

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2004

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the ethics
2 commission; and to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-66 of the North Dakota
3 Century Code, relating to an ethics commission annual report.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
6 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the ethics commission for the purpose of defraying the
8 expenses of the ethics commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
9 June 30, 2027, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
12 Ethics commission	\$1,041,374	\$308,563	\$1,349,937
13 New and vacant FTE pool	<u>0</u>	<u>246,304</u>	<u>246,304</u>
14 Total general fund	\$1,041,374	\$554,867	\$1,596,241
15 Full-time equivalent positions	3.00	1.00	4.00

16 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**
17 **SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding
18 items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's
19 base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations
20 committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Case management system	\$50,000
Office furniture	2,348
New FTE position one-time costs	<u>5,484</u>
Total	\$57,832

SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST. The ethics commission may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the ethics commission line item in accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 54-66 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Ethics commission annual report.

1. The ethics commission shall prepare an annual report each fiscal year regarding the activities and operations of the commission. The ethics commission shall make the annual report available on its public website within sixty days of the end of each fiscal year.
2. The annual report must include information regarding:
 - a. The number of complaints received by the commission, the status of those complaints, the commission's actions to resolve the complaints, and the timing related to those actions;
 - b. The number of advisory opinions requested and issued, as well as information regarding general conflict disclosures and quasi-judicial disclosures received;
and
 - c. Information regarding education and outreach and the status of the commission's budget.
3. The annual report may include recommendations for new or revised laws, rules, or policies that could improve the confidence that North Dakota citizens have in their government.