Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1283

Introduced by

Representatives Boschee, Adams, Buffalo, Hager, Roers Jones, Schneider

Senators Hogan, Oban

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 34-05 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to establishing an ombudsman position in the department of labor and
- 3 human rights; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 34-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 <u>Ombudsman - Duties - Report to legislative management.</u>

- 8 <u>1.</u> <u>The department of labor and human rights shall employ an ombudsman to provide</u>
- 9 resources to landlords and tenants to assist in the mitigation of legal issues, prevent
- 10 homelessness, and educate individuals on the rights and responsibilities of landlords
- 11 <u>and tenants.</u>
- 12 <u>2.</u> <u>The ombudsman shall:</u>
- 13 <u>a.</u> <u>Collect data annually on the types of inquiries received by the department;</u>
- 14 b. Provide a biennial report to the legislative management; and
- 15c.Create and maintain materials regarding landlord and tenants rights and16responsibilities in the state.
- 17 <u>3.</u> The materials created and maintained under subsection 2 must include relevant state
- 18 and federal laws, rules, and regulations relating to renting or leasing real property in
- the state. The materials must be available to the public on the department's internet
 website and in paper copy upon request.
- 21 <u>4.</u> The department shall establish a toll-free telephone number and internet website for
 22 <u>the public to access.</u>
- 23 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
- fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, or so much of the

Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly

- 1 sum as may be necessary, to the department of labor and human rights for the purpose of one
- 2 full-time equivalent ombudsman position, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending
- 3 June 30, 2023.