

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 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~~grant program; to provide a
3 ~~continuing~~an 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~~grant program - North Dakota state university--**

8 **Continuing appropriation - Report.**

- 9 1. The industrial commission shall administer the research technology park ~~fund is a~~
10 special fund in the state treasury. All moneys deposited in the fund and interest upon
11 moneys in the fund are appropriated on a continuing basis to grant program. Subject to
12 legislative appropriations, the industrial commission ~~for distributions~~shall distribute grant
13 funding to the research technology park at North Dakota state university. The research
14 technology park shall use the funds in accordance with this section.
- 15 2. The research technology park at North Dakota state university is created to conduct
16 exploratory, transformational, and innovative research and product development
17 activities that advance intelligent autonomous mobile equipment opportunities and
18 benefit the state's economy and environment through:

- 1 a. Exploratory research and development of technologies and methodologies that
2 facilitate the prudent development and efficient use of the state's autonomous
3 agriculture resources and defense capabilities;
- 4 b. Access to advanced robotics and artificial intelligence expertise for timely
5 scientific and engineering activities to support the state's interests; and
- 6 c. Education and outreach related to the state's advanced technology resources,
7 including the advancement of engineering and technical readiness.
- 8 3. Each biennium, the research technology park shall develop a plan for the use of funds
9 received under this section, including industry matching requirements. The plan must
10 be approved by the industrial commission.
- 11 4. The research technology park may:
 - 12 a. Select research topics and projects;
 - 13 b. Enter ~~into~~ contracts or agreements with other institutions of higher education to
14 support the selected research topics and projects;
 - 15 c. Enter ~~into~~ contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit
16 organizations to carry out the selected research topics and projects; and
 - 17 d. Accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to finance the
18 selected research topics and projects.
- 19 5. Annually, the research technology park shall report all research activities, product
20 development, and accomplishments to the industrial commission and the legislative
21 management. Upon request, the research technology park shall report to the
22 appropriations committees of the legislative assembly on the use of funding under this
23 section.

24 **SECTION 2. ~~TRANSFER~~ APPROPRIATION - INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION - STRATEGIC**
25 **INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND ~~TO~~ RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY PARK**
26 **FUND GRANT PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** ~~The office of management and budget shall~~
27 ~~transfer~~ There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements
28 fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$15,000,000 ~~from the strategic investment and~~
29 ~~improvements fund to the research technology park fund,~~ or so much of the sum as may be
30 necessary, to the industrial commission for the purpose of providing grants under the research
31 technology park grant program pursuant to section 1 of this Act, during the biennium beginning

1 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the \$15,000,000, the industrial commission shall
2 distribute a grant of \$7,500,000 to the research technology park without a matching requirement
3 and may distribute a grant of up to \$7,500,000 to the research technology park only to the
4 extent the research technology park provides one dollar of matching funds from nonstate
5 sources for each dollar of grant funding distributed under the program. The funding provided in
6 this section is considered a one-time funding item.