

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
CHAPTERS 636 THROUGH 651

LAWS

PASSED AT

The Sixty-eighth Session

OF THE

Legislative Assembly

OF THE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

MEETING IN SPECIAL SESSION AT
BISMARCK, THE CAPITAL, ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023, AND
ADJOURNING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

AUTHENTICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA Department of State, Bismarck

I, Michael Howe, Secretary of State, certify that the laws contained herein are true and correct copies, except clerical errors, of the laws and resolutions passed at the special session of the Sixty-eighth Session of the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota, beginning Monday, October 23, 2023, and concluding Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota, this seventh day of November 2023.

(SEAL)

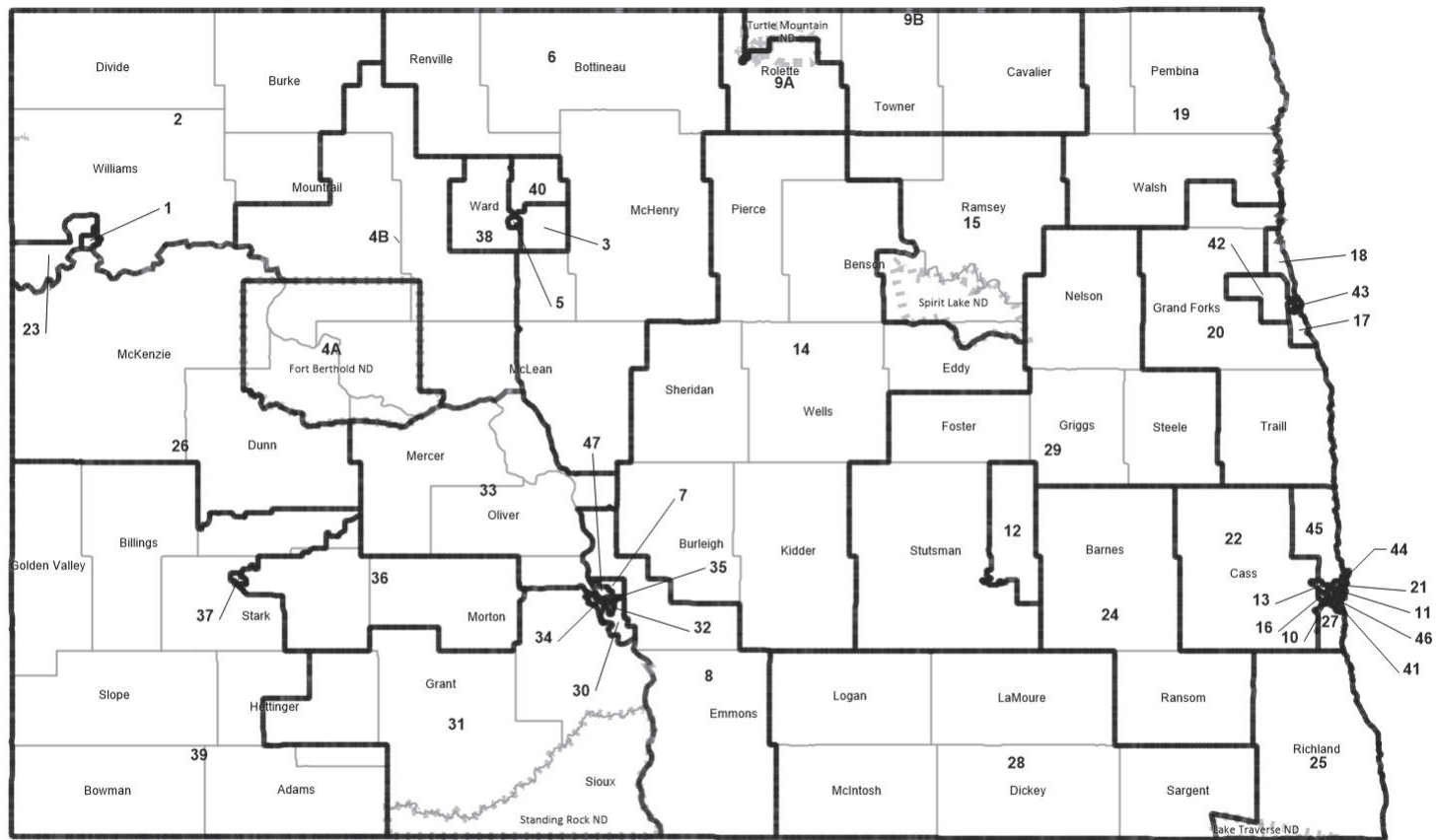
MICHAEL HOWE
Secretary of State

John Bjornson, Jennifer S.N. Clark, and Samantha E. Kramer of the Legislative Council certify that we have prepared the contents of these volumes and that the measures, laws, and resolutions contained herein are true and correct copies of the original measures, laws, and resolutions on file in the office of the Secretary of State in the State Capitol at Bismarck, North Dakota, clerical errors excepted.

JOHN BJORNSON
Legislative Council Director

JENNIFER S.N. CLARK
Code Revisor

SAMANTHA E. KRAMER
Assistant Code Revisor



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Legislative Districting Effective During the Sixty-eighth Legislative Session

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APPROPRIATIONS

CHAPTER 636

HOUSE BILL NO. 1541

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the legislative assembly for the payment of dues and costs related to a special legislative session and the legislative council for the payment of fees, employer retirement contributions, and legislative council salaries and wages; to amend and reenact section 24-02-37.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, as amended by section 10 of House Bill No. 1012, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, relating to budget section approval limits for the flexible transportation fund; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - 2021-23 BIENNIUM - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative assembly for international legislators' forum dues for the period beginning May 10, 2023, and ending June 30, 2023.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - ONE-TIME FUNDING. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$425,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the Legislative Assembly for costs related to the 2023 special legislative session, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2025. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - REPORT - ONE-TIME FUNDING. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for the purpose of contracting for a performance audit of the state auditor and for other consulting services of interim committees, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The chairman of the legislative management shall arrange for the audit and receive the audit report. The performance audit must address the efficiency and effectiveness of the state auditor's office relative to industry best practices. The performance audit must include a review of the appropriateness of the number of hours to complete audits; methods used to monitor staff time and allocate hours charged to audits; billing processes; quality assurance processes; the adequacy and timeliness of communications with audited entities, governing boards, and the public; and other areas as determined by the chairman of the legislative management. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - EMPLOYER RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION FUNDING. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$58,283, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for the purpose of providing funding for the cost of the one percent employer retirement contribution increase included in House Bill No. 1040, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$255,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for salaries and wages, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 24-02-37.3 of the North Dakota Century Code as amended by section 10 of House Bill No. 1012, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, is amended and reenacted as follows:

SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 24-02-37.3 of the North Dakota Century Code as created by section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2113, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, is amended and reenacted as follows:

24-02-37.3. Flexible transportation fund - Budget section approval - Report.

There is created in the state treasury the flexible transportation fund. The fund consists of eligible federal or state funding and any contributed private funds.

1. The flexible transportation fund must be administered and expended by the director and may be used for the following:
 - a. Providing a match for federal funding obtained by the department of transportation.
 - b. State-funded road and bridge construction and maintenance, and transportation support costs including staffing, facilities, and operational expenditures on the state highway system.
 - c. State-funded road and bridge construction and maintenance activities within the state but off of the state highway system. The director shall establish the terms and provisions of the program.
2. All money derived from the investment of the flexible transportation fund or any portion of the fund, must be credited to the flexible transportation fund. The director shall monthly transmit all moneys collected and received under this chapter to the state treasurer to be transferred and credited to the flexible transportation fund.
3. The director must receive budget section approval for any project that utilizes more than ~~fifteen~~ fifteen million dollars from the fund except for projects that match federal or private funds and the amount utilized from the fund is fifty percent or less of total project costs. Any request considered by the budget section must comply with section 54-35-02.9.

4. The director shall allocate at least twenty-five percent of motor vehicle excise tax collections deposited in the flexible transportation fund pursuant to section 57-40.3-10 for non-oil-producing county and township road and bridge projects as follows:
 - a. The funds must be allocated by the department to counties for projects or grants for the benefit of counties and organized and unorganized townships;
 - b. The department shall establish criteria to distribute the funds;
 - c. The funds must be used for the maintenance and improvement of county and township paved and unpaved roads and bridges;
 - d. Priority must be given to projects that match federal funds and to projects that improve roadways that serve as local corridors;
 - e. An organized township is not eligible to receive funding if the township does not maintain any roadways or does not levy at least eighteen mills for general purposes; and
 - f. For purposes of this subsection, "non-oil-producing county" means a county that received no allocation of funding or a total allocation of less than five million dollars under subsection 2 of section 57-51-15 in the most recently completed even-numbered fiscal year before the start of each biennium.
5. The director shall provide periodic reports to the budget section regarding the status of the fund and projects receiving allocations from the fund.

SECTION 7. LEGACY FUND EARNINGS - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. Each biennium, the state retirement and investment office shall provide a report including the amount of legacy fund earnings above the percent of market value that would have been transferred to the legacy earnings fund had Senate Bill No. 2330 not been passed by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly to the legislative management.

SECTION 8. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - STATE FIRE AND TORNADO FUND AND STATE BONDING FUND ADMINISTRATION. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying, in collaboration with the insurance commissioner and the director of the office of management and budget, the feasibility and desirability of changing administration of the state fire and tornado fund and state bonding fund from the insurance commissioner to the director of the office of management and budget. The study must include an analysis of the statutory changes necessary to accomplish the change in administration and other statutory changes necessary to facilitate the office of management and budget's administration of these funds. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 9. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE FACILITIES.

1. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the policies and procedures of state agencies, excluding institutions

under the control of the state board of higher education, for managing, maintaining, and leasing state facilities.

2. The study must include consideration of:
 - a. The most efficient and cost-effective organizational structure for managing, maintaining, and leasing state facilities, including a comparison of allocating funding and full-time equivalent positions to various agencies and centralizing funding and full-time equivalent positions under one agency.
 - b. The costs and benefits of leasing or owning state facilities.
 - c. The appropriate use of contracts for service and full-time equivalent positions for custodial services, mechanical services, snow removal, lawn care, and maintenance.
3. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 10. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAMS. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall study the state's guardianship programs. The study must include consideration of the existing structure for the programs under the office of management and budget, judicial branch, and department of health and human services; the feasibility of consolidating the programs under one agency; and an appropriate level of funding for the programs. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 11. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. Section 1 of this Act applies retroactively to May 10, 2023, and sections 3, 4, and 6 through 10 of this Act apply retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 637

HOUSE BILL NO. 1542

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the judicial branch for employer retirement contribution funding; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - JUDICIAL BRANCH - EMPLOYER RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION FUNDING. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the judicial branch for the purpose of providing funding for the cost of the one percent employer retirement contribution increase included in House Bill No. 1040, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

Salaries and wages	<u>\$347,518</u>
Total all funds	\$347,518
Less estimated income	<u>4,273</u>
Total general fund appropriation	\$343,245

SECTION 2. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. This Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 638

HOUSE BILL NO. 1543

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services, department of career and technical education, and Bismarck state college for facility-related projects; to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds for a Bismarck state college facility project; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT - ONE-TIME FUNDING. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, there is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the following amounts, or so much of the sum as may be necessary:

1. \$8,250,000 to the department of health and human services for the purpose of providing a behavioral health facility grant or other services as provided in this subsection. The department of health and human services shall use the funds as follows:
 - a. A grant of \$8,250,000 must be provided to establish a behavioral health facility in the badlands human service center service region. The grant recipient must provide matching funds of \$1,950,000 to establish the facility.
 - b. The department shall require an entity receiving funding under this subsection to operate the facility for a period of at least ten years and require the grant amount to be repaid if the entity does not operate the facility for at least ten years. The amount repaid must be prorated based on the amount of time the program remains in operation.
 - c. The requirements of chapter 54-44.4 do not apply to the selection of a grant recipient, the grant award, or payments made under this subsection.
 - d. If by June 1, 2024, the department does not have a grant recipient secured to establish a behavioral health facility in the badlands human service center service region, \$6,400,000 of the funds appropriated in this subsection may be used to expand community-based services by transitioning the badlands and northwest human service centers into certified community behavioral health clinics. This funding may be used to expand services provided directly by the department or through contractual relationships with behavioral health providers or organizations.
 - e. The funding provided under this subsection is a one-time funding item.

2. \$26,500,000 to the department of career and technical education for the purpose of defraying inflationary costs of existing projects approved under the statewide area career center initiative grant program during the 2021-23 biennium. The department of career and technical education shall distribute the funding to existing career academy projects proportionally based on funding allocations provided to each project during the 2021-23 biennium. If funding approved in this subsection is provided for a career academy project and the funding becomes uncommitted during the 2023-25 biennium, the department of career and technical education may redistribute the funding for existing projects under the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department of career and technical education shall report to the legislative management during the 2023-24 interim and to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly regarding the amount of inflationary funding provided for each project and the construction status of each project. The funding provided under this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE - MULTIPURPOSE ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC CENTER CAPITAL FACILITY PROJECT - ONE-TIME FUNDING. There is appropriated from special funds derived from bond proceeds, gifts, grants, donations, and other funds, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$8,500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to Bismarck state college for the purpose of the multipurpose academic and athletic center capital facility project, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2025. The amount appropriated in this section is in addition to \$31,500,000 appropriated from other funds in House Bill No. 1003, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, to Bismarck state college for the multipurpose academic and athletic center. This appropriation is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 3. BOND ISSUANCE AUTHORIZATION - PURPOSE. The state board of higher education, in accordance with chapter 15-55, may arrange for the funding of projects authorized in this section, declared to be in the public interest, through the issuance of self-liquidating, tax-exempt evidences of indebtedness under chapter 15-55, beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2025. Evidences of indebtedness issued pursuant to this section are not a general obligation of the state of North Dakota. Any unexpended balance resulting from the proceeds of the evidences of indebtedness must be placed in a sinking fund to be used for the retirement of indebtedness. The evidences of indebtedness may be issued to generate up to \$40,000,000, the proceeds of which are appropriated in section 2 of this Act and section 1 of House Bill No. 1003, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, for the Bismarck state college multipurpose academic and athletic center.

SECTION 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. Section 1 of this Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 639

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for workforce development grants and to defray the expenses of the office of legal immigration; to create and enact subsection 6 of section 10-30.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to use of the North Dakota development fund; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT - ONE-TIME FUNDING. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, there is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the following amounts, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce:

1. \$500,000 for the purpose of providing workforce development grants to a tribally controlled community college in the Turtle Mountain area. To be eligible for a grant under this section, a tribally controlled community college shall partner with at least one high school in the state for programs under section 54-60.2-02. During the 2023-24 interim, a tribally controlled community college receiving funding under this program shall report to the department of commerce by August 1, 2024, regarding the use of grant funds and the department of commerce shall provide a report to the legislative management by October 1, 2024, regarding the use of grant funds. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.
2. \$2,000,000 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the office of legal immigration. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.

1 SECTION 2. Subsection 6 of section 10-30.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

6. Moneys in the fund may be used to provide financing for projects that enhance production of clean sustainable energy in the state only to the extent the project has been recommended by the clean sustainable energy authority under chapter 54-63.1.

SECTION 3. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. This Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

¹ Section 2 of House Bill No. 1544 was vetoed, see chapter 650.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 640

SENATE BILL NO. 2393

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the various divisions under the supervision of the director of the office of management and budget; to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-44-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a facility management operating fund; to amend and reenact sections 54-06-14.7 and 54-21-19, subsection 2 of section 54-52-06.4, and subsection 4 of section 54-52-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state leave sharing program, capitol grounds rent collections, and the law enforcement retirement program; to provide for a transfer; to provide an exemption; to provide a report; to provide for a retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the office of management and budget for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the office of management and budget, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	Base Level	Adjustments or Enhancements	Appropriation
Salaries and wages	\$21,926,979	\$1,231,851	\$23,158,830
Operating expenses	15,663,214	3,729,579	19,392,793
Capital assets	764,515	8,567,640	9,332,155
Emergency commission contingency fund	400,000	350,000	750,000
Targeted market equity pool	0	82,500,000	82,500,000
Guardianship grants	2,450,000	4,650,000	7,100,000
Prairie public broadcasting	1,200,000	1,792,450	2,992,450
Community service supervision grants	350,000	0	350,000
State student internship program	0	500,000	500,000
Governor's emergency education relief	0	3,659,555	3,659,555
Deferred maintenance funding pool	0	20,000,000	20,000,000
New and vacant FTE funding pool	0	98,200,000	98,200,000
Employer retirement contribution pool	0	12,538,779	12,538,779
Infrastructure grant	0	200,000	200,000
Total all funds	\$42,754,708	\$237,919,854	\$280,674,562
Less estimated income	8,828,309	137,175,715	146,004,024
Total general fund	\$33,926,399	\$100,744,139	\$134,670,538
Full-time equivalent positions	108.00	2.00	110.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Griggs County medical center grant	\$500,000	\$0
Facility consolidation study	350,000	0
Special assessments on capitol grounds	300,000	0
Interior and exterior signage projects	500,000	0
Statewide budget software	1,230,100	0
Capitol accessibility improvements	750,000	0
Legislative wing ventilation improvements	7,000,000	0
Pierce County medical center grant	1,000,000	0
Accrued leave retirement payouts	0	100,369
Inflationary increases	0	340,000
Capitol accessibility consulting	25,000	50,000
Accessibility improvements - legislative areas	0	150,000
State employee leave management system	0	335,000
Cash management study	0	450,000
Procurement software	2,021,204	400,000
Building automation project	518,800	800,000
Extraordinary repairs	500,000	250,000
Capitol space utilization improvements	0	2,500,000
Central services software and equipment	0	573,800
Governor's residence improvements	0	100,000
Brynhild Haugland room remodeling project	0	250,000
Capitol window replacement project	0	4,000,000
Deferred maintenance projects	10,000,000	20,000,000
Prairie public broadcasting grants	0	1,792,450
State student internship program	100,000	500,000
Governor's emergency education relief	0	3,659,555
Infrastructure grant	0	<u>200,000</u>
Total all funds	\$24,795,104	\$36,451,174
Less estimated income	<u>24,695,104</u>	<u>29,934,355</u>
Total general fund	\$100,000	\$6,516,819

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The office of management and budget shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY SERVICE SUPERVISION FUND.

