

2025 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

HB 1448

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB1448
1/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

4:22 p.m. Chairman Warrey opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Warrey, Vice Chairman Ostlie, Vice Chairman Johnson, Representatives Brown, Christy, Finley-DeVile, Grindberg, Kasper, Koppelman, D. Ruby, Schatz, Schauer, Vollmer. Member Absent: Representative Bahl.

Discussion Topics:

- Appointments of members
- Terms of office
- Compensation
- Research and development (R&D) activities
- Commerce to administer
- One time funding - sunset
- Subject matter experts
- Attract to North Dakota
- Development of StageNet
- AI Taskforce
- Unified standard
- AI tutor, pilot program
- Resources in the State
- Match criteria
- Strategic plan

4:22 p.m. Representative Josh Christy, District 27, Fargo, ND, introduced and testified.

4:32 p.m. Jerry Rostad, Vice Chancellor for Strategy and Strategic Engagement, North Dakota University System, testified and submitted testimony #29937.

4:40 p.m. Andrea Pfennig, Vice President of Government Affairs, Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDA) testified in favor and submitted testimony #30315.

4:42 p.m. Corey Moch, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota Information Technology Department, testified in support.

4:46 p.m. Chairman Warrey closed the hearing.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk



House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

January 20, 2025

Jerry Rostad, Vice Chancellor, NDUS
701.969.9229 | jerry.rostad@ndus.edu

Chair Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee. My name is Jerry Rostad and I serve as a Vice Chancellor of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). On behalf of the North Dakota University System and its 11 institutions, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1448, which relates to the advance technology grant program, grant fund, and appropriation.

I prompted an artificial intelligence (AI) tool to write the opening paragraph of this testimony and it responded with this statement: the proposed bill sets up a framework for collaboration between higher education, government, and the private sector, which is crucial for advancing research and development in cutting-edge technological fields such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing. According to recent studies, states that have invested in similar grant programs have seen significant increases in research capabilities, leading to job creation and economic growth.

In short, the above artificially generated response hits on all of the important points of HB 1448.

In higher education, we are seeing early adopters using AI to support teaching, learning, and business operations. In research, much is yet to be learned and uncovered with AI technologies. This bill will jumpstart those efforts.

In the applied world, AI tools that increase productivity and efficiency are beginning to emerge as well. Examples include nursing faculty who want to learn how AI might advance the nursing profession in North Dakota while business faculty want to learn more about using AI to foster critical thinking in business communications.

The State Board of Higher Education is finishing an 18-month strategic visioning study called Envision 2035. Nine separate study groups ranging from ag, energy, and other North Dakota industries to teachers, students, and infrastructure of the future all concluded that AI and emerging technologies will overwhelmingly impact every aspect of society in the next 10 years.

As this transformative shift continues to permeate, our best way forward is to be unified in our

effort to prepare and respond. Back in the late 90s as the demand for the Internet started to explode, North Dakota, collaborating with the state's telcos, brilliantly created STAGENet, a single enterprise that provided networking for all of state government, higher education, and K-12, while also providing on-ramps for local businesses in communities across the state. HB 1448 parallels that successful model.

The idea of a unified approach to AI was initially discussed with then Governor Doug Burgum about a year ago. Further discussions with business and industry leaders across the state yielded positive support to continue with the unified approach.

According to the AI tool ChatGPT, at least six states already have developed collaborative approaches with their AI strategy. California has an AI Task Force that has developed several initiatives aimed at creating a robust ecosystem for AI research, development, and policy. This includes efforts to address ethics, workforce development, and innovation. Texas has recognized the importance of AI for economic growth, particularly in sectors like energy, healthcare, and finance and the state has taken some unified actions, particularly around education, workforce development, and fostering innovation in AI.

Last summer, the Governor created an AI task force to further flesh out a unified approach to the emergence of AI. Committee members from across the spectrum of government participated. State agencies, higher education, and K-12. Five working groups studied AI governance, a future ready workforce, statewide infrastructure, legislative/policy, and organizational structure. Representative Josh Christy provided significant leadership to this entire effort.

The study produced a cohesive, statewide AI strategy. HB 1448 is one of the first bills that begins to launch the North Dakota AI investment strategy.

In summary, AI tools and developments are advancing at lightning speed. With a biennial legislature here in North Dakota, we cannot afford to wait two years before investing in AI technologies. It's critical for the state to get a foothold now and I strongly urge a do pass on HB 1448.



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
HB 1448
House Industry, Business, & Labor Committee
Chair Jonathan Warrey
January 20, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1448.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, AI is globally predicted to have an impact of \$13 trillion by 2030. Generative AI for the public sector will lead to \$1.75 trillion in productivity gains by 2033. Generative AI could add \$4.4 trillion annually to the global economy.

