislative appropriation. All personnel within the
4 division must be allowed their actual and necessary travel expenses at the same rate as for
5 other employees of the state.

6 **SECTION 47. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.5-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
7 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **54-44.5-03. Powers and duties of the director.** The director shall direct and
9 supervise, with the approval of the ~~director of the office of management and budget~~
10 commissioner, all the administrative and technical activities of the division.

11 **SECTION 48. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.5-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
12 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **54-44.5-05. Continuing appropriation.** There is hereby appropriated as a standing
14 and continuing appropriation to the ~~division of community services~~ department for the purpose
15 of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, including the administration of such provisions, all
16 moneys returned as repayments of federal or other funds granted under the community
17 development loan fund, and all earnings from the investment of such moneys, which may be
18 received from time to time by the division. Administrative expenses may only be charged
19 against such moneys to the extent permitted by federal law or regulations.

20 **SECTION 49. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-53-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
21 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **54-53-02. Advisory transportation council - Composition.** There is hereby
23 established a transportation council which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the upper great
24 plains transportation institute. The director of the institute shall serve as the executive secretary
25 of the council and it shall elect its own chairman. The council membership shall consist of one
26 representative from and appointed by the following organizations:

- 27 1. The greater North Dakota association.
- 28 2. The public service commission.
- 29 3. The North Dakota farm bureau.
- 30 4. The North Dakota farmers union.
- 31 5. The livestock industry council.

6. The North Dakota wheat commission.

7. The North Dakota department of commerce division of economic development and finance.

8. The North Dakota farmers grain dealers association.

9. The North Dakota railway lines.

10. The North Dakota motor carriers association.

11. The North Dakota aeronautics commission.

12. A traffic counsel selected by the members of the council appointed by the above-named organizations.

Members of the council shall serve without pay, but they may receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, if authorized by the director.

The council shall consult with the institute in matters of policy affecting the administration of this chapter and in the development of transportation in the state of North Dakota. The council shall meet at the call of the executive director or upon the written request of three or more members of the council.

SECTION 50. AMENDMENT. Section 55-01-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

55-01-01. State historical board. There is a state historical society of North Dakota which is under the supervision and control of the state historical board. The board consists of seven members who are appointed by the governor. Each member appointed to the board must be a citizen and resident of the state of North Dakota. Appointments are for a term of three years from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of June of the third year or until a successor has been appointed and qualified. The governor shall appoint two members for terms commencing in 1996, two members for terms commencing in 1997, and three members for terms commencing in 1998. Vacancies occurring other than by the expiration of an appointive term must be filled by appointment for the remainder of the term only in the same manner as regular appointments. The board of directors shall select from its membership a president, vice president, and secretary to serve as officers of the board. The secretary of state, director of the parks and recreation department, director of the department of transportation, director of the department of commerce division of tourism ~~department~~, and

1 state treasurer are ex officio members of the board and shall take care that the interests of the
2 state are protected. Each ex officio member may appoint a designee to attend meetings with
3 full voting privileges.

4 **SECTION 51. AMENDMENT.** Section 55-06-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **55-06-01. Yellowstone-Missouri-Fort Union commission.** There is a
7 Yellowstone-Missouri-Fort Union commission, hereinafter referred to as the "commission",
8 declared to be a governmental agency with the authority to exercise the powers specified
9 herein, or which may be reasonably implied, composed of the governor as chairman, the
10 president of the senate, the speaker of the house, the superintendent of the state historical
11 board, the ~~director~~ commissioner of the ~~department of economic development and finance~~
12 commerce, all ex officio, and five citizens of the state to be appointed by the governor who shall
13 serve without compensation for the purpose of investigating, in cooperation with the state of
14 Montana and the national park service, the historical importance and significance of the area
15 and for formulating and executing plans for the preservation of the historic sites illustrative of
16 the history of the United States. The commission may expend its operating expenses and other
17 funds provided by legislative appropriations, and public and private grants, for programs,
18 improvements, and facilities to preserve and improve the Yellowstone-Missouri confluence
19 area.

20 **SECTION 52. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-38.5-01 of the North Dakota
21 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 22 1. "Director" means the director of the department of commerce division of economic
23 development and finance.

24 **SECTION 53. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-38.5-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **57-38.5-08. Rules and administration.** The tax commissioner is charged with
27 administration of this chapter as it relates to an income tax credit and has the same powers as
28 provided under section 57-38-56 for purposes of this chapter. The director is charged with
29 administration of this chapter as it relates to certification of qualified businesses and the ~~director~~
30 commissioner of commerce may adopt rules for that purpose.

1 **SECTION 54. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 57-39.2-28 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 3 6. Notwithstanding section 57-39.2-23, the commissioner may provide names and
4 addresses of Canadian residents claiming a North Dakota sales tax refund to the
5 director of the department of commerce division of tourism ~~department~~.

6 **SECTION 55. REPEAL.** Section 54-34.3-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 repealed.

8 **SECTION 56. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER.** As of the effective date of this Act, the
9 division of community services, department of economic development and finance, and tourism
10 department are abolished and any funds appropriated to these agencies by the fifty-sixth
11 legislative assembly and fifty-seventh legislative assembly are transferred to the department of
12 commerce.

13 **SECTION 57. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on August 1, 2001.