Any moneys in the community service supervision fund under section 29-26-22 are appropriated to the office of management and budget for distribution to community corrections association regions on or before August first of each year for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND - EXEMPTION - SPENDING RESTRICTION - REPORT.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on December 1, 2024, the office of management and budget shall transfer any uncommitted federal state fiscal recovery fund appropriation authority from the state agency that received the appropriation authority to the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the purpose of defraying the expenses of salaries and wages and other operating costs of the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

2. The office of management and budget shall transfer any uncommitted accumulated interest and earnings of the federal state fiscal recovery fund to the department of corrections and rehabilitation during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. Any interest and earnings received by the department of corrections and rehabilitation under this section are appropriated to the department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of salaries and wages and other operating costs of the department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.
3. The department of corrections and rehabilitation may not spend general fund savings resulting from the use of the federal state fiscal recovery fund moneys.
4. The office of management and budget shall report to the budget section regarding any appropriation authority and interest and earnings transferred under this section.

SECTION 5. TRANSFER - TAX RELIEF FUND OR SOCIAL SERVICES FUND TO HUMAN SERVICE FINANCE FUND. The office of management and budget shall transfer the sum of \$200,000,000 from the tax relief fund or the social services fund under section 57-51.1-07.5 to the human service finance fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 6. TRANSFER - STATE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS TO STATE AGENCIES. The office of management and budget shall transfer funds from the state student internship program line item in section 1 of this Act to eligible state agencies for student internships during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 7. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO GENERAL FUND. The office of management and budget shall transfer the sum of \$50,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the general fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 8. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND. The office of management and budget shall transfer the sum of \$30,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the North Dakota development fund for programs under chapter 10-30.5, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 9. ESTIMATED INCOME - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - DEFERRED MAINTENANCE FUNDING POOL - EXEMPTION - TRANSFER TO STATE AGENCIES. The sum of \$20,000,000 included in the deferred maintenance funding pool line item in section 1 of this Act and identified as one-time funding in section 2 of this Act is from the strategic investment and improvements fund for a deferred maintenance funding pool. The office of management and budget may use up to \$12,700,000 from the deferred maintenance funding pool, including up to \$12,000,000 for a boiler replacement project in the capitol and up to \$700,000 for a water mitigation project at the liberty memorial building. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of management and budget shall transfer funds from the deferred maintenance funding pool line item in section 1 of this Act to other eligible state agencies for deferred maintenance.

SECTION 10. ESTIMATED INCOME - CAPITOL BUILDING FUND. The sum of \$5,550,000 included in the capital assets line item in section 1 of this Act and identified as one-time funding in section 2 of this Act is from the capitol building fund for the following:

1. \$150,000 for accessibility improvements in legislative areas of the capitol;
2. \$800,000 for a building automation project;
3. \$250,000 for electrical and mechanical repairs;
4. \$100,000 for security improvements at the governor's residence;
5. \$250,000 for a remodeling project in the Brynhild Haugland room in the capitol; and
6. \$4,000,000 for a capitol window replacement project.

SECTION 11. OPERATING EXPENSES LINE ITEM - CASH MANAGEMENT STUDY - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. The operating expenses line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$450,000 from the general fund for the purpose of the office of management and budget procuring consulting services to conduct a study and develop recommendations for improvement of the cash management practices of the state, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The study must include cash management practices employed by the Bank of North Dakota, state treasurer, retirement and investment office, board of university and school lands, and other agencies as determined by the office of management and budget. The office of management and budget shall report to the legislative management before September 30, 2024, regarding the findings and recommendations resulting from its study.

SECTION 12. INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT LINE ITEM - RURAL SENIOR CENTER. The infrastructure grant line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$200,000 from the general fund for the purpose of providing a rural senior center infrastructure grant to an organization in Wells County located in a city with a population between 1,500 and 1,800 according to the 2020 census, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 13. GRANTS AND SPECIAL ITEMS. Section 1 of this Act includes appropriation authority which may be used only for the following grants and special items:

Unemployment insurance	\$1,800,000
Capitol grounds planning commission	\$25,000
Statewide memberships and related expenses	\$685,657

SECTION 14. TARGETED MARKET EQUITY COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS - GUIDELINES - EXEMPTION - TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY - BUDGET SECTION REPORT.

1. The targeted market equity pool line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$45,100,000 from the general fund and \$37,400,000 from special funds derived from federal funds and other income for the purpose of providing compensation adjustments for executive branch state employees in

accordance with provisions of this section for the period beginning May 10, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

2. The targeted market equity compensation adjustments must be prioritized based on a statewide plan prepared by the office of management and budget based on the funding available in the pool. The plan must address occupational market disparities, recruitment and retention challenges, and external pay inequities for employees who are critical to the mission of the agency. Employees whose documented performance levels do not meet standards are not eligible for the market equity compensation adjustments.
3. All targeted market equity compensation adjustments must be provided by July 1, 2023.
4. The funding allocated to each agency must be used for the cost to continue the compensation adjustments for the 2023-25 biennium, including the effect of the market equity adjustments on funding needed for the salary increases authorized by the legislative assembly in section 21 of this Act.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority from the targeted market equity funding pool to eligible executive branch state agencies for approved targeted market equity salary adjustments.
6. The office of management and budget shall provide a report to the budget section regarding the statewide plan, any changes to the plan presented to the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, and the appropriation authority transferred from the pool.

SECTION 15. STATE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS - GUIDELINES.

1. The 2023-25 biennium compensation adjustments for permanent state employees are to average 6 percent per eligible employee for the first fiscal year of the biennium and are to average 4 percent per eligible employee for the second year of the biennium. The increases for the first year of the biennium are to be given beginning with the month of July 2023, to be paid in August 2023, and for the second year of the biennium are to be given beginning with the month of July 2024, to be paid in August 2024. Increases for eligible state employees are to be based on documented performance and are not to be the same percentage increase for each employee.
2. The office of management and budget shall develop guidelines for use by state agencies for providing compensation adjustments for classified state employees. The guidelines must follow the compensation philosophy statement under section 54-44.3-01.2.
3. Probationary employees are not entitled to the increases. However, at the discretion of the appointing authority, probationary employees may be given all or a portion of the increases effective in July, paid in August, or upon completion of probation. Employees whose overall documented performance level does not meet standards are not eligible for any salary increase.

SECTION 16. NEW AND VACANT FTE FUNDING POOL - GUIDELINES - EXEMPTION - TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY - APPLICATION - BUDGET SECTION REPORT.

1. The new and vacant FTE funding pool line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$40,100,000 from the general fund and \$58,100,000 from special funds derived from federal funds and other income for the purpose of providing funding for hiring new full-time equivalent positions and for agencies that do not realize sufficient savings from vacant full-time equivalent positions in accordance with provisions of this section for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.
2. An executive branch state agency that had funding removed by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly for purposes of the new and vacant FTE funding pool may submit a request to the office of management and budget for an allocation of funding from the pool:
 - a. To provide funding for the salaries and wages necessary for the 2023-25 biennium for a new full-time equivalent position authorized by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly from the date of hiring through the end of the biennium;
 - b. To provide funding for the salaries and wages necessary for the 2023-25 biennium for filling a full-time equivalent position that was vacant on July 1, 2023, from the date of hiring through the end of the biennium;
 - c. After March 1, 2025, for salaries and wages funding necessary for the 2023-25 biennium if actual salaries and wages savings from vacant positions adjusted for other salaries and wages uses are less than the estimate used by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly in the development of the agency's appropriation; or
 - d. As requested by the department of transportation, the sum of up to \$7,400,000 for salaries and wages funding needs.
3. The office of management and budget may transfer general fund appropriation authority from the pool to an agency only upon the agency certifying to the office of management and budget that special funds from federal or other sources are not available for the salaries and wages of the full-time equivalent position.
4. An agency may not receive more funding from the pool than the amount that was removed from the agency budget for new and vacant full-time equivalent positions as contained in the statement of purpose of amendment of bills approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly as printed in the house and senate journals.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority from the new and vacant FTE funding pool to eligible executive branch state agencies:
 - a. Within fifteen days of receiving an agency request for the hiring of a new full-time equivalent position authorized by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, along with documentation of the salaries and wages necessary for the position for the remainder of the biennium, limited to the amount identified for the position in the statement of purpose of amendment;
 - b. Within fifteen days of receiving an agency request for filling a full-time equivalent position that was vacant on July 1, 2023, along with

- documentation verifying that funding available for salaries and wages within the agency's budget is insufficient to provide funding for the position for the remainder of the biennium;
- c. Within thirty days of receiving an agency request, along with documentation verifying that actual salaries and wages savings from vacant positions through February 2025 and estimates for the remainder of the biennium adjusted for other salaries and wages uses are less than the estimate used by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly in the development of the agency's appropriation; or
 - d. Within fifteen days of receiving a request from the department of transportation to transfer the sum of up to \$7,400,000 for salaries and wages funding needs.
6. The provisions of section 54-27-10 do not apply to the salaries and wages line item of appropriations approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.
 7. If funding in the new and vacant FTE funding pool is insufficient to provide the necessary salaries and wages funding for the biennium, the office of management and budget shall request a deficiency appropriation from the sixty-ninth legislative assembly. Any funding remaining in the funding pool at the end of the biennium must be canceled in accordance with the provisions of section 54-44.1-11.
 8. The office of management of budget shall report to each meeting of the budget section regarding salaries and wages, vacant position information, and use of funding in the pool including:
 - a. The number of agency requests submitted, amounts transferred from the pool, and information on:
 - (1) New full-time equivalent positions, including the date hired; and
 - (2) Vacant full-time equivalent positions, including dates the positions were vacated and filled;
 - b. Salaries and wages savings to date resulting from vacant positions by agency; and
 - c. Each agency's use of salaries and wages funding, including amounts spent for accrued leave payouts, salary increases in addition to general salary increases provided by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, bonuses, incentive or location pay adjustments, reclassifications, funding used for temporary salaries or overtime in excess of amounts provided by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, or other purposes.

SECTION 17. EMPLOYER RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION POOL - GUIDELINES - EXEMPTION - TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY.

1. The employer retirement contribution pool line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$5,563,709 from the general fund and \$6,975,070 from special funds derived from federal funds and other income for providing funding to executive branch agencies for the increased cost of the employer retirement contribution increases included in House Bill No. 1040, House Bill No. 1183, and House

Bill No. 1309, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, in accordance with provisions of this section, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority provided in this section to the listed executive branch state agencies as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
Governor	\$26,154	\$0	\$26,154
Secretary of state	24,295	4,050	28,345
Office of management and budget	95,753	16,423	112,176
Information technology department	104,514	525,014	629,528
State auditor	44,533	32,769	77,302
State treasurer	7,502	0	7,502
Attorney general	1,268,037	843,938	2,111,975
Tax commissioner	114,348	0	114,348
Office of administrative hearings	0	7,135	7,135
Commission on legal counsel for indigents	45,111	1,268	46,379
Retirement and investment office	0	42,355	42,355
Public employees retirement system	0	36,736	36,736
Ethics commission	1,957	0	1,957
Department of public instruction	31,605	53,383	84,988
North Dakota university system	39,435	16,789	56,224
Department of trust lands	0	40,947	40,947
Bismarck state college	31,441	56,303	87,744
Lake region state college	14,693	20,449	35,142
Williston state college	8,607	12,224	20,831
University of North Dakota	100,821	520,248	621,069
University of North Dakota school of medicine and health sciences	38,691	68,304	106,995
North Dakota state university	97,772	375,024	472,796
North Dakota state college of science	43,662	53,548	97,210
Dickinson state university	15,061	19,859	34,920
Mayville state university	11,331	43,952	55,283
Minot state university	31,980	49,180	81,160
Valley City state university	17,606	16,577	34,183
Dakota college at Bottineau	8,526	9,863	18,389
North Dakota forest service	8,411	669	9,080
State library	16,695	3,148	19,843
School for the deaf	23,099	1,617	24,716
North Dakota vision services - school for the blind	12,195	1,382	13,577
Center for distance education	9,799	0	9,799
Department of career and technical education	21,878	3,144	25,022
Department of health and human services - public health	49,333	156,146	205,479
Department of environmental quality	51,295	119,961	171,256
Veterans' home	20,372	58,979	79,351
Indian affairs commission	4,454	0	4,454
Department of veterans' affairs	7,261	1,075	8,336
Department of health and human services - human services	1,265,293	831,416	2,096,709
Protection and advocacy project	12,935	16,646	29,581

Job service North Dakota	1,878	138,944	140,822
Insurance commissioner	0	51,040	51,040
Industrial commission	123,610	11,031	134,641
Department of labor and human rights	11,636	2,448	14,084
Public service commission	26,468	21,823	48,291
Aeronautics commission	0	8,712	8,712
Department of financial institutions	0	42,723	42,723
Securities department	0	11,771	11,771
Bank of North Dakota	0	181,939	181,939
Housing finance agency	0	53,004	53,004
Mill and elevator association	0	168,887	168,887
Workforce safety and insurance	0	254,365	254,365
Highway patrol	15,723	14,180	29,903
Department of corrections and rehabilitation	1,111,528	59,883	1,171,411
Adjutant general	128,680	235,829	364,509
Department of commerce	65,463	12,165	77,628
Agriculture commissioner	46,693	31,803	78,496
Upper great plains transportation institute	4,868	11,964	16,832
Branch research centers	21,139	14,106	35,245
NDSU extension service	22,744	17,085	39,829
Northern crops institute	797	671	1,468
NDSU main research center	33,694	9,151	42,845
Agronomy seed farm	0	2,958	2,958
North Dakota racing commission	2,008	105	2,113
State historical society	66,191	9,389	75,580
Council on the arts	5,650	0	5,650
Game and fish department	0	381,164	381,164
Parks and recreation department	148,484	8,375	156,859
Department of water resources	0	108,163	108,163
Department of transportation	0	1,050,871	1,050,871
Total	\$5,563,709	\$6,975,070	\$12,538,779

SECTION 18. AMENDMENT. Section 54-06-14.7 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-06-14.7. State leave sharing program - Rulemaking.

1. The human resource management services division of the office of management and budget shall establish a state leave sharing program for permanent employees of the state. The program must provide for a mechanism for state employees to donate accrued annual and sick leave to an employee who does not have available leave who is suffering from a severe, extreme, or life-threatening condition or who is caring for an immediate relative or household member who is suffering from a severe, extreme, or life-threatening condition.
2. A ~~probationary~~; temporary; employee or contracted employee with a limited-term appointment is not eligible to participate in the leave sharing program. An employee may not use more than four months donated leave in any twelve-month period and an employee may not retain leave beyond the occurrence necessitating the leave.
3. The human resource management services division shall:

- a. Require medical certification from a physician, physician assistant, psychologist, or advanced practice nurse practitioner verifying the severe, extreme, or life-threatening nature of the medical condition and the expected duration of the condition;
- b. Track the amount of leave taken by permanent state employees under the program; and
- c. Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 28-32 to implement this section.

SECTION 19. AMENDMENT. Section 54-21-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-21-19. Director to furnish supplies and maintain capitol, state offices, and executive mansion - Authority to charge for services.

The director of the office of management and budget shall provide all necessary fuel, electricity, insurance, janitorial, and other services necessary to maintain the state offices on the capitol grounds as well as all necessary furniture, fuel, electricity, express, freight, drayage, and all other necessary supplies for the executive mansion and the capitol grounds and shall make all necessary repairs. The purchases must be in accordance with chapter 54-44.4. The director shall charge an amount equal to the fair value of the office space and other services rendered to all departments that receive and expend moneys from other than the general fund executive branch agencies, except that for good cause the amounts charged may be waived by the director for a one-year period of time with the waiver subject to further annual renewals after proper application has been filed with the director.

SECTION 20. A new subsection to section 54-44-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

The office of management and budget shall establish a facility management operating fund to be used for the salary and operating expenses of the division of facility management. Rental fees collected pursuant to section 54-21-19 must be deposited in the fund. The director of the office of management and budget shall transfer any unobligated balance in the fund to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year.

SECTION 21. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 54-52-06.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. The employer of a peace officer employed by the ~~bureau of criminal investigation~~ state or national guard security officer shall contribute an amount determined by the board to be actuarially required to support the level of benefits specified in section 54-52-17. The employer's contribution must be paid from funds appropriated for salary or from any other funds available for such purposes. If the peace officer's or security officer's assessment is paid by the employer under subsection 3 of section 54-52-05, the employer shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required peace officer's or security officer's assessment.