We support the advancement of automation, innovation, and entrepreneurship through targeted incentives and economic development policies that position North Dakota to be globally competitive.

We recognize the benefits of a diversified economy for the economic health of North Dakota. Based on this, we'd like to express our support for the concept of the Advanced Technology Grant Fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB1448
1/29/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

11:36 a.m. Chairman Warrey opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Warrey, Vice Chairman Ostlie, Vice Chairman Johnson, Representatives Brown, Christy, Finley-DeVille, Grindberg, Kasper, Koppelman, D. Ruby, Schatz, Schauer, Vollmer. Member Absent: Representative Bahl.

Discussion Topics:

- Early-stage innovation
- Technology grant fund
- Monitoring funds
- One-time Appropriation
- Attracting companies
- More strategic
- Match program

11:45 a.m. Representative Johnson moved a Do Pass and rereferred to Appropriations.

11:45 a.m. Representative Grindberg seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	AB
Representative Ben Koppelman	N
Representative Dan Ruby	N
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Austin Schauer	AB
Representative Daniel R. Vollmer	Y

Motion passed 9-3-2

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

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11:48 a.m. Representative Christy will carry the bill.

11:48 a.m. Chairman Warrey closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1448 ([25.0883.01000](#))

Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Warrey, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1448 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1448

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

9:26 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Technology in North Dakota
- Committee on Commerce
- Advanced Technology

9:26 a.m. Representative Warrey introduced the Bill.

9:36 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa appointed a subcommittee including representatives Bosch, Nathe, Stemen, Hanson, Louser.

9:37 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
2/14/2025
Subcommittee

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.
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8:25 a.m. Chairman Bosch called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Bosch, Representatives Hanson, Louser, Nathe, Stemen

Discussion Topics:

- Advanced Technology
- New Review Committee
- Technology Grant Program

8:25 a.m. Chairman Bosch initiated discussion on HB 1448.

8:30 a.m. Chairman Bosch adjourned the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
2/18/2025
Subcommittee

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

8:10 a.m. Chairman Bosch called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Bosch, Representatives Hanson, Louser, Nathe, Stemen

Discussion Topics:

- Proposed Amendments

8:12 a.m. Chairman Bosch- Introduces amendment 25.0833.01001 Testimony # 37949

8:27 a.m. Jerry Rostad- ND University System Vice Chancellor- answers questions for committee.

8:32 a.m. Representative Hanson Moved to adopt amendment LC#25.0833.01001 and further amend by adding the at large positions.

3:32 a.m. Representative Nathe seconded the motion.

Roll call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y

Motion Passed 5-0-0

8:34 a.m. Representative Hason Moved to further amend by adding a member appointed by the minority leader

Motion dies for lack of second.

8:35 Representative Nathe Moved for a Do pass as amended

8:35 a.m. Representative Stemen - Seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	N
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y

Motion Passed 4-1-0

8:36 a.m. Chairman Bosch adjourned the meeting.

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

25.0883.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Bosch
February 17, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1448

Introduced by

Representatives Christy, Bahl, Hagert, Ista, Nathe, O'Brien, Toman, Warrey, Dockter
Senators Boschee, Meyer, Davison

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, and advanced technology
3 grantreview program, ~~and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to~~
4 ~~provide an appropriation.~~

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
7 enacted as follows:

8 **Definitions.**

9 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 10 1. "Chief information officer" means the chief information officer of the information
11 technology department.
- 12 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of commerce.
- 13 3. "Committee" means the advanced technology review committee.
- 14 4. "Department" means the information technology department ~~of commerce.~~
- 15 5. "Executive director" means the executive director of the Dakota digital academy
16 administered by the North Dakota university system.
- 17 6. "Vice chancellor for information technology" means the chief information officer and
18 vice chancellor for information technology of the North Dakota university system.

19 **Advanced technology review committee - Membership - Meetings.**

- 20 1. The advanced technology review committee consists of:

