

**SENATE BILL NO. 2271**

Introduced by

Senators Lee, T. Mathern

Representatives Gulleason, Keiser

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 52-08 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to creation of a regional work force training investment program; and to  
3 provide a continuing appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 52-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Regional work force training investment program - Investment fee - Board of**  
8 **directors - Continuing appropriation.**

- 9 1. Except for employers with fewer than twenty-six employees and public and private  
10 elementary and secondary schools, job service North Dakota shall assess each  
11 employer a work force training investment fee of one-tenth of one percent of  
12 taxable wages paid by the employer to employees during each calendar year. The  
13 work force training investment fee is a fee separate from contributions made under  
14 chapter 52-04 and may not be deposited in the unemployment compensation fund.  
15 Job service shall assess the fee on an annual basis and may assess the fee in the  
16 same manner as it collects contributions and taxable wages reported by  
17 reimbursing employers under chapter 52-04. The work force training investment  
18 fee payments may not be included in computing unemployment compensation  
19 rates assigned to employers and may not be deducted by an employer from the  
20 wages of the employer's employees.
- 21 2. Job service North Dakota shall deposit funds collected under this section in a work  
22 force training investment fund. Administrative costs incurred by job service for  
23 collection of the work force training investment fee and for costs related to the  
24 establishment and maintenance of the work force training investment account must

1 be paid from the work force training investment fund. Job service North Dakota  
2 shall designate four regions reflecting the geographical areas of work force training  
3 responsibility in the state. Each region is represented by a regional work force  
4 training investment board and is eligible for funds under this section. Funds  
5 collected under this section must be allocated for use in the region of the state in  
6 which the funds were collected based upon covered employment, as defined by job  
7 service, in that region of the state.

- 8 3. Local development corporations in each region shall appoint, on a per capita basis,  
9 a board of directors for that region's regional work force training investment board.  
10 The membership of a board of directors shall include professional human  
11 resources managers from primary sector employers. The four regional work force  
12 training investment boards, in cooperation with job service North Dakota and local  
13 development corporations, shall use the funds to provide work force training  
14 programs, acquire equipment, market the program, perform studies, and develop  
15 the program. The regions shall determine areas of existing and anticipated labor  
16 shortage and underemployment in order to assist in establishing appropriate  
17 training curriculum and focus. A region may contract with the private sector and  
18 with educational institutions to provide services under the program.

- 19 4. Each region providing a work force training program shall submit a report annually  
20 to the governor, the state board of higher education, the state board for vocational  
21 and technical education, job service North Dakota, and the North Dakota workforce  
22 development council regarding the work force training programs receiving funds  
23 under this section.

- 24 5. All money in the work force training investment fund is appropriated on a  
25 continuing basis to job service North Dakota and to the regional work force training  
26 investment boards for carrying out the purposes of this section.