SECTION 22. AMENDMENT. Subsection 4 of section 54-52-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. The board shall calculate retirement benefits as follows:

- a. Normal retirement benefits for all retirees, except supreme and district court judges, peace officers employed by the bureau of criminal investigation, and other peace officers employed by the state, reaching normal retirement date equal an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit, as defined in this chapter, which is determined as follows:

(1) For members first enrolled:

- (a) Before January 1, 2020, service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.
- (b) After December 31, 2019, service benefit equals one and seventy-five hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.

(2) Prior service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of prior service employment.

- b. Normal retirement benefits for all supreme and district court judges under the public employees retirement system reaching normal retirement date equal an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a benefit as defined in this chapter, determined as follows:

(1) Benefits must be calculated from the time of appointment or election to the bench and must equal three and one-half percent of final average salary multiplied by the first ten years of judicial service, two and eighty hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the second ten years of judicial service, and one and one-fourth percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of judicial service exceeding twenty years.

(2) Service benefits must include, in addition, an amount equal to the percent specified in subdivision a of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of nonjudicial employee service and employment.

- c. Normal retirement benefits for a peace officer employed by the bureau of criminal investigation reaching the normal retirement date equals an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit determined as follows:

(1) For members first enrolled:

- (a) Before January 1, 2020, service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.
- (b) After December 31, 2019, service benefit equals one and seventy-five hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment. The first twenty years of credited service multiplied by three percent of final average salary.

(2) ~~Prior service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of prior service employment.~~ For

years in excess of twenty years of credited service multiplied by one and seventy-five hundredths percent of final average salary.

- d. Normal retirement benefits for a peace officer employed by the state, other than by the bureau of criminal investigation, reaching the normal retirement date equals an annual amount, payable monthly, comprised of a service benefit and a prior service benefit determined as follows:
 - (1) For members first enrolled:
 - (a) Before January 1, 2020, service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.
 - (b) After December 31, 2019, service benefit equals one and seventy-five hundredths percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of service employment.
 - (2) Prior service benefit equals two percent of final average salary multiplied by the number of years of prior service employment.
- e. Postponed retirement benefits are calculated as for single life benefits for those members who retired on or after July 1, 1977.
- f. Early retirement benefits are calculated as for single life benefits accrued to the date of termination of employment, but must be actuarially reduced to account for benefit payments beginning before the normal retirement date, as determined under subsection 3. Except for a national guard security officer or firefighter, a firefighter, peace officer, or correctional officer employed by a political subdivision, a peace officer employed by the state, or a supreme court or district court judge, early retirement benefits for members first enrolled after December 31, 2015, are calculated for single life benefits accrued to the date of termination of employment, but must be reduced by fixed rate of eight percent per year to account for benefit payments beginning before the normal retirement date. A retiree, other than a supreme or district court judge, is eligible for early retirement benefits only after having completed three years of eligible employment. A supreme or district court judge retiree is eligible for early retirement benefits only after having completed five years of eligible employment.
- g. Except for supreme and district court judges, disability retirement benefits are twenty-five percent of the member's final average salary. Disability retirement benefits for supreme and district court judges are seventy percent of final average salary reduced by the member's primary social security benefits and by any workforce safety and insurance benefits paid. The minimum monthly disability retirement benefit under this section is one hundred dollars.

SECTION 23. EXEMPTION - FISCAL MANAGEMENT. The amount appropriated for the fiscal management division, as contained in section 1 of chapter 15 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11. Any unexpended funds from this appropriation are available for continued development and operating costs of the statewide systems, including accounting, management, and payroll, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 24. EXEMPTION - UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS. The following appropriations are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11 and may be continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025:

1. The sum of \$500,000 appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund in section 1 and identified in section 2 of chapter 40 of the 2019 Session Laws and continued into the 2021-23 biennium pursuant to section 42 of chapter 15 of the 2021 Session Laws for an assessment of state lands and facilities.
2. The sum of \$350,000 appropriated from the capitol building fund in section 1 and identified in section 2 of chapter 15 of the 2021 Session Laws for a facility consolidation study.

SECTION 25. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. The targeted market equity pool line item in section 1 of this Act and section 14 of this Act, and the deferred maintenance funding pool line item in section 1 of this Act and section 9 of this Act, apply retroactively to May 10, 2023. Sections 21 and 22 apply retroactively to August 1, 2023. The remainder of this Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 26. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 641

SENATE BILL NO. 2394

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the office of the governor for salaries and wages; to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for 2021-23 snow removal grants; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - 2021-23 BIENNIUM - OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR. There is appropriated from special funds derived from federal funds or other income, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$6,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of the governor for the salaries and wages line item for the period beginning May 10, 2023, and ending June 30, 2023.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - ADJUTANT GENERAL - 2021-23 SNOW REMOVAL GRANTS - EXTENSION.

1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$106,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the adjutant general for the purpose of providing additional 2021-23 snow removal grants to tribal governments, counties, cities, and townships, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2025.
2. A tribal government, county, township, or city that did not receive a snow removal grant during the 2021-23 biennium and submitted its application and required documentation for a 2021-23 snow removal grant to the department of emergency services prior to October 20, 2023, is eligible for a grant under this section. The department of emergency services shall provide an early season snow removal grant to an eligible entity under this section for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, which exceeded one hundred fifty percent of the average snow removal cost for the three-month period of October through December for the four lowest cost years during the years 2017 through 2021; and a full season emergency snow removal grant to an eligible entity under this section for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, which exceeded one hundred fifty percent of the average snow removal cost for the seven-month period of October to April for the four lowest cost years for those years during the period beginning October 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022.

SECTION 3. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. Section 1 of this Act and Senate Bill No. 2024, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, apply retroactively to May 10, 2023.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 642

SENATE BILL NO. 2395

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of environmental quality and the department of labor and human rights for administrative expenses for boards and committees; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, there is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the following amounts, or so much of the sum as may be necessary:

1. \$40,000 to the department of environmental quality for the purpose of providing meeting expense reimbursement to members of the onsite wastewater recycling technical committee. A member of the committee who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees, to be paid by the department of environmental quality. A state employee who is a member of the committee is entitled to receive the employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency.
2. \$50,000 to the department of labor and human rights for the purpose of defraying expenses of analyzing the administration of occupational and professional boards pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2249, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly. The funding provided in this subsection is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 2. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. This Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

BANKS AND BANKING

CHAPTER 643

HOUSE BILL NO. 1545

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an exemption relating to refinancing loans from the infrastructure revolving loan fund; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION - INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a park district may apply for a loan from the infrastructure revolving loan fund under section 6-09-49, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to refinance an outstanding loan for a project completed after March 31, 2022, and to pay the outstanding balance of any special assessments associated with the project.

SECTION 2. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. This Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

EDUCATION

CHAPTER 644

HOUSE BILL NO. 1548

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 15-39.1-10.3, 54-52-01, 54-52-02.5, 54-52-02.9, 54-52-02.11, 54-52-02.12, 54-52-02.15, 54-52-05, 54-52-14.3, 54-52-17.2, 54-52.2-09, 54-52.6-01, 54-52.6-02, 54-52.6-02.1, 54-52.6-02.2, 54-52.6-03, 54-52.6-05, 54-52.6-05.1, 54-52.6-08, 54-52.6-09, 54-52.6-09.6, 54-52.6-10, 54-52.6-13, 54-52.6-15, 54-52.6-19, 54-52.6-22, and 54-52.6-23 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the public employees retirement system retirement plans; to provide an exemption; to provide a contingent effective date; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15-39.1-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-39.1-10.3. Multiple plan membership - Eligibility for benefits - Amount of benefits. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

1. a. For the purpose of determining vesting of rights and eligibility for benefits under this chapter, a teacher's years of service credit is the total of the years of service credit earned in the fund and the years, with twelve months of compensation equal to a year, of service employment earned in any number of the following alternate plans:

- (1) The public employees retirement system.

- (2) The highway patrol troopers' retirement system.

Service credit may not exceed one year of service in any fiscal year in determining vesting and benefit eligibility.

- b. If a teacher terminates eligible employment under the fund, if that teacher has not received a refund of member contributions, and if that teacher begins eligible employment in a plan described in paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision a, that teacher may elect to remain an inactive member of the fund without refund of contributions. The board shall terminate the inactive status of a teacher under this subdivision if the teacher gains eligible employment under this chapter or if the teacher terminates eligible employment under a plan described in paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision a.
- c. Pursuant to rules adopted by the board, a teacher who has service credit in the fund and in any number of the alternate plans described in

paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision a is entitled to benefits under this chapter.

- (1) A tier one member may elect to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in subsection 2 of section 15-39.1-10 under either of the following calculation methods:
 - (a) Using the three highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan in the computation of final average salary and all service credit earned in this plan; or
 - (b) Using the three highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan combined with the alternate plan in the computation of final average salary and service credit not to exceed one year in any fiscal year when combined with the service credit earned in the alternate retirement plan.
 - (2) A tier two member may elect to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in subsection 2 of section 15-39.1-10 under either of the following calculation methods:
 - (a) Using the five highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan in the computation of final average salary and all service credit earned in this plan; or
 - (b) Using the five highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan combined with the alternate plan in the computation of final average salary and service credit not to exceed one year in any fiscal year when combined with the service credit earned in the alternate retirement plan.
2. a. If a teacher, who is eligible to participate in this fund, is also eligible to participate in an alternate retirement system, the employee is a member of the teachers' fund for retirement for duties covered under this fund, and the employee is also a member of the public employees retirement system or highway patrolmen's retirement system for duties covered by those alternate retirement systems. The employers shall pay the member and employer contributions at the rates currently existing for the applicable system.
 - b. If a teacher described in subdivision a was employed prior to August 1, 2003, and has dual member rights, the teacher may elect to begin participation in the alternate plan pursuant to the plan provisions on August 1, 2003, or may continue participation pursuant to the plan provisions in effect on July 31, 2003. A plan participation election is required by five p.m. on October 31, 2003. If an election is not received by the retirement plan, the participation and benefit calculation requirements of this chapter as of July 31, 2003, continue to be in effect for the teacher.
3. Under rules adopted by the board, an individual whose service credit was canceled when that individual received a refund of assessments at termination of employment under this chapter may, while that individual participates in a plan described in paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision a of subsection 1, repurchase that service credit that was canceled.

**Multiple plan membership - Eligibility for benefits - Amount of benefits.
(Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)**

1. a. For the purpose of determining vesting of rights and eligibility for benefits under this chapter, a teacher's years of service credit is the total of the years of service credit earned in the fund and the years, with twelve months of compensation equal to a year, of service employment earned in any number of the following alternate plans:

- (1) The public employees retirement system, except an "eligible employee" as that term is defined under section 54-52-02.15.

- (2) The highway patrol troopers' retirement system.

Service credit may not exceed one year of service in any fiscal year in determining vesting and benefit eligibility.

- b. If a teacher terminates eligible employment under the fund, if that teacher has not received a refund of member contributions, and if that teacher begins eligible employment in a plan described in paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision a, that teacher may elect to remain an inactive member of the fund without refund of contributions. The board shall terminate the inactive status of a teacher under this subdivision if the teacher gains eligible employment under this chapter or if the teacher terminates eligible employment under a plan described in paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision a.

- c. Pursuant to rules adopted by the board, a teacher who has service credit in the fund and in any number of the alternate plans described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision a is entitled to benefits under this chapter.

- (1) A tier one member may elect to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in subsection 2 of section 15-39.1-10 under either of the following calculation methods:

- (a) Using the three highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan in the computation of final average salary and all service credit earned in this plan; or

- (b) Using the three highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan combined with the alternate plan in the computation of final average salary and service credit not to exceed one year in any fiscal year when combined with the service credit earned in the alternate retirement plan.

- (2) A tier two member may elect to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in subsection 2 of section 15-39.1-10 under either of the following calculation methods:

- (a) Using the five highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan in the computation of final average salary and all service credit earned in this plan; or

- (b) Using the five highest certified fiscal year salaries of this plan combined with the alternate plan in the computation of final average salary and service credit not to exceed one year in any

fiscal year when combined with the service credit earned in the alternate retirement plan.

2. a. If a teacher, who is eligible to participate in this fund, is also eligible to participate in an alternate retirement system, the employee is a member of the teachers' fund for retirement for duties covered under this fund, and the employee is also a member of the public employees retirement system or highway patrolmen's retirement system for duties covered by those alternate retirement systems. The employers shall pay the member and employer contributions at the rates currently existing for the applicable system.
- b. If a teacher described in subdivision a was employed prior to August 1, 2003, and has dual member rights, the teacher may elect to begin participation in the alternate plan pursuant to the plan provisions on August 1, 2003, or may continue participation pursuant to the plan provisions in effect on July 31, 2003. A plan participation election is required by five p.m. on October 31, 2003. If an election is not received by the retirement plan, the participation and benefit calculation requirements of this chapter as of July 31, 2003, continue to be in effect for the teacher.
3. Under rules adopted by the board, an individual whose service credit was canceled when that individual received a refund of assessments at termination of employment under this chapter may, while that individual participates in a plan described in paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision a of subsection 1, repurchase that service credit that was canceled.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-01. Definition of terms. (Effective through December 31, 2024 the day before the effective date of this Act)

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Account balance" means the total contributions made by the employee, vested employer contributions under section 54-52-11.1, the vested portion of the vesting fund as of June 30, 1977, and interest credited thereon at the rate established by the board.
2. "Beneficiary" means any person in receipt of a benefit provided by this plan or any person designated by a participating member to receive benefits.
3. "Correctional officer" means a participating member who is employed as a correctional officer by a political subdivision.
4. "Eligible employee" means all permanent employees who meet all of the eligibility requirements set by this chapter and who are eighteen years or more of age, and includes appointive and elective officials under sections 54-52-02.5, 54-52-02.11, and 54-52-02.12, and nonteaching employees of the superintendent of public instruction, including the superintendent of public instruction, who elect to transfer from the teachers' fund for retirement to the public employees retirement system under section 54-52-02.13, and employees of the state board for career and technical education who elect to transfer from the teachers' fund for retirement to the public employees retirement system under section 54-52-02.14. Eligible employee does not

include nonclassified state employees who elect to become members of the retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6 but does include employees of the judicial branch and employees of the board of higher education and state institutions under the jurisdiction of the board.

5. "Employee" means any individual employed by a governmental unit, whose compensation is paid out of the governmental unit's funds, or funds controlled or administered by a governmental unit, or paid by the federal government through any of its executive or administrative officials; licensed employees of a school district means those employees eligible to participate in the teachers' fund for retirement who, except under subsection 2 of section 54-52-17.2, are not eligible employees under this chapter.
6. "Employer" means a governmental unit.
7. "Firefighter" means a participating member who is employed as a firefighter by a political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection 13, for an individual employed after July 31, 2017, is employed at least thirty-two hours per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. A firefighter who is a participating member of the law enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter who begins employment after July 31, 2017, is ineligible to participate concurrently in any other retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement system. The term does not include a firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.
8. "Funding agent" or "agents" means an investment firm, trust bank, or other financial institution which the retirement board may select to hold and invest the employers' and members' contributions.
9. "Governmental unit" means the state of North Dakota, except the highway patrol for members of the retirement plan created under chapter 39-03.1, or a participating political subdivision thereof.
10. "National guard security officer or firefighter" means a participating member who is:
 - a. A security police employee of the North Dakota national guard; or
 - b. A firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.
11. "Participating member" means an eligible employee who through payment into the plan has established a claim against the plan.
12. "Peace officer" means a participating member who is a peace officer as defined in section 12-63-01 and is employed as a peace officer by the state, except by the highway patrol for members of the retirement plan created under chapter 39-03.1, or is employed by a political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection 13, for persons employed after August 1, 2005, is employed thirty-two hours or more per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. A peace officer who is a participating member of the law enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter who begins employment after August 1, 2005, is ineligible to participate concurrently in any other retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement system.

13. "Permanent employee" means a governmental unit employee whose services are not limited in duration and who is filling an approved and regularly funded position in an eligible governmental unit, and is employed twenty hours or more per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment.
14. "Prior service" means service or employment before July 1, 1966.
15. "Prior service credit" means such credit toward a retirement benefit as the retirement board may determine under the provisions of this chapter.
16. "Public employees retirement system" means the retirement plan and program established by this chapter.
17. "Retirement" means the acceptance of a retirement allowance under this chapter upon either termination of employment or termination of participation in the retirement plan.
18. "Retirement board" or "board" means the governing authority created under section 54-52-03.
19. "Seasonal employee" means a participating member who does not work twelve months a year.
20. "Service" means employment on or after July 1, 1966.
21. "Service benefit" means the credit toward retirement benefits as determined by the retirement board under the provisions of this chapter.
22. "Temporary employee" means a governmental unit employee who is not eligible to participate as a permanent employee, who is at least eighteen years old and not actively contributing to another employer-sponsored pension fund, and, if employed by a school district, occupies a noncertified teacher's position.
23. "Wages" and "salaries" means the member's earnings in eligible employment under this chapter reported as salary on the member's federal income tax withholding statements plus any salary reduction or salary deferral amounts under 26 U.S.C. 125, 401(k), 403(b), 414(h), or 457. "Salary" does not include fringe benefits such as payments for unused sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave paid in a lump sum, overtime, housing allowances, transportation expenses, early retirement incentive pay, severance pay, medical insurance, workforce safety and insurance benefits, disability insurance premiums or benefits, or salary received by a member in lieu of previously employer-provided fringe benefits under an agreement between the member and participating employer. Bonuses may be considered as salary under this section if reported and annualized pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

Definition of terms. (Effective after ~~December 31, 2024~~ on the effective date of this Act) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Account balance" means the total contributions made by the employee, vested employer contributions under section 54-52-11.1, the vested portion of the vesting fund as of June 30, 1977, and interest credited thereon at the rate established by the board.