- 1 a. The chief information officer or a designee within the ~~information technology~~
2 department:
- 3 b. The vice chancellor for information technology or a designee within the North
4 Dakota university system:
- 5 c. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
6 technology knowledge, appointed by the governor:
- 7 d. One ~~individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced~~
8 ~~technology knowledge~~ member of the house of representatives, appointed by the
9 majority leader of the house of representatives:
- 10 e. One ~~individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced~~
11 ~~technology knowledge~~ member of the senate, appointed by the majority leader of
12 the senate; ~~and~~
- 13 f. The commissioner, or a designee within the department of commerce, ~~who shall~~
14 ~~serve as a nonvoting member of the committee and provide recommendations to~~
15 ~~the committee regarding grant awards; and~~
- 16 g. The executive director or a designee within the Dakota digital academy
17 administered by the North Dakota university system.
- 18 2. By July first of each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer and vice
19 chancellor for information technology shall compile a list of individuals with significant
20 private sector information and advanced technology knowledge working within the
21 state to be forwarded to the governor ~~and the majority leaders of the house of~~
22 ~~representatives and senate.~~ The governor ~~and the majority leaders of the house of~~
23 ~~representatives and senate~~ must consider the listed individuals for committee
24 membership appointments.
- 25 3. The chief information officer, vice chancellor for information technology, ~~and~~
26 commissioner, ~~and~~ executive director are permanent members of the committee. The
27 term of office of the members of the committee appointed ~~from the private sector~~ by the
28 ~~governor, majority leader of the house of representatives, and majority leader of the~~
29 ~~senate~~ is four years except the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the
30 majority leader of the senate is three years and the initial term of office of the
31 individual appointed by the governor is two years. Each term of office commences on

1 August first. Members serve at the pleasure of the appointing entity and may be
2 reappointed for additional terms. By August first of each year, the chairman of the
3 legislative management shall select one of the appointed members to serve as the
4 chairman of the committee. The chairman of the committee shall select a vice chair. If
5 a committee member ceases to qualify as a member of the appointing entity, that
6 individual's membership on the committee ceases immediately and the appointing
7 entity shall appoint a new member to the committee for the remainder of the term.

8 4. A committee member representing the private sector is entitled to receive
9 ~~compensation in an amount not exceeding one hundred thirty-five dollars per day and~~
10 travel and expense reimbursement as provided by law for state officers for attending
11 meetings of the committee, to be paid by the department within the limits of legislative
12 appropriations.

13 5. The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the committee chairman to
14 review ~~and approve grant~~ applications from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and
15 small businesses that are in the initial phases of advanced technology product
16 research, development, and innovation ~~and are unable to access financial resources~~
17 ~~for prototype product development.~~ After review of applications and the technical
18 merits and feasibility of proposed projects, the committee shall forward
19 recommendations for funding to applicable state agencies, review boards or
20 committees, or other entities administering state-sponsored programs that meets the
21 needs of the applicant and the proposed project.

22 **Advanced technology ~~grant~~review program - Eligibility - ~~Use of~~**
23 **~~funds~~Recommendation guidelines.**

24 1. The department shall administer the advanced technology ~~grant~~review program to
25 provide ~~grants for~~ recommendations for funding from other state-sponsored programs
26 for activities identified in this chapter. The department shall provide administrative
27 support for the program, including the drafting of application forms, receiving
28 applications, reviewing applications for completeness and compliance with committee
29 policy, and forwarding complete applications to the committee in accordance with the
30 guidelines established by the committee.

- 1 2. The committee shall establish guidelines for entities to qualify for an advanced
2 technology grant funding recommendation under this section. ~~Program guidelines~~
3 ~~relating to ownership~~ To receive a recommendation for funding, the applicant must
4 address if the project will result in the establishment of intellectual property, inventions,
5 ~~and/or discoveries must address activities and issues unique~~ related to advanced
6 technologies, or patents, ~~and companies created as a result of an advanced~~
7 technology grant.
- 8 3. In determining whether to ~~approve an application for grant~~ provide a recommendation
9 for funding to state agencies, review boards or committees, or other entities
10 administering state-sponsored programs, the committee shall consider the extent to
11 which the applicant's proposal will support early stage research and development of
12 advance technologies, promote economic development, and advance the workforce in
13 the state. The committee shall give priority to applications promoting the advancement
14 of artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, and similar research
15 and development and product innovation proposals. The committee shall consider and
16 process applications in a timely manner to allow applicants an opportunity to leverage
17 other funds.
- 18 4. ~~Grant recipients shall use funding awarded under this section to~~ To receive a
19 recommendation for funding from other state-sponsored programs, an applicant must
20 explain how the proposed project will enhance advance technology product research,
21 development, and innovation, and to the extent possible, leverage state, federal, and
22 private sources of funding. ~~An entity receiving a grant under this section may not use~~
23 ~~the funds for~~ Recommendations may not be provided if the proposed project includes
24 requests for capital or building investments ~~or other activities not identified in this~~
25 ~~chapter. The funds may not be used for, for administrative costs or, to supplant funding~~
26 for regular operations of the entity. ~~If an entity awarded a grant no longer conducts its~~
27 ~~activities in the state, the entity must repay the awarded grant funding to department.~~
- 28 — **Advanced technology grant fund.**
- 29 — The advanced technology grant fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by
30 the department. Moneys in the fund must be used for providing grants and for the payment of
31 committee and department administrative expenses incurred related to the requirements of this

~~chapter, subject to legislative appropriations. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be credited to the fund, or for other activities not identified in this chapter.~~

Advanced technology ~~grant~~review program - Postaward monitoring.

