

25.1007.03001
Title.
Fiscal No. 1

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senate Appropriations -
Government Operations Division
Committee

April 4, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SECOND ENGROSSMENT**

Do Pass
14-2

REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1524

Introduced by

Representatives Monson, Brandenburg, Kempenich, O'Brien, Ostlie, Pyle

Senators Kessel, Meyer, Myrdal, Barta, Lemm

- 1 ~~A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-40.1 of the North Dakota~~
2 ~~Century Code, relating to the funding of regional planning councils; and to provide an~~
3 ~~appropriation~~ for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating regional planning council grants from the department of commerce.

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

- 6 ~~SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 54-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
7 ~~and enacted as follows:~~
8 ~~Biennial work plan - Funding.~~
9 ~~1. A regional council shall prepare a biennial work plan. The work plan must:~~
10 ~~a. Include proposed actions, targeted outcomes, and an itemized budget.~~
11 ~~b. Align with the comprehensive economic development strategy for the region~~
12 ~~developed with input from regional stakeholders, including members of the~~
13 ~~legislative assembly.~~
14 ~~c. Be approved by the regional council's executive board before submission.~~
15 ~~d. Address issues of rural capacity, including business development, zoning and~~
16 ~~land use planning, grant writing and technical assistance, housing development,~~
17 ~~child care support, workforce development, infrastructure planning, tourism and~~
18 ~~placemaking initiatives, disaster recovery planning, and community leadership~~
19 ~~development.~~

- 1 ~~2. A regional council shall submit:~~
- 2 ~~a. Copies of the biennial work plan no later than twelve months before the~~
- 3 ~~beginning of each biennium to the commissioner of the department of commerce,~~
- 4 ~~the governor, and members of the legislative assembly representing the region. A~~
- 5 ~~county providing financial support to regional councils shall maintain or exceed~~
- 6 ~~the funding to ensure the continuation of regional development efforts.~~
- 7 ~~b. Reporting metrics detailing program outcomes, expenditures, and other relevant~~
- 8 ~~performance measures no later than forty five days before the end of the~~
- 9 ~~biennium to the commissioner of the department of commerce, the governor, and~~
- 10 ~~members of the legislative assembly representing the region.~~
- 11 ~~3. Subject to legislative appropriations, the department of commerce shall provide~~
- 12 ~~funding to regional councils to implement the biennial work plan.~~
- 13 ~~4. Funds may:~~
- 14 ~~a. Be used to employ individuals or for contractual services to implement the~~
- 15 ~~biennial work plan under this section.~~
- 16 ~~b. Not be used for debt repayment, loans, grants, lobbying, political activities, or~~
- 17 ~~unrelated or nonessential expenses, including entertainment, luxury purchases,~~
- 18 ~~or projects that do not demonstrate a regional benefit.~~
- 19 ~~5. Fifty percent of appropriated funding must be allocated equally among the eight~~
- 20 ~~regions and fifty percent must be awarded based on a funding formula established~~
- 21 ~~jointly by the department of commerce and the association of regional councils.~~
- 22 ~~6. The funding formula under subsection 5 must be reviewed and amended as necessary~~
- 23 ~~every four years and provide equitable allocation of funding for a regional council~~
- 24 ~~providing services for multiple service areas or counties.~~

25 ~~SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - REGIONAL~~

26 ~~COUNCILS. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,~~

27 ~~not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$2,400,000, or so much of the sum as may be~~

28 ~~necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of funding regional planning~~

29 ~~councils, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.~~

30 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created

31 and enacted as follows:

- 1 Regional planning council grants - Purpose.
- 2 The department may award grants to regional planning councils under chapter 54-40.1 to
- 3 support local and regional implementation of state-authorized programs and initiatives, including
- 4 housing, regional workforce, rural catalyst, local food and grocery, and other state authorized
- 5 programs, subject to legislative appropriations. The department may approve grants to support
- 6 program implementation, resource development, and efforts to attract and leverage public or
- 7 private investment in local and regional areas of the state.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**House Bill No. 1524 - Department of Commerce - Senate Action**

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Regional planning councils		\$2,400,000	(\$2,400,000)	
Total all funds	\$0	\$2,400,000	(\$2,400,000)	\$0
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$0	\$2,400,000	(\$2,400,000)	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Department 601 - Department of Commerce - Detail of Senate Changes

	Removes Funding for Regional Planning Councils ¹	Total Senate Changes
Regional planning councils	(\$2,400,000)	(\$2,400,000)
Total all funds	(\$2,400,000)	(\$2,400,000)
Less estimated income	0	0
General fund	(\$2,400,000)	(\$2,400,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ One-time funding of \$2.4 million from the general fund for regional planning council grants is removed. Provisions included in the House version are removed and replaced with a new section added to North Dakota Century Code Chapter 54-60 to allow the Department of Commerce to award grants to regional planning councils, subject to legislative appropriations.