2. "Beneficiary" means any person in receipt of a benefit provided by this plan or any person designated by a participating member to receive benefits.
3. "Correctional officer" means a participating member who is employed as a correctional officer by a political subdivision.
4. "Deferred member" means a participating member who is not actively participating in the main plan under this chapter and who has an account intact in the main plan under this chapter.
5. "Eligible employee", except as otherwise provided under section 54-52-02.15, means a permanent employee who meets all of the eligibility requirements set by this chapter and who is eighteen years or more of age. The term includes appointive and elective officials under sections 54-52-02.5, 54-52-02.11, and 54-52-02.12, and nonteaching employees of the superintendent of public instruction, including the superintendent of public instruction, who elect to transfer from the teachers' fund for retirement to the public employees retirement system under section 54-52-02.13, and employees of the state board for career and technical education who elect to transfer from the teachers' fund for retirement to the public employees retirement system under section 54-52-02.14. The term does not include nonclassified state employees who elected under section 54-52.6-02 to become members of the retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6. The term does include employees of the judicial branch and employees of the board of higher education and state institutions under the jurisdiction of the board of higher education.
6. "Employee" means any individual employed by a governmental unit, whose compensation is paid out of the governmental unit's funds, or funds controlled or administered by a governmental unit, or paid by the federal government through any of its executive or administrative officials; licensed employees of a school district means those employees eligible to participate in the teachers' fund for retirement who, except under subsection 2 of section 54-52-17.2, are not eligible employees under this chapter.
7. "Employer" means a governmental unit.
8. "Firefighter" means a participating member who is employed as a firefighter by a political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection 13, for an individual employed after July 31, 2017, is employed at least thirty-two hours per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. A firefighter who is a participating member of the law enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter who begins employment after July 31, 2017, is ineligible to participate concurrently in any other retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement system. The term does not include a firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.
9. "Funding agent" or "agents" means an investment firm, trust bank, or other financial institution which the retirement board may select to hold and invest the employers' and members' contributions.
10. "Governmental unit" means the state of North Dakota, except the highway patrol for members of the retirement plan created under chapter 39-03.1, or a participating political subdivision of the state.

11. "National guard security officer or firefighter" means a participating member who is:
 - a. A security police employee of the North Dakota national guard; or
 - b. A firefighter employee of the North Dakota national guard.
12. "Participating member" means an eligible employee who through payment into the plan has established a claim against the plan.
13. "Peace officer" means a participating member who is a peace officer as defined in section 12-63-01 and is employed as a peace officer by the state, except by the highway patrol for members of the retirement plan created under chapter 39-03.1, or is employed by a political subdivision and, notwithstanding subsection 14, for persons employed after August 1, 2005, is employed thirty-two hours or more per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. A peace officer who is a participating member of the law enforcement retirement plan created by this chapter who begins employment after August 1, 2005, is ineligible to participate concurrently in any other retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement system.
14. "Permanent employee" means an employee whose services are not limited in duration and who is filling an approved and regularly funded position in an eligible governmental unit, and is employed twenty hours or more per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment.
15. "Prior service" means service or employment before July 1, 1966.
16. "Prior service credit" means such credit toward a retirement benefit as the retirement board may determine under the provisions of this chapter.
17. "Public employees retirement system" means the retirement plan and program established by this chapter.
18. "Retirement" means the acceptance of a retirement allowance under this chapter upon either termination of employment or termination of participation in the retirement plan.
19. "Retirement board" or "board" means the governing authority created under section 54-52-03.
20. "Seasonal employee" means a participating member who does not work twelve months a year.
21. "Service" means employment on or after July 1, 1966.
22. "Service benefit" means the credit toward retirement benefits as determined by the retirement board under the provisions of this chapter.
23. "Temporary employee" means an employee who is not eligible to participate as a permanent employee, who is at least eighteen years old and not actively contributing to another employer-sponsored pension fund, and, if employed by a school district, occupies a noncertified teacher's position.

24. "Wages" and "salaries" means the member's earnings in eligible employment under this chapter reported as salary on the member's federal income tax withholding statements plus any salary reduction or salary deferral amounts under 26 U.S.C. 125, 401(k), 403(b), 414(h), or 457. "Salary" does not include fringe benefits such as payments for unused sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave paid in a lump sum, overtime, housing allowances, transportation expenses, early retirement incentive pay, severance pay, medical insurance, workforce safety and insurance benefits, disability insurance premiums or benefits, or salary received by a member in lieu of previously employer-provided fringe benefits under an agreement between the member and participating employer. Bonuses may be considered as salary under this section if reported and annualized pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-02.5. Newly elected and appointed state officials. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

After December 31, 1999, a person elected or appointed to a state office for the first time must, from and after the date that person qualifies and takes office, be a participating member of the public employees retirement system unless that person makes an election at any time during the first six months after the date the person takes office to participate in the retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6. As used in this section, the phrase "for the first time" means a person appointed, who, after December 31, 1999, does not hold office as an appointed official at the time of that person's appointment.

Newly elected and appointed state officials. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

1. After December 31, 1999, but before January 1, 2025the effective date of this Act, an individual elected or appointed to a state office for the first time must, from and after the date that individual qualifies and takes office, be a participating member of the public employees retirement system unless that person makes an election at any time during the first six months after the date the person takes office to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6.
2. After December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act, an individual elected or appointed to a state office for the first time, from and after the date that individual qualifies and takes office, must be a participating member of the defined contribution retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6, unless at the time of election or appointment the individual is a participating or deferred member under this chapter, in which case the official remains a participating member under this chapter.
3. As used in this section, the phrase "for the first time" means an individual appointed, who, after December 31, 1999, does not hold office as an appointed official at the time of that individual's appointment.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-02.9. Participation by temporary employees. (Effective through December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act~~)

1. Within one hundred eighty days of beginning employment, a temporary employee may elect to participate in the public employees retirement system and receive credit for service after enrollment. Monthly, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an amount equal to eight and twelve hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary. The amount required to be paid by a temporary employee increases by two percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012, and with an additional two percent increase, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013, and with an additional increase of two percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014.
2. If the temporary employee first enrolled:
 - a. Before January 1, 2020, in addition the temporary employee shall pay the required monthly contribution to the retiree health benefit fund established under section 54-52.1-03.2. This contribution must be recorded as a member contribution pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2.
 - b. After December 31, 2019, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an additional amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary.
3. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee in the public employees retirement system until termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee. A temporary employee may not purchase any additional credit, including additional credit under section 54-52-17.4 or past service under section 54-52-02.6.

Participation by temporary employees. (Effective after December 31, 2024~~on the effective date of this Act~~)

1. Before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, within one hundred eighty days of beginning employment, a temporary employee may elect to participate in the public employees retirement system under this chapter and receive credit for service after enrollment. Monthly, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an amount equal to fourteen and twelve hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary. The amount required to be paid by a temporary employee increases by one percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2025.
2. If the temporary employee first enrolled:
 - a. Before January 1, 2020, in addition the temporary employee shall pay the required monthly contribution to the retiree health benefit fund established under section 54-52.1-03.2. This contribution must be recorded as a member contribution pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2.

- b. After December 31, 2019, the temporary employee shall pay to the fund an additional amount equal to one and fourteen hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary.
3. A temporary employee who is a participating member under this chapter due to employment before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, who becomes a permanent employee after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, qualifies to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan under this chapter and receive credit for service after enrollment.
4. After ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, and within one hundred eighty days of beginning employment, a temporary employee may elect to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6.
5. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee in the public employees retirement system until termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee. A temporary employee may not purchase any additional credit, including additional credit under section 54-52-17.4 or past service under section 54-52-02.6.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-02.11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-02.11. Participation requirements for nonstate elected officials. (Effective through December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act~~)

Elected officials of participating counties, at their individual option, may enroll in the defined benefit plan within the first six months of their term.

Participation requirements for nonstate elected officials. (Effective after December 31, 2024~~on the effective date of this Act~~)

1. Before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, eligible elected officials of participating counties, at their individual option, may enroll in the defined benefit plan within the first six months of their term.
2. After ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, eligible elected officials of participating counties, at their individual option, may enroll in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 within the first six months of their term.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-02.12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-02.12. Participation requirements for nonstate appointed officials. (Effective through December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act~~)

Nonstate appointed officials of participating employers appointed on or after August 1, 1999, who meet the participation requirements of this chapter must be enrolled in the defined benefit plan effective within the first month of taking office.

Participation requirements for nonstate appointed officials. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

1. Nonstate appointed officials of participating employers appointed on or after August 1, 1999, but before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, who meet the participation requirements of this chapter must be enrolled in the defined benefit plan effective within the first month of taking office.
2. After ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, nonstate appointed officials of participating employers who meet the participation requirements must be enrolled in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 effective within the first month of taking office.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-02.15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-02.15. Public employees retirement system main plan - Closure to new hires - Multiple plan membership. (Effective after ~~December 31, 2024~~on the effective date of this Act)

1. Under this section "eligible employee" means a permanent employee who:
 - a. Meets all the eligibility requirements set by this chapter;
 - b. Is at least eighteen years of age;
 - c. Becomes a participating member after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act; and
 - d. Is not eligible to participate in the law enforcement plan, judges' plan, highway patrol plan, teachers' fund for retirement plan, or alternative retirement program established under section 15-10-17 for university system employees.
2. Effective ~~January 1, 2025~~on the effective date of this Act, the public employees retirement system defined benefit main plan maintained for employees is closed to new eligible employees. However, an employee who becomes a participating or deferred member under this chapter before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, remains in the defined benefit retirement plan under this chapter, regardless of being rehired after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act.
3. Except as otherwise provided under this section, effective ~~January 1, 2025~~on the effective date of this Act, an eligible employee who begins employment with an employer shall participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 as provided under section 54-52.6-02.1.
4. This section does not impact an employee to the extent the employee is a participating member in one or more of the following enumerated plans: law enforcement plan, judges' plan, highway patrol plan, teachers' fund for retirement plan, or alternative retirement program established under section 15-10-17 for university system employees.
 - a. A participating or deferred member in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 who becomes eligible to participate in a plan

enumerated under this subsection is eligible to participate in the retirement plan enumerated under this subsection.

- b. A participating member of a retirement plan enumerated under this subsection who becomes an eligible employee is not eligible to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan under this chapter but instead participates in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6. However, this subdivision does not apply to an individual who before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, is a participating or a deferred member under this chapter, as that individual continues to participate in the defined benefit retirement plan under this chapter.

5. The board shall adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-05. Membership and assessments - Employer payment of employee contributions. (Effective through ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act)

1. Every eligible participating political subdivision employee, at the time the political subdivision joins the plan must so state in writing if the employee concurs in the plan and all future eligible employees of the participating political subdivision are participating members in the plan and must be enrolled in the plan within the first month of employment. Except as otherwise provided by law, every other eligible governmental unit employee of a participating governmental unit is a participating member in the plan and must be enrolled in the plan within the first month of employment. An employee who was not enrolled in the retirement system when eligible to participate must be enrolled immediately upon notice of the employee's eligibility, unless the employee waives in writing the employee's right to participate for the previous time of eligibility, to avoid contributing to the fund for past service. An employee who is eligible for normal retirement who accepts a retirement benefit under this chapter and who subsequently becomes employed with a participating employer other than the employer with which the employee was employed at the time the employee retired under this chapter may, before being re-enrolled in the retirement plan within the first month of employment, elect to permanently waive future participation in the retirement plan and the retiree health program and maintain that employee's retirement status. An employee making this election is not required to make any future employee contributions to the public employees retirement system nor is the employee's employer required to make any further contributions on behalf of that employee.
2. Each member must be assessed and required to pay monthly four percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the member, and such assessment must be deducted and retained out of such salary in equal monthly installments commencing with the first month of employment. Member contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the member beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012, and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2013, and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014.

3. Each employer, at its option, may pay all or a portion of the employee contributions required by subsection 2 and sections 54-52-06.1, 54-52-06.2, 54-52-06.3, and 54-52-06.4 or the employee contributions required to purchase service credit on a pretax basis pursuant to subsection 5 of section 54-52-17.4. Employees may not receive the contributed amounts directly once the employer has elected to pay the employee contributions. The amount paid must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. If the state determines not to pay the contributions, the amount that would have been paid must continue to be deducted from the employee's compensation. If contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code. If contributions are paid by the employer, they may not be included as gross income of the employee in determining tax treatment under this code and the Internal Revenue Code until they are distributed or made available. The employer shall pay these employee contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee or by an offset against future salary increases or by a contribution of a reduction in gross salary and offset against future salary increases. If employee contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as employee contributions made prior to the date on which employee contributions were assumed by the employer. An employer exercising its option under this subsection shall report its choice to the board in writing.
4. For compensation earned after August 1, 2009, all employee contributions required under section 54-52-06.1 and the job service North Dakota retirement plan, and not otherwise paid under subsection 3, must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the member. All contributions paid by the employer under this subsection must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax treatment under this code and the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions paid by the employer under this subsection may not be included as gross income of the member in determining tax treatment under this code and the Internal Revenue Code until the contributions are distributed or made available. Contributions paid by the employer in accordance with this subsection must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as member contributions made before the date the contributions were assumed by the employer. The employer shall pay these member contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee. The employer shall continue making payments under this section unless otherwise specifically provided for under the agency's biennial appropriation or by amendment to law.

Membership and assessments - Employer payment of employee contributions. (Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)

1. Every eligible participating political subdivision employee, at the time the political subdivision joins the plan must so state in writing if the employee concurs in the plan and all future eligible employees of the participating political subdivision are participating members in the plan and must be enrolled in the plan within the first month of employment. Except as otherwise

provided by law, every other eligible governmental unit employee of a participating governmental unit is a participating member in the plan and must be enrolled in the plan within the first month of employment. An employee who was not enrolled in the retirement system when eligible to participate must be enrolled immediately upon notice of the employee's eligibility, unless the employee waives in writing the employee's right to participate for the previous time of eligibility, to avoid contributing to the fund for past service. An employee who is eligible for normal retirement who accepts a retirement benefit under this chapter and who subsequently becomes employed with a participating employer other than the employer with which the employee was employed at the time the employee retired under this chapter may, before being re-enrolled in the retirement plan within the first month of employment, elect to permanently waive future participation in the retirement plan and the retiree health program and maintain that employee's retirement status. An employee making this election is not required to make any future employee contributions to the public employees retirement system nor is the employee's employer required to make any further contributions on behalf of that employee.

2. Each member must be assessed and required to pay monthly seven percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the member, and such assessment must be deducted and retained out of such salary in equal monthly installments commencing with the first month of employment.
3. Each employer, at its option, may pay all or a portion of the employee contributions required by subsection 2 and sections 54-52-06.1, 54-52-06.2, 54-52-06.3, and 54-52-06.4 or the employee contributions required to purchase service credit on a pretax basis pursuant to subsection 5 of section 54-52-17.4. Employees may not receive the contributed amounts directly once the employer has elected to pay the employee contributions. The amount paid must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. If the state determines not to pay the contributions, the amount that would have been paid must continue to be deducted from the employee's compensation. If contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code. If contributions are paid by the employer, they may not be included as gross income of the employee in determining tax treatment under this code and the Internal Revenue Code until they are distributed or made available. The employer shall pay these employee contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee or by an offset against future salary increases or by a contribution of a reduction in gross salary and offset against future salary increases. If employee contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as employee contributions made prior to the date on which employee contributions were assumed by the employer. An employer exercising its option under this subsection shall report its choice to the board in writing.
4. For compensation earned after August 1, 2009, all employee contributions required under section 54-52-06.1 and the job service North Dakota retirement plan, and not otherwise paid under subsection 3, must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the member. All contributions paid by the employer under this subsection must be treated as employer contributions in

determining tax treatment under this code and the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions paid by the employer under this subsection may not be included as gross income of the member in determining tax treatment under this code and the Internal Revenue Code until the contributions are distributed or made available. Contributions paid by the employer in accordance with this subsection must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as member contributions made before the date the contributions were assumed by the employer. The employer shall pay these member contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee. The employer shall continue making payments under this section unless otherwise specifically provided for under the agency's biennial appropriation or by amendment to law.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-14.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-14.3. Public employee retirement funds - Use and investment. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

Any provision of law relating to the use and investment of public employee retirement funds must be deemed a part of the employment contracts of the employees participating in any public employee retirement system. All moneys from any source paid into any public employee retirement system fund created by the laws of this state must be used and invested only for the exclusive benefit of the members, retirees, and beneficiaries of that system, including the payment of system administrative costs.

Public employee retirement funds - Use and investment. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act) Any provision of law relating to the use and investment of public employee retirement funds must be deemed a part of the employment contracts of the employees participating in any public employee retirement system. All moneys from any source paid into any public employee retirement system fund created by the laws of this state must be used and invested only for the exclusive benefit of the members, retirees, and beneficiaries of the retirement system, including the payment of system administrative costs.

SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-17.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-17.2. Multiple plan membership - Eligibility for benefits - Amount of benefits. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

1. a. For the purpose of determining eligibility for benefits under this chapter, an employee's years of service credit is the total of the years of service credit earned in the public employees retirement system and the years of service credit earned in any number of the following:
 - (1) The teachers' fund for retirement.
 - (2) The highway patrol troopers' retirement system.

- (3) The teachers' insurance and annuity association of America - college retirement equities fund (TIAA-CREF), for service credit earned while employed by North Dakota institutions of higher education.

Service credit may not exceed twelve months of credit per year.

- b. Pursuant to rules adopted by the board, an employee who has service credit in the system and in any of the plans described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision a is entitled to benefits under this chapter. The benefits of a temporary employee employed after July 31, 2015, must be calculated using the benefit formula in section 54-52-17. A permanent employee or a temporary employee employed before August 1, 2015, may elect to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in section 54-52-17 under either of the following methods:
 - (1) The final average salary as calculated in section 54-52-17. If the participating member has worked for less than thirty-six months at retirement, the final average salary is the average salary for the total months of employment.
 - (2) The final average salary as calculated in section 54-52-17 for employment with any of the three eligible employers under this subdivision, with service credit not to exceed one month in any month when combined with the service credit earned in the alternate retirement system.

The board shall calculate benefits for an employee under this subsection by using only those years of service credit earned under this chapter.

2. a. If an employee who is eligible to participate in the public employees retirement system is also employed in any position when membership in an alternate retirement system is required, then, for purposes of current participation, the employee is a member of each applicable retirement system. The employer shall pay over to each retirement system the member assessment and employer contributions at the rates currently existing for that retirement system.
- b. If an employee described in subdivision a was employed prior to August 1, 2003, and has dual membership rights, the employee may elect to begin participation in the alternate plan pursuant to the plan provisions on August 1, 2003, or may continue participation according to the plan provisions in effect on July 31, 2003. An employee's election under this subdivision is ineffective unless delivered to the public employees retirement system administrative offices by five p.m. on October 31, 2003. If an election is not received by the public employees retirement system, the participation and benefit calculation requirements in effect on July 31, 2003, apply to that employee.

**Multiple plan membership - Eligibility for benefits - Amount of benefits.
(Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)**

1. a. For the purpose of determining eligibility for benefits under this chapter, an employee's years of service credit is the total of the years of service credit earned in the public employees retirement system and the years of service credit earned in any number of the following:

- (1) The teachers' fund for retirement.
- (2) The highway patrol troopers' retirement system.
- (3) The teachers' insurance and annuity association of America - college retirement equities fund (TIAA-CREF), for service credit earned while employed by North Dakota institutions of higher education.

Service credit may not exceed twelve months of credit per year.

- b. Subject to section 54-52-02.15 and pursuant to rules adopted by the board, an employee who has service credit in the system and in any of the plans described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision a is entitled to benefits under this chapter. The benefits of a temporary employee employed after July 31, 2015, must be calculated using the benefit formula in section 54-52-17. A permanent employee or a temporary employee employed before August 1, 2015, may elect to have benefits calculated using the benefit formula in section 54-52-17 under either of the following methods:

- (1) The final average salary as calculated in section 54-52-17. If the participating member has worked for less than thirty-six months at retirement, the final average salary is the average salary for the total months of employment.
- (2) The final average salary as calculated in section 54-52-17 for employment with any of the three eligible employers under this subdivision, with service credit not to exceed one month in any month when combined with the service credit earned in the alternate retirement system.

The board shall calculate benefits for an employee under this subsection by using only those years of service credit earned under this chapter.

2. a. If an employee who is eligible to participate in the public employees retirement system is also employed in any position when membership in an alternate retirement system is required, then, for purposes of current participation, the employee is a member of each applicable retirement system. The employer shall pay over to each retirement system the member assessment and employer contributions at the rates currently existing for that retirement system.
- b. If an employee described in subdivision a was employed prior to August 1, 2003, and has dual membership rights, the employee may elect to begin participation in the alternate plan pursuant to the plan provisions on August 1, 2003, or may continue participation according to the plan provisions in effect on July 31, 2003. An employee's election under this subdivision is ineffective unless delivered to the public employees retirement system administrative offices by five p.m. on October 31, 2003. If an election is not received by the public employees retirement system, the participation and benefit calculation requirements in effect on July 31, 2003, apply to that employee.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.2-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.2-09. Employer match for members of defined contribution retirement plan.

An employee who first participated in the defined contribution retirement plan under chapter 54-52.6 after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, who elects to contribute less than the optional three percent of wages or salary under subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 54-52.6-09, who participates in the deferred compensation program under this chapter, qualifies for employer matching of contributions made under this section. The employee may elect to contribute an amount of wages or salary which does not exceed any remaining balance of the optional three percent contribution and the employer shall match this contribution. This section does not limit the ability of an employee to contribute unmatched wages or salary under this chapter, subject to federal contribution limitations.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-01. Definition of terms. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Board" means the public employees retirement system board.
2. "Deferred member" means a person who elected to receive deferred vested retirement benefits under chapter 54-52.
3. "Eligible employee" means a permanent state employee, except an employee of the judicial branch or an employee of the board of higher education and state institutions under the jurisdiction of the board, who is eighteen years or more of age and who is in a position not classified by North Dakota human resource management services. If a participating member loses permanent employee status and becomes a temporary employee, the member may still participate in the defined contribution retirement plan.
4. "Employee" means any person employed by the state, whose compensation is paid out of state funds, or funds controlled or administered by the state or paid by the federal government through any of its executive or administrative officials.
5. "Employer" means the state of North Dakota.
6. "Participating member" means an eligible employee who elects to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter.
7. "Permanent employee" means a state employee whose services are not limited in duration and who is filling an approved and regularly funded position and is employed twenty hours or more per week and at least five months each year.
8. "Wages" and "salaries" means earnings in eligible employment under this chapter reported as salary on a federal income tax withholding statement plus any salary reduction or salary deferral amounts under 26 U.S.C. 125, 401(k), 403(b), 414(h), or 457. "Salary" does not include fringe benefits such as payments for unused sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave paid in a lump

sum, overtime, housing allowances, transportation expenses, early retirement, incentive pay, severance pay, medical insurance, workforce safety and insurance benefits, disability insurance premiums or benefits, or salary received by a member in lieu of previously employer-provided fringe benefits under an agreement between an employee and a participating employer. Bonuses may be considered as salary under this section if reported and annualized pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

Definition of terms. (Effective after ~~December 31, 2024~~on the effective date of this Act) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Board" means the public employees retirement system board.
2. "Deferred member" means a person who elected to receive deferred vested retirement benefits under chapter 54-52.
3. "Eligible employee", for employees who become participating members after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, has the same meaning as provided under section 54-52-02.15. For employees who elected to join the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, the term includes a permanent state employee, except an employee of the judicial branch or an employee of the board of higher education and state institutions under the jurisdiction of the board of higher education, who is at least eighteen years of age and who is in a position not classified by the North Dakota human resource management services.
4. "Employee" means any person employed by the state, whose compensation is paid out of state funds, or funds controlled or administered by the state or paid by the federal government through any of its executive or administrative officials.
5. "Employer" means the state of North Dakota.
6. "Participating member" means an eligible employee who elects to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter.
7. "Permanent employee" means a state employee whose services are not limited in duration and who is filling an approved and regularly funded position and is employed twenty hours or more per week and at least five months each year.
8. "Wages" and "salaries" means earnings in eligible employment under this chapter reported as salary on a federal income tax withholding statement plus any salary reduction or salary deferral amounts under 26 U.S.C. 125, 401(k), 403(b), 414(h), or 457. "Salary" does not include fringe benefits such as payments for unused sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave paid in a lump sum, overtime, housing allowances, transportation expenses, early retirement, incentive pay, severance pay, medical insurance, workforce safety and insurance benefits, disability insurance premiums or benefits, or salary received by a member in lieu of previously employer-provided fringe benefits under an agreement between an employee and a participating employer. Bonuses may be considered as salary under this section if reported and annualized pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

SECTION 13. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-02. Election. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

1. The board shall provide an opportunity for each eligible employee who is a member of the public employees retirement system on September 30, 2001, and who has not made a written election under this section to transfer to the defined contribution retirement plan before October 1, 2001, to elect in writing to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system and elect to become a participating member under this chapter. Except as provided in section 54-52.6-03, an election made by an eligible employee under this section is irrevocable. The board shall accept written elections under this section from eligible employees during the period beginning on July 1, 1999, and ending 12:01 a.m. December 14, 2001. An eligible employee who does not make a written election or who does not file the election during the period specified in this section continues to be a member of the public employees retirement system. An eligible employee who makes and files a written election under this section ceases to be a member of the public employees retirement system effective twelve midnight December 31, 2001; becomes a participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2002; and waives all of that person's rights to a pension, annuity, retirement allowance, insurance benefit, or any other benefit under the public employees retirement system effective December 31, 2001. This section does not affect a person's right to health benefits or retiree health benefits under chapter 54-52.1. An eligible employee who is first employed and entered upon the payroll of that person's employer after September 30, 2001, may make an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter at any time during the first six months after the date of employment. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that the employee was not adequately notified of the employee's option to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the board may provide the employee a reasonable time within which to make that election, which may extend beyond the original six-month decision window.
2. If an individual who is a deferred member of the public employees retirement system on September 30, 2001, is re-employed and by virtue of that employment is again eligible for membership in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52, the individual may elect in writing to remain a member of the public employees retirement system or if eligible to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system and become a participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter. An election made by a deferred member under this section is irrevocable. The board shall accept written elections under this section from a deferred member during the period beginning on the date of the individual's re-employment and ending upon the expiration of six months after the date of that re-employment. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that the employee was not adequately notified of the employee's option to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the board may provide the employee a reasonable time within which to make that election, which may extend beyond the original six-month decision window. A deferred member who makes and files a written election to remain a member of the public employees retirement system retains all rights and is subject to all conditions as a member of that retirement system. A deferred member who does not

make a written election or who does not file the election during the period specified in this section continues to be a member of the public employees retirement system. A deferred member who makes and files a written election to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system ceases to be a member of the public employees retirement system effective on the last day of the payroll period that includes the date of the election; becomes a participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter effective the first day of the payroll immediately following the date of the election; and waives all of that person's rights to a pension, an annuity, a retirement allowance, insurance benefit, or any other benefit under the public employees retirement system effective the last day of the payroll that includes the date of the election. This section does not affect any right to health benefits or retiree health benefits to which the deferred member may otherwise be entitled.

3. An eligible employee who elects to participate in the retirement plan established under this chapter must remain a participant even if that employee returns to the classified service or becomes employed by a political subdivision that participates in the public employees retirement system. The contribution amount must be as provided in this chapter, regardless of the position in which the employee is employed. Notwithstanding the irrevocability provisions of this chapter, if a member who elects to participate in the retirement plan established under this chapter becomes a supreme or district court judge, becomes a member of the highway patrol, becomes employed in a position subject to teachers' fund for retirement membership, or becomes an employee of the board of higher education or state institution under the jurisdiction of the board who is eligible to participate in an alternative retirement program established under subsection 6 of section 15-10-17, the member's status as a member of the defined contribution retirement plan is suspended, and the member becomes a new member of the retirement plan for which that member's new position is eligible. The member's account balance remains in the defined contribution retirement plan, but no new contributions may be made to that account. The member's service credit and salary history that were forfeited as a result of the member's transfer to the defined contribution retirement plan remain forfeited, and service credit accumulation in the new retirement plan begins from the first day of employment in the new position. If the member later returns to employment that is eligible for the defined contribution plan, the member's suspension must be terminated, the member again becomes a member of the defined contribution retirement plan, and the member's account resumes accepting contributions. At the member's option, and pursuant to rules adopted by the board, the member may transfer any available balance as determined by the provisions of the alternate retirement plan into the member's account under this chapter.
4. After consultation with its actuary, the board shall determine the method by which a participating member or deferred member may make a written election under this section. If the participating member or deferred member is married at the time of the election, the election is not effective unless the election is signed by the individual's spouse. However, the board may waive this requirement if the spouse's signature cannot be obtained because of extenuating circumstances.
5. If the board receives notification from the internal revenue service that this section or any portion of this section will cause the public employees

retirement system or the retirement plan established under this chapter to be disqualified for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code, then the portion that will cause the disqualification does not apply.

6. A participating member who becomes a temporary employee may still participate in the defined contribution retirement plan upon filing an election with the board within one hundred eighty days of transferring to temporary employee status. The participating member may not become a member of the defined benefit plan as a temporary employee. The temporary employee electing to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan shall pay monthly to the fund an amount equal to eight and twelve hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary. The amount required to be paid by a temporary employee increases by two percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012, and with an additional increase of two percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2013, and with an additional increase of two percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014. The temporary employee shall also pay the required monthly contribution to the retiree health benefit fund established under section 54-52.1-03.2. This contribution must be recorded as a member contribution pursuant to section 54-52.1-03.2. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee until termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee.
7. A former participating member who has accepted a retirement distribution pursuant to section 54-52.6-13 and who subsequently becomes employed by an entity different from the employer with which the member was employed at the time the member retired but which does participate in any state-sponsored retirement plan may, before re-enrolling in the defined contribution retirement plan, elect to permanently waive future participation in the defined contribution retirement plan, whatever plan in which the new employing entity participates, and the retiree health program and maintain that member's retirement status. Neither the member nor the employer are required to make any future retirement contributions on behalf of that employee.

Election through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

1. The board shall provide an opportunity for each eligible employee who is a member of the public employees retirement system on September 30, 2001, and who has not made a written election under this section to transfer to the defined contribution retirement plan before October 1, 2001, to elect in writing to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system and elect to become a participating member under this chapter. Except as provided in section 54-52.6-03, an election made by an eligible employee under this section is irrevocable. The board shall accept written elections under this section from eligible employees during the period beginning on July 1, 1999, and ending 12:01 a.m. December 14, 2001. An eligible employee who does not make a written election or who does not file the election during the period specified in this section continues to be a member of the public employees retirement system. An eligible employee who makes and files a written election under this section ceases to be a member of the public employees retirement system effective twelve midnight December 31, 2001; becomes a participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan under this

chapter effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2002; and waives all of that person's rights to a pension, annuity, retirement allowance, insurance benefit, or any other benefit under the public employees retirement system effective December 31, 2001. This section does not affect an individual's right to health benefits or retiree health benefits under chapter 54-52.1. An eligible employee who is first employed and entered upon the payroll of that person's employer after September 30, 2001, and before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, may make an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter at any time during the first six months after the date of employment. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that the employee was not adequately notified of the employee's option to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the board may provide the employee a reasonable time within which to make that election, which may extend beyond the original six-month decision window.

2. If an individual who is a deferred member of the public employees retirement system on September 30, 2001, is re-employed before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, and by virtue of that employment is again eligible for membership in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52, the individual may elect in writing to remain a member of the public employees retirement system or if eligible to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system and become a participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter. An election made by a deferred member under this section is irrevocable. The board shall accept written elections under this section from a deferred member during the period beginning on the date of the individual's re-employment and ending upon the expiration of six months after the date of that re-employment. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that the employee was not adequately notified of the employee's option to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, the board may provide the employee a reasonable time within which to make that election, which may extend beyond the original six-month decision window. A deferred member who makes and files a written election to remain a member of the public employees retirement system retains all rights and is subject to all conditions as a member of that retirement system. A deferred member who does not make a written election or who does not file the election during the period specified in this section continues to be a member of the public employees retirement system. A deferred member who makes and files a written election to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system ceases to be a member of the public employees retirement system effective on the last day of the payroll period that includes the date of the election; becomes a participating member in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter effective the first day of the payroll immediately following the date of the election; and waives all of that person's rights to a pension, an annuity, a retirement allowance, insurance benefit, or any other benefit under the public employees retirement system effective the last day of the payroll that includes the date of the election. This section does not affect any right to health benefits or retiree health benefits to which the deferred member may otherwise be entitled.
3. An eligible employee who elects under this section to participate in the retirement plan established under this chapter must remain a participant even if that employee returns to the classified service or becomes employed by a political subdivision that participates in the public employees retirement

system. The contribution amount must be as provided in this chapter, regardless of the position in which the employee is employed. Notwithstanding the irrevocability provisions of this chapter, if a member who elects to participate in the retirement plan established under this chapter becomes a supreme or district court judge, becomes a member of the highway patrol, becomes employed in a position subject to teachers' fund for retirement membership, or becomes an employee of the board of higher education or state institution under the jurisdiction of the board of higher education who is eligible to participate in an alternative retirement program established under subsection 6 of section 15-10-17, the member's status as a member of the defined contribution retirement plan is suspended, and the member becomes a new member of the retirement plan for which that member's new position is eligible. The member's account balance remains in the defined contribution retirement plan, but no new contributions may be made to that account. The member's service credit and salary history that were forfeited as a result of the member's transfer to the defined contribution retirement plan remain forfeited, and service credit accumulation in the new retirement plan begins from the first day of employment in the new position. If the member later returns to employment that is eligible for the defined contribution retirement plan, the member's suspension must be terminated, the member again becomes a member of the defined contribution retirement plan, and the member's account resumes accepting contributions. At the member's option, and pursuant to rules adopted by the board, the member may transfer any available balance as determined by the provisions of the alternate retirement plan into the member's account under this chapter.

