

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 17 of chapter 151 of the 2005 Session Laws,
2 relating to the North Dakota business climate initiative.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 17 of chapter 151 of the 2005 Session Laws is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **SECTION 17. NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS CLIMATE INITIATIVE - LEGISLATIVE**
7 **COUNCIL STUDY.** During the 2005-06 and 2007-08 interims, the legislative council shall study
8 the state's business climate through a business climate initiative. The business climate
9 initiative must include receipt of agency reports regarding economic development legislation
10 introduced by the legislative council during previous legislative sessions, active participation in
11 business climate focus groups across the state, and active participation in biennial business
12 congresses. The focus groups shall discuss ways to enhance the state's business climate to
13 stimulate job growth and enhance economic prosperity for employers and employees by
14 encouraging the growth of existing businesses in the state, creating new businesses in the
15 state, and encouraging expansion or relocation of businesses to this state. Each business
16 congress must receive a report on the activities of the focus group discussions, shall identify
17 methods to enhance the state's business climate to stimulate job growth and enhance
18 economic prosperity, shall identify methods to prepare the state for the high-growth and
19 high-demand jobs of the future, and shall evaluate the impact of existing state economic
20 development programs. The department of commerce shall organize the business climate
21 focus groups and the business congresses. Before each business congress, which must be
22 held before June 1, 2006, and before June 1, 2008, the department shall hold a minimum of six
23 focus group discussions, ~~two of which specifically focus on local economic developers, young~~
24 professionals, and ~~four of which specifically focus on~~ private business needs. The department

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly

1 shall consult with the legislative council in compiling focus group and business congress
2 participant invitation lists and drafting and distributing invitations, establishing focus group and
3 business congress dates and locations, and preparing agendas for focus groups and business
4 congresses. The legislative council shall contract with a third party to provide professional
5 services to plan, facilitate, report on, and coordinate followup for the focus groups and business
6 congresses. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together
7 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixtieth and sixty-first
8 legislative assemblies.