

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2256

Introduced by

Senators Sorvaag, Patten, Sickler, Davison

Representatives Nathe, Swiontek

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-17 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a research technology park fund; to provide a continuing
3 appropriation; to provide a transfer; and to provide a report.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Research technology park fund - North Dakota state university - Continuing**
8 **appropriation - Report.**

9 1. The research technology park fund is a special fund in the state treasury. All moneys
10 deposited in the fund and interest upon moneys in the fund are appropriated on a
11 continuing basis to the industrial commission for distribution to the research
12 technology park at North Dakota state university. The research technology park shall
13 use the funds in accordance with this section.

14 2. The research technology park at North Dakota state university is created to conduct
15 exploratory, transformational, and innovative research and product development
16 activities that advance intelligent autonomous mobile equipment opportunities and
17 benefit the state's economy and environment through:

18 a. Exploratory research and development of technologies and methodologies that
19 facilitate the prudent development and efficient use of the state's autonomous
20 agriculture resources and defense capabilities;

21 b. Access to advanced robotics and artificial intelligence expertise for timely
22 scientific and engineering activities to support the state's interests; and

1 c. Education and outreach related to the state's advanced technology resources,
2 including the advancement of engineering and technical readiness.

3 3. Each biennium, the research technology park shall develop a plan for the use of funds
4 received under this section, including industry matching requirements. The plan must
5 be approved by the industrial commission.

6 4. The research technology park may:

7 a. Select research topics and projects;

8 b. Enter into contracts or agreements with other institutions of higher education to
9 support the selected research topics and projects;

10 c. Enter into contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit
11 organizations to carry out the selected research topics and projects; and

12 d. Accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to finance the
13 selected research topics and projects.

14 5. Annually, the research technology park shall report all research activities, product
15 development, and accomplishments to the industrial commission and the legislative
16 management. Upon request, the research technology park shall report to the
17 appropriations committees of the legislative assembly on the use of funding under this
18 section.

19 **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**
20 **RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY PARK FUND.** The office of management and budget shall transfer
21 the sum of \$15,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the research
22 technology park fund, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.