4. After consultation with its actuary, the board shall determine the method by which a participating member or deferred member may make a written election under this section. If the participating member or deferred member is married at the time of the election, the election is not effective unless the election is signed by the individual's spouse. However, the board may waive this requirement if the spouse's signature cannot be obtained because of extenuating circumstances.
5. If the board receives notification from the internal revenue service that this section or any portion of this section will cause the public employees retirement system or the retirement plan established under this chapter to be disqualified for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code, then the portion that will cause the disqualification does not apply.
6. A participating member under this section who becomes a temporary employee may still participate in the defined contribution retirement plan upon filing an election with the board within one hundred eighty days of transferring to temporary employee status. The participating member may not become a member of the defined benefit plan as a temporary employee.
 - a. The temporary employee electing to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan shall pay into the plan as provided under section 54-52.6-09.6.
 - b. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contributions.
 - c. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee until termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee.

7. A former participating member under this section who has accepted a retirement distribution pursuant to section 54-52.6-13 and who subsequently becomes employed by an entity different from the employer with which the member was employed at the time the member retired but which does participate in any state-sponsored retirement plan may, before re-enrolling in the defined contribution retirement plan, elect to permanently waive future participation in the defined contribution retirement plan, whatever plan in which the new employing entity participates, and the retiree health program and maintain that member's retirement status. Neither the member nor the employer are required to make any future retirement contributions on behalf of that employee.
8. After ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, an eligible employee is no longer allowed to elect participation under this section.

SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-02.1. Participation in defined contribution retirement plan. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

1. Except as otherwise provided under section 54-52-02.5 or 54-52-02.15 or this chapter, effective ~~January 1, 2025~~on the effective date of this Act, an eligible employee who is first enrolled shall participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter.
2. A temporary employee may elect to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan as provided under section 54-52.6-09.6.
3. A county elected official may elect to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan as provided under section 54-52-02.11.
4. A nonstate appointed official shall participate in the defined contribution retirement plan as provided under section 54-52-02.12.

SECTION 15. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-02.2. Election after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act - Additional employer contribution. (Effective after ~~December 31, 2024~~on the effective date of this Act)

1. As used in this section, "eligible employee" means a permanent state employee who on ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, is a participating member of the public employees retirement system main system plan under chapter 54-42, who has been a participating member under chapter 54-52 for no more than five years, and who is at least eighteen years of age.
2. The board shall provide a three-month election period, ~~from January 1, 2025~~beginning on the effective date of this Act, ~~through March 31, 2025~~, for an eligible employee to transfer to the defined contribution plan under this chapter pursuant to the rules and policies adopted by the board.

- a. An election under this section made by a member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 to transfer to the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter is irrevocable.
 - b. For an eligible employee who elects to transfer from the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 to the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter, the board shall transfer a lump sum amount from the public employees retirement system fund to the member's account in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter. However, if the eligible employee terminates employment before receiving the lump sum transfer under this section, the election made is ineffective and the eligible employee remains a member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 and retains all the rights and privileges under that chapter.
 - c. The board shall calculate the lump sum amount to be transferred based on the actuarial present value of the eligible employee's accumulated benefit obligation under the public employees retirement system based on the assumption the eligible employee will retire under the earlier applicable normal retirement age, plus interest from January 1, 2025the effective date of this Act, to the date of transfer, at the rate of one-half of one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election.
 - d. This section does not affect an eligible individual's right to health benefits under chapter 54-52.1.
3. The state employer of an eligible employee who elects under this section to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter shall pay an additional annual contribution of three thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars for up to three years. Under this subsection, the employer shall pay the additional contribution each year the eligible employee continues permanent employment with the state, beginning January 2026one year after the effective date of this Act, and extending no further than January 2028three years following the effective date of this Act.
 4. If the board receives notification from the internal revenue service that this section or any portion of this section will cause the public employees retirement system or the retirement plan established under this chapter to be disqualified for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code, that portion that will cause the disqualification does not apply.

SECTION 16. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-03. Transfer of accumulated fund balances. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

For an individual who elects to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52, the board shall transfer a lump sum amount from the retirement fund to the participating member's account in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter. However, if the individual terminates employment prior to receiving the lump sum transfer under this section, the election made under section 54-52.6-02 is ineffective and the individual remains a member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 and retains all the rights and benefits provided under that chapter. The board shall calculate the amount to be

transferred for persons employed before October 1, 2001, using the two following formulas, and shall transfer the greater of the two amounts obtained:

1. The actuarial present value of the individual's accumulated benefit obligation under the public employees retirement system based on the assumption that the individual will retire under the earliest applicable normal retirement age, plus interest from January 1, 2001, to the date of transfer, at the rate of one-half of one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election; or
2. The actual employer contribution made, less vested employer contributions made pursuant to section 54-52-11.1, plus compound interest at the rate of one-half of one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election plus the employee account balance.

The board shall calculate the amount to be transferred for persons employed after September 30, 2001, using only the formula contained in subsection 2.

Transfer of accumulated fund balances. (Effective after ~~December 31, 2024~~ on the effective date of this Act)

1. For an individual who elects under section 54-52.6-02 to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52, the board shall transfer a lump sum amount from the retirement fund to the participating member's account in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter. However, if the individual terminates employment before receiving the lump sum transfer under this section, the election made under section 54-52.6-02 is ineffective and the individual remains a member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 and retains all the rights and benefits provided under that chapter. The board shall calculate the amount to be transferred for persons employed before October 1, 2001, using the two following formulas, and shall transfer the greater of the two amounts obtained:
 - a. The actuarial present value of the individual's accumulated benefit obligation under the public employees retirement system based on the assumption that the individual will retire under the earliest applicable normal retirement age, plus interest from January 1, 2001, to the date of transfer, at the rate of one-half of one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election; or
 - b. The actual employer contribution made, less vested employer contributions made pursuant to section 54-52-11.1, plus compound interest at the rate of one-half of one percent less than the actuarial interest assumption at the time of the election plus the employee account balance.
2. The board shall calculate the amount to be transferred for persons employed after September 30, 2001, and before ~~January 1, 2025~~ the effective date of this Act, using only the formula contained in subdivision b of subsection 1.

SECTION 17. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-05. Direction of investments. (Effective through ~~December 31, 2024~~ the day before the effective date of this Act)

Each participating member shall direct the investment of the individual's accumulated employer and employee contributions and earnings to one or more investment choices within available categories of investment provided by the board.

Direction of investments. (Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)

1. Each participating member shall direct the investment of the individual's accumulated employer and employee contributions and earnings to one or more investment choices within available categories of investment provided by the board.
2. The board shall provide an investment menu of investment options. In establishing the investment options, the board shall:
 - a. Include predetermined investment portfolio options constructed to reflect different risk profiles that automatically reallocate and rebalance contributions as a participating member ages.
 - b. Allow a participating member to construct an investment portfolio using some or all of the investment options.
3. The board shall provide a diversified menu of mutual funds and in-plan lifetime annuity options, either fixed, variable, or a combination of both. In selecting an annuity provider the board shall comply with section 54-52.6-05.1.
4. This section applies to all defined contribution retirement plans regardless of the effective date of the plan.

SECTION 18. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-05.1. Annuity provider - Qualifications. (Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)

1. The board shall select one or more annuity providers to provide the annuity options under this chapter.
2. In selecting an annuity provider under this section, the board shall:
 - a. Determine whether the annuity provider and the provider's subsidiaries and affiliates have appropriate financial strength and stability at the time of selection and during the term of contract with the board.
 - (1) The board may require the provider to provide the board with written representation:
 - (a) The provider is in compliance with title 26.1.
 - (b) The provider at the time of selection is and for each of the preceding seven years was in compliance and good standing with the insurance commissioner of the provider's domiciliary state and the provider is not operating under an order of rehabilitation or liquidation.

- (c) The provider maintains and has maintained reserves that satisfy the statutory requirements of each state in which the provider does business.
- (2) The board may require a provider selected by the board to provide annuities under this chapter to notify the board of a change of circumstances resulting in the provider failing to meet any of the requirements under paragraph 1.
- (3) The board must have determined the provider has a claims paying ability rating that meets standards adopted by the board.
- b. Determine whether the annuity provider is able to provide contracted rights and benefits to a participating member.
- c. Determine whether the costs, including fees and commissions, of the annuity options in relation to the benefits and product features of the annuity options are reasonable.
- d. Determine whether the administrative services to be provided under the annuity option are appropriate. At a minimum the administrative services must include periodic reports to the board.
- e. Determine whether the annuity provider is experienced in paying lifetime retirement income through annuities offered to public employee defined contribution retirement plans.
- f. Determine whether the annuity provider offers a menu of annuity options that meet the following conditions:
 - (1) The annuity options are suitable for participating members and beneficiaries.
 - (2) The contract terms and income benefits are clearly stated, based on reasonable assumptions.
 - (3) The menu of annuity options offers a range of lifetime income options.
 - (4) If an annuity is a variable annuity, the annuity offers a fixed account option along with a variable option.
- g. Determine whether the annuity provider offers objective and participant-specific education and tools to help a participating member understand the appropriate use of annuities as a long-term retirement savings vehicle.

SECTION 19. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-08. Credit of transfers. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

The board shall promptly credit the plan account of a participating member who makes an election under this chapter to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 with any amount transferred from the public employees retirement system.

Credit of transfers. (Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act) The board promptly shall credit the plan account of a participating member who makes an election under section 54-52.6-02 to terminate membership in the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 with any amount transferred from the public employees retirement system.

SECTION 20. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-09. Contributions - Penalty. (Effective through December 31, 2024 the day before the effective date of this Act)

1. Each participating member shall contribute monthly four percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant, and this assessment must be deducted from the participant's salary in equal monthly installments commencing with the first month of participation in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter. Participating member contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the reporting period of January 2013; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014.
2. The employer shall contribute an amount equal to four and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member. Employer contributions increase by one percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2012; with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2013; and with an additional increase of one percent, beginning with the monthly reporting period of January 2014. For members first enrolled after December 31, 2019, the employer contribution includes an additional increase of one and fourteen-hundredths percent. If the employee's contribution is paid by the employer under subsection 3, the employer shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required employee's contribution. Monthly, the employer shall pay such contribution into the participating member's account from the employer's funds appropriated for payroll and salary or any other funds available for such purposes. If the employer fails to pay the contributions monthly, or fails to otherwise comply with the board's established wage reporting or payroll reporting process requirements, the employer is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as interest, one percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction of a month after the payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one percent per month, or both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be assessed for each month the contributions are delinquent. If contributions are paid within ninety days of the date the contributions became due, penalty and interest to be paid on delinquent contributions may be waived.
3. Each employer, at its option, may pay the employee contributions required by this section for all compensation earned after December 31, 1999. The amount paid must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. If the employer decides not to pay the contributions, the amount that would have been paid will continue to be deducted from the employee's compensation. If contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code. Contributions paid by the employer may

not be included as gross income of the employee in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code until they are distributed or made available. The employer shall pay these employee contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee or by an offset against future salary increases or by a combination of a reduction in gross salary and offset against future salary increases. Employee contributions paid by the employer must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as employee contributions made before the date on which employee contributions were assumed by the employer. An employer shall exercise its option under this subsection by reporting its choice to the board in writing.

Contributions - Penalty. (Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)

1. a. A participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement plan before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, and an employee who elects to participate in the defined contribution plan under section 54-52.6-02.2, shall contribute monthly seven percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant.
- b. A participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement plan after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, except for an employee who elects to participate in the defined contribution plan under section 54-52.6-02.2, shall contribute monthly four percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant. In addition, the participating member may elect to contribute monthly up to an additional three percent of the monthly salary or wage paid to the participant.
- c. This assessment must be deducted from the participant's salary in equal monthly installments commencing with the first month of participation in the defined contribution retirement plan established under this chapter.
2. a. For a participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement plan before ~~January 1, 2025~~the effective date of this Act, and for an employee who elects to participate in the defined contribution plan under section 54-52.6-02.2, the employer shall contribute an amount equal to seven and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of the participating member.
- b. For a participating member who first joined the defined contribution retirement plan after ~~December 31, 2024~~the day before the effective date of this Act, except for an employee who elects to participate in the defined contribution plan under section 54-52.6-02.2, the employer shall contribute an amount equal to four and twelve-hundredths percent of the monthly salary or wage of a participating member, plus up to an additional three percent as an employer matching contribution calculated based on the participating member's election under subdivision b of subsection 1.
- c. For a participating member first enrolled after December 31, 2019, the employer contribution includes an additional increase of one and fourteen-hundredths percent.

- d. If the employee's contribution is paid by the employer under subsection 3, the employer shall contribute, in addition, an amount equal to the required employee's contribution. Monthly, the employer shall pay such contribution into the participating member's account from the employer's funds appropriated for payroll and salary or any other funds available for such purposes.
 - e. If the employer fails to pay the contributions monthly, or fails to otherwise comply with the board's established wage reporting or payroll reporting process requirements, the employer is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars and, as interest, one percent of the amount due for each month of delay or fraction of a month after the payment became due. In lieu of assessing a civil penalty or one percent per month, or both, interest at the actuarial rate of return may be assessed for each month the contributions are delinquent. If contributions are paid within ninety days of the date the contributions became due, penalty and interest to be paid on delinquent contributions may be waived.
3. Each employer, at its option, may pay the employee contributions required by this section for all compensation earned after December 31, 1999. The amount paid must be paid by the employer in lieu of contributions by the employee. If the employer decides not to pay the contributions, the amount that would have been paid will continue to be deducted from the employee's compensation. If contributions are paid by the employer, they must be treated as employer contributions in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code. Contributions paid by the employer may not be included as gross income of the employee in determining tax treatment under this code and the federal Internal Revenue Code until they are distributed or made available. The employer shall pay these employee contributions from the same source of funds used in paying compensation to the employee. The employer shall pay these contributions by effecting an equal cash reduction in the gross salary of the employee or by an offset against future salary increases or by a combination of a reduction in gross salary and offset against future salary increases. Employee contributions paid by the employer must be treated for the purposes of this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as employee contributions made before the date on which employee contributions were assumed by the employer. An employer shall exercise its option under this subsection by reporting its choice to the board in writing.

SECTION 21. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-09.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-09.6. Participation by temporary employees. (Effective after—~~December 31, 2024~~on the effective date of this Act)

A temporary employee may elect, within one hundred eighty days of beginning employment, to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter. Monthly, the temporary employee shall contribute an amount equal to nine and twenty-six hundredths percent times the temporary employee's present monthly salary, and may elect to contribute up to an additional six percent. An employer may not pay the temporary employee's contribution. A temporary employee may continue to participate as a temporary employee until termination of employment or reclassification of the temporary employee as a permanent employee.

SECTION 22. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-10. Vesting. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

A participating member is immediately one hundred percent vested in that member's contributions made to that member's account under this chapter. A participating member vests in the employer contributions made on that member's behalf to an account under this chapter according to the following schedule:

1. Upon completion of two years of service, fifty percent.
2. Upon completion of three years of service, seventy-five percent.
3. Upon completion of four years of service, one hundred percent.

A participating member also becomes one hundred percent vested in the employer contributions upon reaching age sixty-five. A participating member who was a member or deferred member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 who makes an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan pursuant to this chapter must be credited with the years of service accrued under the public employees retirement system on the effective date of participation in the defined contribution retirement plan for the purpose of meeting vesting requirements for benefits under this section. Any forfeiture as a result of the failure of a participating member to vest in the employer contribution must be deposited in the administrative expenses account.

Vesting. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

1. A participating member is immediately one hundred percent vested in that member's contributions made to that member's account under this chapter. A participating member vests in the employer contributions made on that member's behalf to an account under this chapter according to the following schedule:
 - a. Upon completion of two years of service, fifty percent.
 - b. Upon completion of three years of service, seventy-five percent.
 - c. Upon completion of four years of service, one hundred percent.
2. A participating member also becomes one hundred percent vested in the employer contributions upon reaching age sixty-five. A participating member who was a member or deferred member of the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 who makes an election to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan under section 54-52.6-02 or 54-52.6-02.2 must be credited with the years of service accrued under the public employees retirement system on the effective date of participation in the defined contribution retirement plan for the purpose of meeting vesting requirements for benefits under this section. Any forfeiture as a result of the failure of a participating member to vest in the employer contribution must be deposited in the administrative expenses account.

SECTION 23. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-13. Distributions. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

1. A participating member is eligible to receive distribution of that person's accumulated balance in the plan upon becoming a former participating member.
2. Upon the death of a participating member or former participating member, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the deceased participant's refund beneficiary, if any, as provided in this subsection. If the deceased participant designated an alternate refund beneficiary with the surviving spouse's written consent, the board shall distribute the accumulated balance to the named beneficiary. If the deceased participant named more than one primary beneficiary with the surviving spouse's written consent, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance to the named primary beneficiaries in the percentages designated by the deceased participant or, if the deceased participant had not designated a percentage for the beneficiaries, in equal percentages. If one or more of the primary beneficiaries has predeceased the deceased participant, the board shall pay the predeceased beneficiary's share to the remaining primary beneficiaries. If any beneficiary survives the deceased participant, yet dies before distribution of the beneficiary's share, the beneficiary must be treated as if the beneficiary predeceased the deceased participant. If there is no remaining primary beneficiary, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the contingent beneficiaries in the same manner. If there is no remaining designated beneficiary, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the deceased participant's estate. If the deceased participant had not designated an alternate refund beneficiary or the surviving spouse is the refund beneficiary, the surviving spouse of the deceased participant may select a form of payment as provided in subdivision d of subsection 3.
3. A former participating member may elect one or a combination of several of the following methods of distribution of the accumulated balance:
 - a. A lump sum distribution to the recipient.
 - b. A lump sum direct rollover to another qualified plan, to the extent allowed by federal law.
 - c. Periodic distributions, as authorized by the board.
 - d. No current distribution, in which case the accumulated balance must remain in the plan until the former participating member or refund beneficiary elects a method or methods of distribution under this section, to the extent allowed by federal law.