Upon completion of work performed from funding ~~provided by~~awarded as a result of an advanced technology ~~grant~~recommendation, the department shall conduct an independent review of the results. Evaluation criteria may include how the work performed has:

1. Contributed to development of an advanced technology product or process and enhanced the ability of a company to make investments in the state, or otherwise enticed a company to invest in or move to the state;
2. Promoted economic development of the public or private sectors in the state;
3. Led to a patent or research that is commercially viable; or
4. Positively affected workforce in the state.

~~—SECTION 2. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY GRANT FUND.~~ The office of management and budget shall transfer ~~\$5,000,000~~ from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the advanced technology grant fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

~~—SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.~~ There is appropriated out of any moneys in the advanced technology grant fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of the advanced technology grant program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. This funding is considered a one-time funding item.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
2/21/2025
Subcommittee

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund.

2:52 p.m. Chairman Bosch called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Bosch, Representatives Hanson, Louser, Nathe, Stemen

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:53 p.m. Representative Stemen moved to reconsider to repeal amendment.

2:53 p.m. Representative Nathe seconded the motion.

2:53 p.m. Roll call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y

2:53 p.m. Motion Passed 5-0-0.

2:54 p.m. Chairman Bosch adjourned the meeting.

Krystal Eberle for Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
2/21/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund.

3:52 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives: Mitskog, Sanford.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

3:53 p.m. Representative Bosch moved to amend to remove the funding.

3:53 p.m. Representative Stemen seconded the motion.

3:53 p.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	AB
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	AB

Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

3:53 p.m. Motion passed 20-0-3.

3:54 p.m. Representative Bosch moved a Do Pass as Amended.

3:54 p.m. Representative Monson seconded the motion.

3:54 p.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	AB
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	AB
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

3:54 p.m. Motion passed 20-0-3. Representative Bosch will carry.

3:55 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Krystal Eberle for Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

February 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1448

Introduced by

Representatives Christy, Bahl, Hagert, Ista, Nathe, O'Brien, Toman, Warrey, Dockter

Senators Boschee, Meyer, Davison

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
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4 ~~appropriation.~~

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11 technology department.
12 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of commerce.
13 3. "Committee" means the advanced technology review committee.
14 4. "Department" means the department of commerce.
15 5. "Vice chancellor for information technology" means the chief information officer and
16 vice chancellor for information technology of the North Dakota university system.

17 **Advanced technology review committee - Membership - Meetings.**

- 18 1. The advanced technology review committee consists of:
19 a. The chief information officer or a designee within the information technology
20 department;

- 1 b. The vice chancellor for information technology or a designee within the North
2 Dakota university system;
- 3 c. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
4 technology knowledge, appointed by the governor;
- 5 d. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
6 technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the house of
7 representatives;
- 8 e. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
9 technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the senate; and
- 10 f. The commissioner, or a designee within the department of commerce, who shall
11 serve as a nonvoting member of the committee and provide recommendations to
12 the committee regarding grant awards.
- 13 2. By July first of each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer and vice
14 chancellor for information technology shall compile a list of individuals with significant
15 private sector information and advanced technology knowledge working within the
16 state to be forwarded to the governor and the majority leaders of the house of
17 representatives and senate. The governor and the majority leaders of the house of
18 representatives and senate must consider the listed individuals for committee
19 membership appointments.
- 20 3. The chief information officer, vice chancellor for information technology, and
21 commissioner are permanent members of the committee. The term of office of the
22 members of the committee appointed from the private sector is four years except the
23 initial term of office of the individual appointed by the majority leader of the senate is
24 three years and the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the governor is
25 two years. Each term of office commences on August first. Members serve at the
26 pleasure of the appointing entity and may be reappointed for additional terms. By
27 August first of each year, the chairman of the legislative management shall select one
28 of the appointed members to serve as the chairman of the committee. The chairman of
29 the committee shall select a vice chair. If a committee member ceases to qualify as a
30 member of the appointing entity, that individual's membership on the committee

1 ceases immediately and the appointing entity shall appoint a new member to the
2 committee for the remainder of the term.

3 4. A committee member representing the private sector is entitled to receive
4 compensation in an amount not exceeding one hundred thirty-five dollars per day and
5 travel and expense reimbursement as provided by law for state officers for attending
6 meetings of the committee, to be paid by the department within the limits of legislative
7 appropriations.

8 5. The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the committee chairman to
9 review and approve grant applications from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and
10 small businesses that are in the initial phases of advanced technology product
11 research, development, and innovation and are unable to access financial resources
12 for prototype product development.

