

April 15, 2025

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

*In place of the amendments (25.0792.03002) adopted by the House, Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2256 is amended by amendment (25.0792.03003) as follows:*

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 ~~fundgrant program~~; to provide a  
3 ~~continuingan~~ appropriation; ~~to provide a transfer~~; and to provide ~~for~~ 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 ~~fundgrant 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 in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$15,000,000 from the strategic  
29       ~~investment and improvements fund to the research technology park fund~~ \$10,000,000, or so  
30       much of the sum as may be necessary, to the industrial commission for the purpose of providing  
31       grants under the research technology park grant program pursuant to section 1 of this Act,

1 during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the \$10,000,000, the  
2 industrial commission shall distribute a grant of \$5,000,000 to the research technology park  
3 without a matching requirement and may distribute a grant of up to \$5,000,000 to the research  
4 technology park only to the extent the research technology park provides one dollar of matching  
5 funds from nonstate sources for each dollar of grant funding distributed under the program. The  
6 appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.