A surviving spouse beneficiary may elect one or a combination of several of the methods of distribution provided in subdivisions a, b, or c if the surviving spouse is the sole refund beneficiary. If the surviving spouse is not the sole refund beneficiary, the refund beneficiary may only choose a lump sum distribution of the accumulated balance.

4. If the former participating member's vested account balance is less than one thousand dollars, the board shall automatically refund the member's vested account balance upon termination of employment. The member may waive

the refund if the member submits a written statement to the board, within one hundred twenty days after termination, requesting that the member's vested account balance remain in the plan.

Distributions. (Effective after December 31, 2024 on the effective date of this Act)

1. A participating member is eligible to receive distribution of that individual's accumulated balance in the plan upon becoming a former participating member.
2. Upon the death of a participating member or former participating member, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the deceased participant's refund beneficiary, if any, as provided in this subsection. If the deceased participant designated an alternate refund beneficiary with the surviving spouse's written consent, the board shall distribute the accumulated balance to the named beneficiary. If the deceased participant named more than one primary beneficiary with the surviving spouse's written consent, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance to the named primary beneficiaries in the percentages designated by the deceased participant or, if the deceased participant had not designated a percentage for the beneficiaries, in equal percentages. If one or more of the primary beneficiaries has predeceased the deceased participant, the board shall pay the predeceased beneficiary's share to the remaining primary beneficiaries. If any beneficiary survives the deceased participant, yet dies before distribution of the beneficiary's share, the beneficiary must be treated as if the beneficiary predeceased the deceased participant. If there is no remaining primary beneficiary, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the contingent beneficiaries in the same manner. If there is no remaining designated beneficiary, the board shall pay the accumulated account balance of that deceased participant to the deceased participant's estate. If the deceased participant had not designated an alternate refund beneficiary or the surviving spouse is the refund beneficiary, the surviving spouse of the deceased participant may select a form of payment as provided in subdivision d of subsection 3.
3. a. A former participating member may elect one or a combination of several of the following methods of distribution of the accumulated balance:
 - (1) A lump sum distribution to the recipient.
 - (2) A lump sum direct rollover to another qualified plan, to the extent allowed by federal law.
 - (3) Periodic distributions, including annuities, as authorized by the board.
 - (4) No current distribution, in which case the accumulated balance must remain in the plan until the former participating member or refund beneficiary elects a method or methods of distribution under this section, to the extent allowed by federal law.
- b. A surviving spouse beneficiary may elect one or a combination of several of the methods of distribution provided in paragraph 1, 2, or 3 of subdivision a if the surviving spouse is the sole refund beneficiary. If the surviving spouse is not the sole refund beneficiary, the refund beneficiary may only choose a lump sum distribution of the accumulated balance.

4. If the former participating member's vested account balance is less than one thousand dollars, the board automatically shall refund the member's vested account balance upon termination of employment. The member may waive the refund if the member submits a written statement to the board, within one hundred twenty days after termination, requesting that the member's vested account balance remain in the plan.

SECTION 24. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-15. Board to provide information. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

The board shall provide information to employees who are eligible to elect to become participating members under this chapter. The information must include at a minimum the employee's current account balance, the assumption of investment risk under a defined contribution retirement plan, administrative and investment costs, coordination of benefits information, and a comparison of projected retirement benefits under the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 and the retirement plan established under this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board is not liable for any election or investment decision made by an employee based upon information provided to an employee under this chapter.

Board to provide information. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

1. The board shall provide information to employees who are eligible under section 54-52.6-02 or 54-52.6-02.2 to elect to become participating members under this chapter. The information must include at a minimum the employee's current account balance, the assumption of investment risk under a defined contribution retirement plan, administrative and investment costs, coordination of benefits information, and a comparison of projected retirement benefits under the public employees retirement system under chapter 54-52 and the retirement plan established under this chapter.
2. The board, or the board's vendor, shall provide to all participating members of the defined contribution retirement plan, including individuals who elected to become participating members under section 54-52.6-02 or 54-52.6-02.2:
 - a. Enrollment information that includes benefits of the defined contribution retirement plan, investment options available, the assumption of risk, and administrative and investment costs.
 - b. Ongoing investment and retirement income planning, including education on how to set, measure, and adjust income and saving goals based on desired retirement income and financial objectives, actual behavior, and changing circumstances.
 - c. Retirement income education, including distribution options available and in-plan annuitization options.
 - d. Advice and guidance information, tools, and services primarily focused on long-term planning and investing and life events that potentially influence and impact retirement savings.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board is not liable for any election or investment decision made by an ~~employee~~individual based upon information provided to an ~~employee~~individual under this chapter.

SECTION 25. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-19. Overpayments. (Effective through December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

The board has the right of setoff to recover overpayments made under this chapter and to satisfy any claims arising from embezzlement or fraud committed by a participating member, deferred member, refund beneficiary, or other person who has a claim to a distribution or any other benefit from a plan governed by this chapter.

Overpayments. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act) The board has the right of setoff to recover overpayments made under this chapter and to satisfy any claims arising from embezzlement or fraud committed by a participating member, deferred member under this chapter, refund beneficiary, or other person that has a claim to a distribution or any other benefit from a plan governed by this chapter.

SECTION 26. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-22. Report to employee benefits programs committee. (Effective after December 31, 2024the day before the effective date of this Act)

Annually, the board shall provide a report to the employee benefits programs committee on the status of the defined contribution retirement plan under this chapter.

SECTION 27. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.6-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.6-23. Savings clause - Plan modification. (Effective after December 31, 2024on the effective date of this Act)

If the board determines any section of this chapter does not comply with applicable federal statutes or rules, the board shall adopt appropriate terminology with respect to that section as will comply with those federal statutes or rules, subject to the approval of the employee benefits programs committee. Any plan modifications made by the board pursuant to this section are effective until the effective date of any measure enacted by the legislative assembly providing the necessary amendments to this chapter to ensure compliance with the federal statutes or rules.

SECTION 28. EXEMPTION - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE. This Act is exempt from the requirements of section 54-35-02.4.

SECTION 29. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 1 through 27 of this Act become effective on the date which must be before January 1, 2025, identified in a certification by the retirement board, only if the board certifies to the legislative council that the public employees retirement system is prepared to close the main system defined benefit retirement plan on the day before the date identified by the board, and to open the new defined contribution retirement plan on the date identified by the board.

SECTION 30. EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 28 and 29 of this Act become effective on the date this Act is filed with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CHAPTER 645

SENATE BILL NO. 2398

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 15.1-27-04.1, 15.1-36-02, and 15.1-36-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to baseline funding and the determination of state school aid, loans from the coal development trust fund, and evidences of indebtedness; to provide an appropriation; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-27-04.1. Baseline funding - Establishment - Determination of state aid. (Effective through June 30, 2025)

1. To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the superintendent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A district's baseline funding consists of:
 - a. All state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the 2018-19 school year;
 - b. An amount equal to the property tax deducted by the superintendent of public instruction to determine the 2018-19 state aid payment;
 - c. An amount equal to seventy-five percent of the revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:
 - (1) Revenue reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;
 - (2) Mineral revenue received by the school district through direct allocation from the state treasurer and not reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;
 - (3) Tuition reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the

superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08, with the exception of revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition received for the provision of an adult farm management program, and beginning in the 2021-22 school year, seventeen percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid, and an additional seventeen percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid each school year thereafter, until the 2024-25 school year when sixty-eight percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid must be excluded from the tuition calculation under this paragraph;

- (4) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission of electric power;
 - (5) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from sources other than coal; and
 - (6) Revenue from the leasing of land acquired by the United States for which compensation is allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c) (3);
 - d. An amount equal to the total revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:
 - (1) Mobile home tax revenue;
 - (2) Telecommunications tax revenue; and
 - (3) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes and state reimbursement of the homestead credit and disabled veterans credit; and
 - e. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall reduce the baseline funding for any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2012-13 school year. The reduction must be proportional to the number of weighted student units in the grades that are offered through another school district relative to the total number of weighted student units the school district offered in the year before the school district became an elementary district. The reduced baseline funding applies to the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter. For districts that become an elementary district prior to the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall use the reduced baseline funding to calculate state aid for the 2020-21 school year and for each year thereafter.
2. a. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's 2017-18 weighted student units to determine the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit.

- b. For any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2017-18 school year, the superintendent shall adjust the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit used to calculate state aid. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's weighted student units after the school district becomes an elementary district to determine the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit. The superintendent shall use the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit in the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter.
 - c. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and for each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit. Each year the superintendent shall calculate the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3. TheFor the 2023-24 school year the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit by ~~fifteen~~forty percent of the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit for the 2021-222023-24 school year. For each year thereafter, the reduction percentage is increased by an additional fifteen percent. However, the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, after the reduction, may not be less than the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3.
3. a. For the 2023-24 school year, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:
- (1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred forty-six dollars;
 - (2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred forty-six dollars; or
 - (3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~forty-five~~forty percent and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.
- b. For the 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:
- (1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand seventy-two dollars;
 - (2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in

excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand seventy-two dollars; or

- (3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~sixty~~sixty-five percent for the 2024-25 school year and the reduction percentage increasing by fifteen percent each school year thereafter until the difference is reduced to zero, and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.
4. After determining the product in accordance with subsection 3, the superintendent of public instruction shall:
 - a. Subtract an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of the school district, except the amount in dollars subtracted for purposes of this subdivision may not exceed the previous year's amount in dollars subtracted for purposes of this subdivision by more than twelve percent, adjusted pursuant to section 15.1-27-04.3; and
 - b. Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenue types listed in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1. Before determining the deduction for seventy-five percent of all revenue types, the superintendent of public instruction shall adjust revenues as follows:
 - (1) Tuition revenue shall be adjusted as follows:
 - (a) In addition to deducting tuition revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition revenue received for the provision of an adult farm management program, tuition received for the education of high-cost and special education students, and tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid as directed each school year in paragraph 3 of subdivision c of subsection 1, the superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by the school district by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students not residing in the state and for which the state has not entered a cross-border education contract; and
 - (b) The superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by admitting school districts meeting the requirements of subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 15.1-29-12 by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students residing in an adjacent school district.
 - (2) After adjusting tuition revenue as provided in paragraph 1, the superintendent shall reduce all remaining revenues from all revenue types by the percentage of mills levied in 2022 by the school district for sinking and interest relative to the total mills levied in 2022 by the school district for all purposes.
5. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 4 is the amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory requirements or limitations.

6. On or before June thirtieth of each year, the school board shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction the final average daily membership for the current school year.
7. For purposes of the calculation in subsection 4, each county auditor, in collaboration with the school districts, shall report the following to the superintendent of public instruction on an annual basis:
 - a. The amount of revenue received by each school district in the county during the previous school year for each type of revenue identified in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1;
 - b. The total number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for all purposes; and
 - c. The number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for sinking and interest fund purposes.

Baseline funding - Establishment - Determination of state aid. (Effective after June 30, 2025)

1. To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the superintendent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A district's baseline funding consists of:
 - a. All state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the 2018-19 school year;
 - b. An amount equal to the property tax deducted by the superintendent of public instruction to determine the 2018-19 state aid payment;
 - c. An amount equal to seventy-five percent of the revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:
 - (1) Revenue reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;
 - (2) Mineral revenue received by the school district through direct allocation from the state treasurer and not reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;
 - (3) Tuition reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08, with the exception of revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition received for the provision of an adult farm management program, and beginning in the 2025-26 school year, eighty-five percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid, until the 2026-27 school year, and

- each school year thereafter, when all tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid must be excluded from the tuition calculation under this paragraph;
- (4) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission of electric power;
 - (5) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from sources other than coal; and
 - (6) Revenue from the leasing of land acquired by the United States for which compensation is allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c) (3); and
- d. An amount equal to the total revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:
- (1) Mobile home tax revenue;
 - (2) Telecommunications tax revenue; and
 - (3) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes and state reimbursement of the homestead credit and disabled veterans credit.
- e. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall reduce the baseline funding for any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2012-13 school year. The reduction must be proportional to the number of weighted student units in the grades that are offered through another school district relative to the total number of weighted student units the school district offered in the year before the school district became an elementary district. The reduced baseline funding applies to the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter. For districts that become an elementary district prior to the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall use the reduced baseline funding to calculate state aid for the 2020-21 school year and for each year thereafter.
2. a. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's 2017-18 weighted student units to determine the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit.
- b. For any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2017-18 school year, the superintendent shall adjust the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit used to calculate state aid. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's weighted student units after the school district becomes an elementary district to determine the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit. The superintendent shall use the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit in the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter.

- c. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and for each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit. Each year the superintendent shall calculate the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3. ~~TheFor the 2023-24 school year the~~ superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit by ~~fifteen~~forty percent of the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit for the ~~2021-22~~2023-24 school year. For each year thereafter, the reduction percentage is increased by an additional fifteen percent. However, the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, after the reduction, may not be less than the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3.
3. a. For the 2023-24 school year, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:
- (1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred forty-six dollars;
 - (2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred forty-six dollars; or
 - (3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~forty-five~~forty percent and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.
- b. For the 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:
- (1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand seventy-two dollars;
 - (2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand seventy-two dollars; or
 - (3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~sixty~~fifty-five percent for the 2024-25 school year and the reduction percentage increasing by fifteen percent each school year thereafter until the difference is reduced to zero, and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.
4. After determining the product in accordance with subsection 3, the superintendent of public instruction shall:

- a. Subtract an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of the school district; and
 - b. Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenue types listed in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1. Before determining the deduction for seventy-five percent of all revenue types, the superintendent of public instruction shall adjust revenues as follows:
 - (1) Tuition revenue shall be adjusted as follows:
 - (a) In addition to deducting tuition revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition revenue received for the provision of an adult farm management program, tuition received for the education of high-cost and special education students, and tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid as directed each school year in paragraph 3 of subdivision c of subsection 1, the superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by the school district by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students not residing in the state and for which the state has not entered a cross-border education contract; and
 - (b) The superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by admitting school districts meeting the requirements of subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 15.1-29-12 by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students residing in an adjacent school district.
 - (2) After adjusting tuition revenue as provided in paragraph 1, the superintendent shall reduce all remaining revenues from all revenue types by the percentage of mills levied in 2022 by the school district for sinking and interest relative to the total mills levied in 2022 by the school district for all purposes.
5. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 4 is the amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory requirements or limitations.
 6. On or before June thirtieth of each year, the school board shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction the final average daily membership for the current school year.
 7. For purposes of the calculation in subsection 4, each county auditor, in collaboration with the school districts, shall report the following to the superintendent of public instruction on an annual basis:
 - a. The amount of revenue received by each school district in the county during the previous school year for each type of revenue identified in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1;
 - b. The total number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for all purposes; and

- c. The number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for sinking and interest fund purposes.

² **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-36-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-36-02. Coal development trust fund - Board of university and school lands - School construction projects - Unanticipated construction projects and emergency repairs - Loans.

1. Up to sixty million dollars from the coal development trust fund is available to the board of university and school lands for loans under this section.
2. To be eligible for a loan under this section, the school district must demonstrate a need based on an unanticipated construction project, an unanticipated replacement project, ~~or an emergency repair, or a legislatively defined condition~~, and the board of a school district shall:
 - a. Obtain the approval of the superintendent of public instruction for the construction project under section 15.1-36-01; and
 - b. Submit to the superintendent of public instruction an application containing all information deemed necessary by the superintendent, including potential alternative sources or methods of financing the construction project.
3. The superintendent of public instruction shall consider each loan application in the order ~~the application~~ received approval under section 15.1-36-01.
4. If the superintendent of public instruction approves the loan, the board of university and school lands shall issue a loan from the coal development trust fund.
 - a. For a loan made under this section~~subsection~~:
 - ~~a-(1)~~ (1) The minimum loan amount is two hundred fifty thousand dollars and the maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is ~~twofive~~ million dollars;
 - ~~b-(2)~~ (2) The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district requests a shorter term in the written loan application; and
 - ~~e-(3)~~ (3) The interest rate of the loan may not exceed two percent per year.
 - b. During the 2023-25 biennium, a loan including additional expenses due to unanticipated construction inflation is an allowable condition under subsection 2. For a loan made under this subsection which includes additional expenses due to unanticipated construction inflation:
 - (1) The unanticipated construction inflation must have occurred for a construction project bid after January 1, 2021, and before June 30, 2024;

² Section 15.1-36-02 was also amended by section 3 of Senate Bill No. 2398, chapter 645.