13 **Advanced technology grant program - Eligibility - Use of funds.**

14 1. The department shall administer the advanced technology grant program to provide
15 grants for activities identified in this chapter. The department shall provide
16 administrative support for the program, including the drafting of application forms,
17 receiving applications, reviewing applications for completeness and compliance with
18 committee policy, and forwarding complete applications to the committee in
19 accordance with the guidelines established by the committee.

20 2. The committee shall establish guidelines for entities to qualify for an advanced
21 technology grant under this section. Program guidelines relating to ownership of
22 intellectual property, inventions, and discoveries must address activities and issues
23 unique to technologies, patents, and companies created as a result of an advanced
24 technology grant.

25 3. In determining whether to approve an application for grant funding, the committee
26 shall consider the extent to which the applicant's proposal will support early stage
27 research and development of advance technologies, promote economic development,
28 and advance the workforce in the state. The committee shall give priority to
29 applications promoting the advancement of artificial intelligence, machine learning,
30 quantum computing, and similar research and development and product innovation

proposals. The committee shall consider and process applications in a timely manner to allow applicants an opportunity to leverage other funds.

4. Grant recipients shall use funding awarded under this section to enhance advance technology product research, development, and innovation, and to the extent possible, leverage state, federal, and private sources of funding. An entity receiving a grant under this section may not use the funds for capital or building investments or other activities not identified in this chapter. The funds may not be used for administrative costs or to supplant funding for regular operations of the entity. If an entity awarded a grant no longer conducts its activities in the state, the entity must repay the awarded grant funding to department.

Advanced technology grant fund.

The advanced technology grant fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by the department. Moneys in the fund must be used for providing grants and for the payment of committee and department administrative expenses incurred related to the requirements of this chapter, subject to legislative appropriations. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be credited to the fund.

Advanced technology grant program - Postaward monitoring.

Upon completion of work performed from funding provided by an advanced technology grant, the department shall conduct an independent review of the results. Evaluation criteria may include how the work performed has:

1. Contributed to development of an advanced technology product or process and enhanced the ability of a company to make investments in the state, or otherwise enticed a company to invest in or move to the state;
2. Promoted economic development of the public or private sectors in the state;
3. Led to a patent or research that is commercially viable; or
4. Positively affected workforce in the state.

~~SECTION 2. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY GRANT FUND. The office of management and budget shall
transfer \$5,000,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the advanced
technology grant fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.~~

1 ~~SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - ADVANCED~~
2 ~~TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.~~ There is appropriated out of any
3 ~~moneys in the advanced technology grant fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,~~
4 ~~the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of~~
5 ~~commerce for the purpose of the advanced technology grant program, for the biennium~~
6 ~~beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. This funding is considered a one-time~~
7 ~~funding item.~~

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1448**

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0883.01003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (20 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1448 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

HB 1448

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry and Business Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
4/1/2025

A bill relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Barta called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Barta, Vice-Chair Boehm, Senator Klein, Senator Kessel, Senator Enget

Discussion Topics:

- IT and Workforce Interim Committee
- AI related research and projects
- Composition of the committee
- Eligibility and use of funds
- Commercialization development of technology
- Tech transfer offices within our research institutions
- Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC)
- Chat GTP and Deep Seek
- ND economic impact and value-added energy
- Workforce impact and quantifiable value
- Lift funds

9:01 a.m. Representative Jonathan Warrey, District 22, testified in favor and introduced the bill.

9:15 a.m. Dr. Todd Pringle, Executive Director, ND University System, Dakota Digital Academy, testified in favor and submitted testimony #44490.

9:48 a.m. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor of the University System, testified in favor.

9:54 a.m. Andrea Pfennig, Director of Gov. Affairs, Greater ND Chamber, testified in favor.

9:59 a.m. Bryce Wuori, CEO of Pavewise, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Delore Zimmerman, Executive Director, Valley Prosperity Partnership, submitted testimony #44425 in favor.

Dr. Joshua M. Riedy, Founder and CEO, Thread, submitted testimony #44506 in favor.

10:07 a.m. Chairman Barta closed the hearing.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk



Testimony
Senate Industry and Business Committee
House Bill 1448
April 1, 2025

Chairman Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee. The Valley Prosperity Partnership (VPP) is a membership organization led by business executives – joined by economic development, chamber of commerce, and higher education leaders – to advance and advocate for shared strategic economic development opportunities for the Red River Valley region and for North Dakota.

The VPP supports House Bill 1448's establishment of grant program to advance technology product research, development, and innovation, and to the extent possible, leverage state, federal, and private sources of funding.

