

SENATE BILL NO. 2309

Introduced by

Senators Axness, Schneider, Sinner

Representatives M. Johnson, Oversen, Sanford

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 54-60-30 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to a micro grant program for new Americans; and to provide an appropriation.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 54-60-30 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as
5 follows:

6 **54-60-30. Micro grant program.**

7 1. As used in this section:

8 a. "New American" means an immigrant to the United States of America who has
9 gained citizenship in the United States of America.

10 b. "Regional council" has the same meaning as under section 54-40.1-02.

11 2. The department, in consultation with the regional councils, shall establish a micro
12 grant program. Under this program:

13 a. The department shall provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds to a regional
14 council for the purpose of funding micro grants.

15 b. A qualified recipient of a micro grant awarded by a regional council under this
16 section:

17 (1) Must be a resident of the state who is a new American, Native American, or
18 low income, as the department defines that term for this program:

19 (2) Must be the recipient of a United States small business administration
20 microloan:

21 (3) Must meet additional qualifications established by the department.

22 c. A micro grant awarded by a regional council under this section may not exceed
23 the lesser of five thousand dollars or twenty-five percent of the amount of the
24 recipient's federal United States small business administration microloan.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
2 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$480,000, or so much of the
3 sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of providing
4 matching funds to regional planning councils under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium
5 beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017.