

**HOUSE BILL NO.**

Introduced by

Representative Ekstrom

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to creation of the beginning again North Dakota program by which the  
3 department of commerce develops a data base of skills and other assets of North Dakota  
4 communities and residents; and to provide for a continuing appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Beginning again North Dakota program - Continuing appropriation.**

- 9 1. The department shall implement and administer a beginning again North Dakota  
10 program. The purpose of the program is to develop a data base of skills and other  
11 assets of communities and residents to be used to advance the internal and  
12 external attitude and image of this state and the communities in this state.
- 13 2. The department shall assemble state and local asset data from a broad range of  
14 sources. The sources for data may include the department, Bank of North Dakota,  
15 game and fish department, state historical society, Indian affairs commission, job  
16 service North Dakota, parks and recreation department, department of public  
17 instruction, university system, workforce safety and insurance, and state and local  
18 public or private entities. The nature of the data regarding skills and other assets  
19 may cover a broad range of information that may be valuable to advance the  
20 attitude or image of the state and communities in the state. The data may include  
21 natural resources, real estate, educational resources, cultural resources, vocational  
22 resources, financial resources, and infrastructure resources.
- 23 3. The department shall use the information assembled in the data base to assist in  
24 statewide and regional strategic plans for development. Additionally, the

- 1                    department may use the information in the data base to assist local developers in  
2                    strategic plans for development.
- 3            4.    The department may contract with a public or private third party to provide any or  
4                    all of the services necessary to implement and administer the program. The  
5                    department may solicit support and contributions from public and private sources  
6                    for the purpose of furthering the program. The department shall deposit in a  
7                    special account in the general fund of the state treasury all funds collected under  
8                    this subsection. All funds deposited under this section are appropriated to the  
9                    department on a continuing basis for the purpose of furthering the program.