Entrepreneurs, startup companies, and small businesses are often unable to access financial resources for the initial phases of advanced technology product research, development, and innovation. Raising capital for prototype development, an important part of advancing new or improved technologies, can also be a challenge.

The advanced technology review committee that is created by the bill is comprised of individuals that possess the experience and expertise to evaluate a broad range of technologies in multiple sectors, thereby ensuring the program's effectiveness and impact.

The VPP thanks your committee for its consideration of this important legislation and recommends that funds are appropriated for its implementation. This program can help to diversify and move our economy into the future for the benefit of all citizens of North Dakota.

Valley Prosperity Partnership Steering Committee

Chris Wolf, North Valley Market
President, Alerus Financial*

Mike McLean, Principal
JLG Architects Vice Co-Chair*

Shannon Roers Jones
Roers Construction &
Development
Vice Co-Chair*

Andrew Armacost, President
University of North Dakota

Paige E. Bjornson, Northern
Region President. Dacotah Bank

Steve Burian, President & CEO
Burian & Associates

Dan Conrad, President & CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield North Dakota

David Cook, President
North Dakota State University

Tim Curoe, CEO
RD Offutt Company

Mylo Einarson, President & CEO
Nodak Electric Cooperative

Chad Flanagan, Partner
Eide Bailly

Rod Flanigan, President
North Dakota State College of Science

Todd Forkel, CEO
Altru Health System

Shannon Full, President/CEO
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo
Chamber of Commerce*

Shawn Gaddie, Director of
Infrastructure Management Services,
AE2S

Kevin Hanson, President &
CEO Gate City Bank

Brian Johnson, CEO, Choice Bank, Co-
Chair Valley Prosperity Partnership*

Tiffany Lawrence, CEO & President
Sanford Fargo

Keith Lund, President & CEO
Grand Forks Region EDC*

William C. Marcil, Sr. Chairman Forum
Communications Company

Paul Matthy, CEO
Cass County Electric Cooperative

Pat McAdaragh, President & CEO
Midco

Jeff Melgaard, Vice President
Construction Engineers

Joe Raso, President & CEO
Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC*

Jason Seger, President
Border States Electric

Barry Wilfahrt, President & CEO
The Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand
Forks*

Delore Zimmerman, Executive Director*

* Member Executive Committee

**Testimony for the 69th Legislative Assembly:
SENATE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

April 1, 2025

**Todd Pringle, Director, Dakota Digital Academy
todd.pringle@ndus.edu**

Bill: HB 1448

Chairman Barta and members of the Industry and Business Committee, my name is Todd Pringle, I serve as the Director of the Dakota Digital Academy for the North Dakota University System, in a part-time capacity. In other capacities I am an angel investor as well as a partner in the 701 Fund, a small pre-seed and seed-stage venture capital fund with a focus on regional technology ventures. I am an Advanced Engineering Manager at Deere & Co, but I am not speaking in that capacity here today. I am also a Part-Time Academic at NDSU, which is my alma mater for three degrees and counting. I have spent my entire career in North Dakota as an engineer, manager, founder and investor, advancing technologies in composites, coatings, electronics, software, compute, outdoor products and healthcare.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I am here in strong support of House Bill 1448 to establish an advanced technology review committee, grant program, and fund with one-time funding of \$5,000,000.

Advanced technology can mean a lot of things. And I am encouraged that HB 1448 provides guidance by stating that priority consideration be given to artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing, and other adjacent or similar technologies, provided that their projected impact on North Dakota economic development or workforce is realistic and compelling.

The ChatGPT moment at the end of 2022, when the world suddenly realized we are now able to just talk to our computer and it understands us and can talk back, was a paradigm shift. Human-like interaction, which is to say natural language, is about to become the common human-computer interface modality for many things we use computers for. That is to say that anything with a computer in it will be able to have the ability to talk to us. And just like the internet of things, or IoT, which was hyped up about ten years ago, this will involve silly things like the IoT Bluetooth-enabled toothbrush that you need to download an app for. No doubt somebody will try to instantiate a tiny LLM into a future toothbrush so you can have a conversation about your teeth, and that will likely be silly and short-lived in the market too. But many applications of this new human-computer interface technology, that conversational agents like ChatGPT represent, will be game changing, and we have only scratched the surface on discovering these applications. But the impact of AI will not just be from big tech companies hosting their AIs in huge datacenters and charging us subscription fees. It looks more and more that we will also make intelligence portable.

The Deepseek moment occurred 3 years later, which was only this January. The Chinese showed that if you train an AI with another AI, in a process called distillation, and do some other clever engineering, you can reduce the size of a cutting-edge AI model to something that can fit into a high-end desktop computer. This means that open source, which is to say free and private, AI models will be localizable to a vehicle, to a humanoid robot, soon to your laptop, to your phone, to a precision power tool, even eventually to a toothbrush unfortunately. We don't really know what this means yet, but it will likely be massive. Just like with smart phones, many of the top applications of this technology are likely ones we haven't conceived of yet.

