

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the public service
2 commission; to provide for repayment of funding; to provide for a legislative council study; and
3 to declare an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the
6 funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
8 other income, to the public service commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
9 public service commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2005,
10 as follows:

11 Salaries and wages	\$4,771,497
12 Operating expenses	1,137,006
13 Capital assets	35,011
14 Grants	62,000
15 Abandoned mined lands contractual services	3,668,492
16 Rail rate complaint case	<u>250,000</u>
17 Total all funds	\$9,924,006
18 Less estimated income	<u>6,072,767</u>
19 Total general fund appropriation	\$3,851,239

20 **SECTION 2. SPECIAL FUNDS TRANSFER.** The less estimated income line item in
21 section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be
22 necessary, from the state rail fund, maintained by the department of transportation under
23 section 49-17.1-02.1, and \$50,000 from other sources, to pay the costs associated with the

1 initial stage of a rail rate complaint case. The commission shall collect the \$50,000 before
2 proceeding with the initial stage of the rail rate complaint case.

3 **SECTION 3. REPAYMENT OF FUNDING.** The public service commission shall
4 reimburse the state rail fund for any amounts transferred from proceeds that may result from a
5 successful outcome of the rail rate study and rail rate complaint case.

6 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
7 **DUTIES AND FUNDING.** The legislative council shall consider studying, during the 2003-04
8 interim, the feasibility and desirability of transferring inspection and standards functions
9 conducted by various state agencies to the public service commission, including the potential
10 cost-savings and efficiencies that may be realized by training and certifying employees to
11 conduct multiple inspection duties. In addition, the study, if conducted, must include an
12 examination of the feasibility and desirability of funding the public service commission entirely
13 from special fund revenue sources. The legislative council shall report its findings and
14 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
15 the fifty-ninth legislative assembly.

16 **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** The rail rate complaint case line item in section 1 and
17 section 2 of this Act are declared to be an emergency measure.