Public Service Commission

Metrology program - Section 3 of House Bill No. 1008 provided that the Public Service Commission discontinue metrology program services during the 2009-11 biennium and that the Public Service Commission and the Department of Commerce collaborate to assist with the transition of metrology services from a public to a private service by contracting with the private sector for services on a short-term basis, assisting with equipment acquisition, and providing referrals. The Public Service Commission is to report to the Budget Section during the 2009-10 interim on the status of the metrology program.

In addition, if the Public Service Commission transitions metrology services from a public to a private service, Section 4 of House Bill No. 1008 authorizes the Public Service Commission to sell or transfer property related to the metrology program in a manner that is determined by the commission to be of the greatest advantage to the state. The sale or transfer of the metrology equipment is not subject to surplus property provisions of North Dakota Century Code Section 54-44-04.6.

The Public Service Commission discontinued providing metrology services to the public in March 2010. Both state and private weights and measures working standards development and maintenance responsibilities are transitioning to the National Institute of Standards and Technology-accredited metrology laboratory in St. Paul, Minnesota. Despite discontinuing services at the metrology laboratory, the Public Service Commission will continue to provide weights and measures inspection services for the state in metrology and pipeline safety.

In June 2010, the Public Service Commission entered discussions with Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, Inc., regarding the possibility of operating the North Dakota metrology program. Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, Inc., is currently in the process of constructing new laboratory facilities in Bismarck.