

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments**

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 grant program; to provide an
3 appropriation; 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 grant program - North Dakota state university - Report.**

8 1. The industrial commission shall administer the research technology park grant
9 program. Subject to legislative appropriations, the industrial commission shall
10 distribute grant funding to the research technology park at North Dakota state
11 university. The research technology park shall use the funds in accordance with this
12 section.

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

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

20 b. Access to advanced robotics and artificial intelligence expertise for timely
21 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 contracts or agreements with other institutions of higher education to
9 support the selected research topics and projects;
- 10 c. Enter contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit organizations
11 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. APPROPRIATION - INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION - STRATEGIC**

20 **INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND - RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY PARK GRANT**

21 **PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic
22 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
23 \$10,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the industrial commission for the
24 purpose of providing grants under the research technology park grant program pursuant to
25 section 1 of this Act, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of
26 the \$10,000,000, the industrial commission shall distribute a grant of \$5,000,000 to the research
27 technology park without a matching requirement and may distribute a grant of up to \$5,000,000
28 to the research technology park only to the extent the research technology park provides one
29 dollar of matching funds from nonstate sources for each dollar of grant funding distributed under
30 the program. The appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.