



North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for the House Appropriations Committee
March 17, 2025

MAJOR RELATED LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AS OF CROSSOVER

This memorandum provides information on major related legislation affecting the Department of Commerce as of Crossover:

House Bill No. 1038 - This bill appropriates \$11 million of one-time funding from the strategic investment and improvements fund (SIIF) to the Department of Commerce for a state radar data pathfinder program.

House Bill No. 1191 - This bill creates an Office of Entrepreneurship within the Department of Commerce.

House Bill No. 1265 - This bill creates a state information technology research center, an advanced technology review committee, a compute credits grant program, and an advanced technology grant fund. The commissioner of the Department of Commerce is included as a member of the advanced technology review committee.

House Bill No. 1448 - This bill creates an advanced technology review committee, an advanced technology grant program, and an advanced technology grant fund. The commissioner of the Department of Commerce is included as a member of the advanced technology review committee.

House Bill No. 1524 - This bill appropriates \$2.4 million of ongoing funding from the general fund to the Department of Commerce for providing funding to regional planning councils.

House Bill No. 1581 - This bill appropriates \$100,000 of one-time funding from the general fund to the Department of Commerce for tribal tourism grants. The bill provides a tribal government in the state may apply to the department for a grant of up to \$20,000 to match funds committed by the tribal government to promote and enhance tribal nation tourism opportunities. A grant application must include a plan for using funds to promote and enhance tribal national tourism opportunities to be overseen by the department's Division of Tourism.

Senate Bill No. 2097 - This bill creates a rural community endowment committee to award grants from a newly created rural community endowment fund to support, create, or improve local housing, workforce, business recruitment and commerce, infrastructure, or other community needs. The bill includes a \$5 million appropriation and transfer from the general fund to the rural community endowment fund. No appropriation is provided from the rural community endowment fund.

Senate Bill No. 2225 - This bill appropriates \$50 million of one-time funding from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the Department of Commerce for providing housing for opportunity, mobility, and empowerment program grants to political subdivisions to build infrastructure necessary to support affordable, market rate housing. The bill requires matching funds on a \$1-to-\$1 basis.

Senate Bill No. 2228 - This bill appropriates \$1 million of one-time funding from the general fund to the Department of Commerce for providing grants for the preservation of rural grocery stores and increasing the availability of food access in the state. The department is required to prioritize grants to support existing rural grocery stores before awarding grant funding for feasibility costs related to reopening a grocery store in a community without a grocery store. The funding may not be used for food processing or offsite preparation operations of a rural grocery store.

Senate Bill No. 2390 - This bill creates a rural catalyst committee, grant program, and fund to assist communities in the state with quality-of-life improvement projects to strengthen existing community systems, organizations, and individuals in partnership with each regional council. Grant funding may be awarded for projects that will address a critical need in the areas of art and culture, community and economic development, education, health and wellness, or for the purpose of preserving or reopening rural grocery stores in a rural community with a population of 8,500 or fewer individuals. The bill provides for a one-time transfer of \$5 million from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the newly created rural catalyst fund and appropriates the funding from the new fund to the Department of Commerce for the rural catalyst grant program. The maximum grant award under the program is \$500,000.

Senate Bill No. 2396 - This bill appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund to Legislative Management to contract for a performance audit of the Department of Commerce and the North Dakota Development Fund.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4001 - This resolution authorizes the Budget Section to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditures of new or revised block grants passed by Congress. The department's appropriation bill contains directions regarding the use of community services block grant program money for the period ending September 30, 2027.