North Dakota has several manufacturing companies. What does centralized or localized AIs mean for how we design a factory and how we interface with factory equipment? North Dakota has huge energy, ag, and healthcare sectors. How can these sectors be improved with either centralized big tech AI or localized customized AI? Our state has arguably the biggest concentration of precision agriculture electronics hardware, both design capacity and competency, in the world, that currently uses bleeding edge AI. These are obvious places to look for AI innovation within existing industries that could benefit from this program and funds. But it's also likely that there's a farmer out there, or a plumber, or a lawyer, or a professor, or a student, that's tinkering with AI, or soon will be, that could use some tailwinds from this proposed funding mechanism to launch a new venture in the state.

Because AI is so accessible to people that like to explore and innovate, I think we can expect a lot of grant applicants, and many from unexpected sectors. We have seedlings growing now across the state, and soon many more, and we need to find them, pick the promising ones through an open and fair process, and feed, water, and champion them.

The other stated technology areas include machine learning and quantum computing. Machine learning is adjacent to many AI inference and algorithmic approaches and its inclusion will make it more likely that practical, more shovel ready niche innovations will be allowed into the program for consideration. The inclusion of quantum computing, because it is so early in technology readiness, allows for the door to be cracked open for truly early-stage efforts provided that the review committee is convinced that the promise is worth the investment in full recognition of the significant de-risking needed of early-stage technologies. Taken as a whole: "AI, ML, Quantum, and similar technologies" is a broad spectrum of technology readiness levels that will serve as a wide net to cast for promising fund applicants.

I am also heartened to see HB 1448 has structured the fund as one-time money. This concept must be proven out before we consider its continuation. The structure of the review committee allows for accountability to House, Senate, and Governor, as well the perspectives of the state's two largest IT organizations, and private sector voices.

I ask you to support this proposal, as funded, with a DO PASS vote. Thank you.

April 1, 2025

Members of the 69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Joshua M. Riedy, and I am the Founder and CEO of Thread, a technology enterprise headquartered in North Dakota specializing in innovations related to electrical utility systems, energy solutions, and defense applications. At inception, Thread secured critical Series A venture capital investment and established strategic collaborations with prominent institutions such as the University of North Dakota Aerospace Foundation. My previous roles included serving as Chief Information Officer for the University of North Dakota and Deputy Chief Information Officer for the North Dakota University System, positions that provided significant insight into the necessity and impact of strategic technological investments.

I express my unequivocal support for House Bill 1448, legislation proposing the establishment of an advanced technology review committee accompanied by a one-time appropriation of \$5 million dedicated to fostering technological innovation in North Dakota.

The bill astutely emphasizes technologies including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and quantum computing—fields that possess substantial potential to deliver transformative economic and workforce outcomes across several key sectors within the state, specifically agriculture, manufacturing, energy, defense, and higher education.

Recent technological breakthroughs, exemplified by advancements such as ChatGPT and Deepseek, underscore the accelerating evolution and increasing accessibility of AI technologies. Given North Dakota's established leadership and expertise in precision agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and energy production, the state is exceptionally positioned to leverage these emerging technological capabilities effectively.

This proposed fund would serve as a catalyst for technological innovation, empowering a diverse range of stakeholders—from established industry leaders to entrepreneurial ventures—in the pursuit of practical applications capable of driving sustained economic growth and generating new employment opportunities statewide.

I respectfully encourage the committee to endorse HB 1448 with a favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joshua M. Riedy

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry and Business Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
4/1/2025

A bill relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

3:28 p.m. Chairman Barta opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Barta, Vice-Chair Boehm, Senator Klein, Senator Kessel, Senator Enget

Discussion Topics:

- Lift fund
- Importance of framework
- Government's ability to keep up
- Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC)
- Technology loan fund
- Number of companies and fiscal amount
- Pilot program and possible grants
- Entrepreneurship Office

3:28 p.m. Chairman Barta led the discussion.

3:41 p.m. Senator Klein moved to adopt Amendment LC# 25.0883.02001.

3:42 p.m. Senator Kessel seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

3:43 p.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass As Amended and Rereferred to Appropriations.

3:44 p.m. Senator Boehm seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y

Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Barta will carry the bill.

3:45 p.m. Senator Barta adjourned the meeting.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

April 1, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VC 4/1/25
1 of 5

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1448

Introduced by

Representatives Christy, Bahl, Hagert, Ista, Nathe, O'Brien, Toman, Warrey, Dockter

Senators Boschee, Meyer, Davison

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant
3 program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an
4 appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
7 enacted as follows:

8 **Definitions.**

9 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

10 1. "Chief information officer" means the chief information officer of the information
11 technology department.