- (2) The maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is five million dollars;
 - (3) The interest rate on the loan may not exceed two percent per year;
 - (4) The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district requests a shorter term in the written loan application; and
 - (5) The school district may pledge revenues derived from its general fund levy authority or other sources of revenue authorized by law.
5. a. If a school district seeking a loan under this section received an allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax during the previous fiscal year in accordance with chapter 57-51, the board of the district shall provide to the board of university and school lands, and to the state treasurer, its evidence of indebtedness indicating that the loan originated under this section.
- b. If the evidence of indebtedness is payable solely from the school district's allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax in accordance with section 57-51-15, the loan does not constitute a general obligation of the school district and may not be considered a debt of the district.
- c. If a loan made to a school district is payable solely from the district's allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax in accordance with section 57-51-15, the terms of the loan must require that the state treasurer withhold the dollar amount or percentage specified in the loan agreement, from each of the district's oil and gas gross production tax allocations, in order to repay the principal and interest of the evidence of indebtedness. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount withheld into the fund from which the loan originated.
- d. Any evidence of indebtedness executed by the board of a school district under this subsection is a negotiable instrument and not subject to taxation by the state or any political subdivision of the state.
6. For purposes of this section, a "construction project" means the purchase, lease, erection, or improvement of any structure or facility by a school board, provided the acquisition or activity is within a school board's authority.

³ **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-36-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-36-02. Coal development trust fund - Board of university and school lands - School construction projects - Unanticipated construction projects and emergency repairs - Loans.

1. Up to sixty million dollars from the coal development trust fund is available to the board of university and school lands for loans under this section.
2. To be eligible for a loan under this section, the school district must demonstrate a need based on an unanticipated construction project, an

³ Section 15.1-36-02 was also amended by section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2398, chapter 645.

unanticipated replacement project, an emergency repair, or a legislatively defined condition, and the board of a school district shall:

- a. Obtain the approval of the superintendent of public instruction for the construction project under section 15.1-36-01; and
 - b. Submit to the superintendent of public instruction an application containing all information deemed necessary by the superintendent, including potential alternative sources or methods of financing the construction project.
3. The superintendent of public instruction shall consider each loan application in the order the application received approval under section 15.1-36-01.
4. If the superintendent of public instruction approves the loan, the board of university and school lands shall issue a loan from the coal development trust fund.
- a. For a loan made under this ~~subsection~~section:
- ~~(1)a.~~ The minimum loan amount is two hundred fifty thousand dollars and the maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is five million dollars;
 - ~~(2)b.~~ The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district requests a shorter term in the written loan application; and
 - ~~(3)c.~~ The interest rate of the loan may not exceed two percent per year.
- b. ~~During the 2023-25 biennium, a loan including additional expenses due to unanticipated construction inflation is an allowable condition under subsection 2. For a loan made under this subsection which includes additional expenses due to unanticipated construction inflation:~~
- ~~(1) The unanticipated construction inflation must have occurred for a construction project bid after January 1, 2021, and before June 30, 2024;~~
 - ~~(2) The maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is five million dollars;~~
 - ~~(3) The interest rate on the loan may not exceed two percent per year;~~
 - ~~(4) The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district requests a shorter term in the written loan application; and~~
 - ~~(5) The school district may pledge revenues derived from its general fund levy authority or other sources of revenue authorized by law.~~
5. a. If a school district seeking a loan under this section received an allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax during the previous fiscal year in accordance with chapter 57-51, the board of the district shall provide to the board of university and school lands, and to the state treasurer, its evidence of indebtedness indicating the loan originated under this section.

- b. If the evidence of indebtedness is payable solely from the school district's allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax in accordance with section 57-51-15, the loan does not constitute a general obligation of the school district and may not be considered a debt of the district.
 - c. If a loan made to a school district is payable solely from the district's allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax in accordance with section 57-51-15, the terms of the loan must require the state treasurer withhold the dollar amount or percentage specified in the loan agreement, from each of the district's oil and gas gross production tax allocations, in order to repay the principal and interest of the evidence of indebtedness. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount withheld into the fund from which the loan originated.
 - d. Any evidence of indebtedness executed by the board of a school district under this subsection is a negotiable instrument and not subject to taxation by the state or any political subdivision of the state.
6. For purposes of this section, a "construction project" means the purchase, lease, erection, or improvement of any structure or facility by a school board, provided the acquisition or activity is within a school board's authority.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-36-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-36-04. Evidences of indebtedness.

~~The~~Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the board of a school district may issue and sell evidences of indebtedness under chapter 21-02 or 21-03 to finance the construction or improvement of a project approved under this chapter. The principal amount of the loan and the evidences of indebtedness to repay the loan may not exceed the loan amount for which the district is eligible under this chapter. Evidences of indebtedness issued under this chapter or chapter 21-03 constitute a general obligation of the school district.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$3,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction for the purpose of providing integrated formula payments, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 6. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. Sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 of this Act apply retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 3 of this Act becomes effective on July 1, 2024. The remainder of this Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

FOODS, DRUGS, OILS, AND COMPOUNDS

CHAPTER 646

SENATE BILL NO. 2396

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 19-03.1-22.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a special penalty for death or injury through distribution of illegal drugs; to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 19-03.1-22.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. An individual is guilty of causing death or injury by distributing a controlled substance if the individual willfully ~~supplies another to deliver a controlled substance to an individual who consumes the controlled substance and that delivers a controlled substance, or supplies another to deliver or consume a controlled substance, and an~~ individual dies or is injured from overdosing after consuming a portion of ~~the~~that controlled substance.
 - a. A violation of this section is a class A felony.
 - b. This section does not limit a conviction under chapter 12.1-16, but an individual may not be found guilty of this section and an offense under chapter 12.1-16 if the conduct arises out of the same course of conduct.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

STATE GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 647

HOUSE BILL NO. 1547

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 54-52-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the membership of the public employees retirement system board; to provide for duties of the public employees retirement system and public employees retirement system board; to provide for a transition; to provide an exemption; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52-03. Governing authority.

1. A state agency is hereby created to constitute the governing authority of the system to consist of a board of ~~nine~~eleven individuals known as the retirement board. No more than one elected member of the board may be in the employ of a single department, institution, or agency of the state or in the employ of a political subdivision. An employee of the public employees retirement system or the state retirement and investment office may not serve on the board.
4. ~~Two~~
2. ~~Four~~ members of the legislative assembly must be appointed ~~by the chairman of the legislative management~~ to serve on the board.
 - a. ~~If the same political party has the greatest number of members in both the house and senate, one member must be from that majority party and one member from the political party with the next greatest number of members in the house and senate.~~
 - b. ~~If the same political party does not have the greatest number of members in both the house and senate, one member must be from the majority party in the house and one member must be from the majority party in the senate.~~
2. ~~One member~~ The majority leader of the house of representatives shall appoint two members of the house of representatives and the majority leader of the senate shall appoint two members of the senate. The members appointed under this subsection shall serve a term of two years. The members appointed under this subsection serve at the pleasure of the appointing majority leader.
3. Four members of the board must be appointed by the governor to serve a term of five years. ~~The~~Each appointee under this subsection must be a North

~~Dakota citizen who is not a state or political subdivision employee and who by experience is familiar with money management retirement and employee benefit plans. The governor shall appoint one of the citizen member-ismembers to serve as chairman of the board. The members appointed under this subsection serve at the pleasure of the governor.~~

- ~~3. One member of the board must be appointed by the attorney general from the attorney general's legal staff and shall serve a term of five years.~~
- ~~4. The state health officer appointed under section 23-01-05 or the state health officer's designee is a member of the board.~~
- ~~5-4. Three board members must be elected by and from among the active participating members, members of the retirement plan established under chapter 54-52.6, members of the retirement plan established under chapter 39-03.1, and members of the job service North Dakota retirement plan. Employees who have terminated their employment for whatever reason are not eligible to serve as elected members of the board under this subsection. Board members must be elected to a five-year term pursuant to an election called by the board. Notice of board elections must be given to all active participating members. The time spent in performing duties as a board member may not be charged against any employee's accumulated annual or any other type of leave.~~
- ~~6. One board member must be elected by and from among those individuals who are receiving retirement benefits under this chapter. The board shall call the election and must give prior notice of the election to the individuals eligible to participate in the election pursuant to this subsection. The board member shall serve a term of five years.~~
- ~~7-5. The members of the board are entitled to receive one hundred forty-eight dollars per day compensation and necessary mileage and travel expenses as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09. This is in addition to any other pay or allowance due the chairman or a member, plus an allowance for expenses they may incur through service on the board.~~
- ~~8-6. A board member shall serve a five-year term and until the board member's successor qualifies. Each board member is entitled to one vote, and fiveeight of the nineeleven board members constitute a quorum. FiveSix votes are necessary for resolution or action by the board at any meeting.~~

SECTION 2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM - MAIN SYSTEM DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS. During the 2023-25 biennium, the retirement board may not reduce the actuarial rate of return assumption for the public employees retirement system main system defined benefit plan below six and one-half percent.

SECTION 3. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM - RETIREMENT PLAN TRANSITION EDUCATION. During the 2023-25 biennium, the public employees retirement system shall conduct an informational campaign to educate current and prospective state employees of the transition from the defined benefit retirement plan to the defined contribution retirement plan.

SECTION 4. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD - TRANSITION. Upon the effective date of this Act, the terms of all appointed members of the public employees retirement system board end, and within fourteen days

following the effective date of this Act, all appointing officers shall appoint individuals to serve on the board.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE.

This Act is exempt from the requirements of section 54-35-02.4.

SECTION 6. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act apply retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

CHAPTER 648

HOUSE BILL NO. 1546

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 54-63.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the clean sustainable energy authority's fertilizer development incentive program; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 54-63.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-63.1-04. Clean sustainable energy authority - Duties - Report.

1. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for program guidelines, including eligibility criteria for entities to receive funding under this chapter.
2. The nonvoting technical advisors shall develop a process to review and evaluate projects to determine the technical merits and feasibility of any application, including potential benefits of the development of low-emission technology, the expansion of the development of the state's natural resources or energy production, and the contribution to the economic diversity in the state.
3. The authority may develop a loan program or a loan guarantee program under the clean sustainable energy fund. The Bank of North Dakota shall administer the loan program or loan guarantee program. The interest rate of a loan under this program may not exceed two percent per year. The maximum term of a loan under this section must be approved by the commission based on a recommendation from the authority. The Bank shall review applications for loans or loan guarantees and shall consider the business plan, financial statements, and other information necessary to evaluate the application. To be eligible for a loan or loan guarantee, an entity shall agree to provide the Bank of North Dakota with information as requested. The Bank of North Dakota may develop policies for loan participation with local financial institutions.
4. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for grant awards, loan approvals, or other financial assistance to provide funding to support research, development, and technological advancements for the large scale development and commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that reduce environmental impacts and increase sustainability of energy production and delivery in accordance with this chapter. Any projects, processes, activities, and technologies selected by the commission for funding must have been recommended by the authority, must demonstrate feasibility based on a technical review conducted by the nonvoting technical advisors of the authority, must have other sources of financial support, and must achieve the priorities and purposes of the program. At the request of the authority, the Bank of North Dakota shall provide a recommendation regarding the economic feasibility of a project,

process, activity, or technology under consideration by the authority. The Bank shall review the business plan, financial statements, and other information necessary to provide a recommendation.

5. The authority shall develop a fertilizer development incentive program, including guidelines to provide loan forgiveness. Funding for the fertilizer development incentive program under this subsection is limited to one hundred twenty-five million dollars.

a. To be eligible for the fertilizer development incentive program:

- (1) The fertilizer production facility must be located within the state;
- (2) The owner of the fertilizer production facility must be an entity domiciled in the United States or Canada;
- (3) The owner must borrow money under a program administered by the Bank of North Dakota; and
- (4) The fertilizer production facility must use hydrogen produced by the electrolysis of water.

b. Upon completion of the construction of the fertilizer production facility, the authority shall forgive the loan and shall use fertilizer development incentive funding to repay any outstanding amount borrowed, as certified by the Bank. The authority shall request an appropriation from the strategic investment and improvements fund or other funding sources to provide fertilizer development incentive funding to repay any outstanding amount borrowed.

6. The authority may consult with any other state agency necessary to carry out the purposes under this chapter.

- ~~6-7.~~ Each biennium, the authority shall provide a written report to the legislative management regarding its activities and the program's financial impact on state revenues and the state's economy.

SECTION 2. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. This Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

WATERS

CHAPTER 649

SENATE BILL NO. 2397

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 8 of section 61-16.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to joint water resource boards; to repeal section 5 of Senate Bill No. 2020, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, relating to a transfer of Bank of North Dakota profits to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund; to provide for a transfer; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 8 of section 61-16.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8. All districts within the Red River, James River, Mouse River, Missouri River, and Devils Lake drainage basins shall, by agreement, form and remain a member of a joint water resource board relative to the district's respective drainage basin. All agreements and subsequent amendments must be filed with the department of water resources. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, the board of county commissioners of the member districts in the Red River, James River, Mouse River, Missouri River, and Devils Lake drainage basins ~~shall~~ may approve a levy of tax not to exceed two mills upon the taxable valuation of the real property within each joint board's respective drainage basin.

SECTION 2. REPEAL. Section 5 of Senate Bill No. 2020, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, is repealed.

SECTION 3. BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA LINE OF CREDIT - WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLVING LOAN FUND - TRANSFER. The Bank of North Dakota shall extend a line of credit not to exceed \$100,000,000 to the department of water resources to be transferred to the water infrastructure revolving loan fund as requested by the director of the department of water resources to provide local cost-share loans for projects approved by the state water commission pursuant to section 6-09-49.2. The interest rate associated with the line of credit must be the prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota government entities. The department of water resources shall request a deficiency appropriation from the sixty-ninth legislative assembly to repay the line of credit.

SECTION 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. This Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective immediately upon its filing with the secretary of state.

Approved October 25, 2023

Filed October 25, 2023

PARTIAL VETOED MEASURES

CHAPTER 650

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for workforce development grants and to defray the expenses of the office of legal immigration; to create and enact subsection 6 of section 10-30.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to use of the North Dakota development fund; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

VETO

October 25, 2023
The Honorable Dennis Johnson
Speaker of the House
North Dakota House of Representatives
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

Re: House Bill 1544

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have signed House Bill 1544 and filed it with the Secretary of State. I also have vetoed Section 2 of HB 1544.

The North Dakota Development Fund Inc. (NDDF) was created by the Legislature in 1991 to provide flexible gap financing through loans and equity investments not available from most conventional lenders for the purpose of economic development in North Dakota. Any request of \$150,000 or more must be reviewed and approved by the NDDF Board of Directors.

Section 2 of HB 1544 creates an extra, unnecessary layer of red tape and bureaucracy by requiring the NDDF to obtain a recommendation for approval from the state's Clean Sustainable Energy Authority before providing financing for projects that enhance production of clean sustainable energy in North Dakota. This redundant hurdle will delay investments in North Dakota projects that have the potential to benefit our citizens and our state's economy.

With time to analyze and implement this policy change since it was approved last spring, we've determined that the desired benefits can be achieved, and the costs of this red tape can be eliminated, through mutual collaboration between NDDF and CSEA. We will work with the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which approves CSEA projects, and NDDF to ensure the respective boards have visibility and clarity

of each other's processes and to ensure the most efficient and effective deployment of taxpayer dollars without slowing down projects in red tape.

For the reasons stated above, Section 2 of HB 1544 is vetoed.

Sincerely,

Doug Burgum
Governor

Disapproved by the Governor on October 25, 2023.

Filed October 25, 2023

NOTE: For the full text of House Bill No. 1544, including section 2, see chapter 639.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

CHAPTER 651

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4021

(Senators Paulson, Larson)
(Representative Rohr)

A concurrent resolution affirming support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel.

WHEREAS, Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel and has been designated by the United States as a Foreign Terrorist Organization; and

WHEREAS, the Hamas terrorist organization launched a brutal, highly organized, and unprecedented attack upon Israel and its citizens in the early morning hours of October 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, in its attack, Hamas killed hundreds of innocent civilians and took hundreds of Israeli children, women, elderly, and infirm civilians hostage; and

WHEREAS, in its attack, Hamas fired thousands of rockets against Israeli population centers in an attempt to kill untold numbers of innocent civilians; and

WHEREAS, the level of logistical sophistication demonstrated in this Hamas terrorism operation indicates its receipt of support and funding from foreign state sponsors of terror, namely Iran; and

WHEREAS, the timing of this Hamas terrorism operation to coincide with the observance of the Jewish Sabbath and celebration of the Sukkoth holiday demonstrates the intent to maximize civilian casualties; and

WHEREAS, Hamas continues to brazenly locate elements of its terrorist infrastructure in civilian population centers using civilians as human shields;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly hereby reaffirm its support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly recognize Israel's right to act decisively and unilaterally in self-defense to protect its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly express its support for Israel's right to pursue without interference or condemnation, the elimination of Hamas until Hamas is permanently neutralized and public safety is assured; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly convey its most heartfelt condolences to all Israeli victims as well as their families and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly call upon North Dakota law enforcement to remain vigilant in protecting Israeli Americans, Jewish Americans, and all supporters of Israel from acts of crime and unlawful discrimination that tends to manifest at such times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly encourage all other American states to likewise condemn Hamas as well as any official body that refuses to recognize Israel's right to act decisively in self-defense to protect its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly call upon the United States to provide all assistance as may be required to support Israel in its defense against Hamas and all other terrorist organizations.

Filed October 25, 2023

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