12 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of commerce.

13 3. "Committee" means the advanced technology review committee.

14 4. "Department" means the department of commerce.

15 5. "Vice chancellor for information technology" means the chief information officer and
16 vice chancellor for information technology of the North Dakota university system.

17 **Advanced technology review committee - Membership - Meetings.**

18 1. The advanced technology review committee consists of:

19 a. The chief information officer or a designee within the information technology
20 department;

- 1 b. The vice chancellor for information technology or a designee within the North
2 Dakota university system;
- 3 c. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
4 technology knowledge, appointed by the governor;
- 5 d. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
6 technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the house of
7 representatives;
- 8 e. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced
9 technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the senate; and
- 10 f. The commissioner, or a designee within the department of commerce, who shall
11 serve as a nonvoting member of the committee and provide recommendations to
12 the committee regarding grant awards.
- 13 2. By July first of each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer and vice
14 chancellor for information technology shall compile a list of individuals with significant
15 private sector information and advanced technology knowledge working within the
16 state to be forwarded to the governor and the majority leaders of the house of
17 representatives and senate. The governor and the majority leaders of the house of
18 representatives and senate must consider the listed individuals for committee
19 membership appointments.
- 20 3. The chief information officer, vice chancellor for information technology, and
21 commissioner are permanent members of the committee. The term of office of the
22 members of the committee appointed from the private sector is four years except the
23 initial term of office of the individual appointed by the majority leader of the senate is
24 three years and the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the governor is
25 two years. Each term of office commences on August first. Members serve at the
26 pleasure of the appointing entity and may be reappointed for additional terms. By
27 August first of each year, the chairman of the legislative management shall select one
28 of the appointed members to serve as the chairman of the committee. The chairman of
29 the committee shall select a vice chair. If a committee member ceases to qualify as a
30 member of the appointing entity, that individual's membership on the committee

1 ceases immediately and the appointing entity shall appoint a new member to the
2 committee for the remainder of the term.

3 4. A committee member representing the private sector is entitled to receive
4 compensation in an amount not exceeding one hundred thirty-five dollars per day and
5 travel and expense reimbursement as provided by law for state officers for attending
6 meetings of the committee, to be paid by the department within the limits of legislative
7 appropriations.

8 5. The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the committee chairman to
9 review and approve grant applications from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and
10 small businesses that are in the initial phases of advanced technology product
11 research, development, and innovation and are unable to access financial resources
12 for prototype product development.

13 **Advanced technology grant program - Eligibility - Use of funds.**

14 1. The department shall administer the advanced technology grant program to provide
15 grants for activities identified in this chapter. The department shall provide
16 administrative support for the program, including the drafting of application forms,
17 receiving applications, reviewing applications for completeness and compliance with
18 committee policy, and forwarding complete applications to the committee in
19 accordance with the guidelines established by the committee.

20 2. The committee shall establish guidelines for entities to qualify for an advanced
21 technology grant under this section. Program guidelines relating to ownership of
22 intellectual property, inventions, and discoveries must address activities and issues
23 unique to technologies, patents, and companies created as a result of an advanced
24 technology grant.

25 3. In determining whether to approve an application for grant funding, the committee
26 shall consider the extent to which the applicant's proposal will support early stage
27 research and development of advance technologies, promote economic development,
28 and advance the workforce in the state. The committee shall give priority to
29 applications promoting the advancement of artificial intelligence, machine learning,
30 quantum computing, and similar research and development and product innovation

1 proposals. The committee shall consider and process applications in a timely manner
2 to allow applicants an opportunity to leverage other funds.

3 4. Grant recipients shall use funding awarded under this section to enhance advance
4 technology product research, development, and innovation, and to the extent possible,
5 leverage state, federal, and private sources of funding. An entity receiving a grant
6 under this section may not use the funds for capital or building investments or other
7 activities not identified in this chapter. The funds may not be used for administrative
8 costs or to supplant funding for regular operations of the entity. If an entity awarded a
9 grant no longer conducts its activities in the state, the entity must repay the awarded
10 grant funding to department.

11 **Advanced technology grant fund.**

12 The advanced technology grant fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by
13 the department. Moneys in the fund must be used for providing grants and for the payment of
14 committee and department administrative expenses incurred related to the requirements of this
15 chapter, subject to legislative appropriations. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be
16 credited to the fund.

17 **Advanced technology grant program - Postaward monitoring.**

18 Upon completion of work performed from funding provided by an advanced technology
19 grant, the department shall conduct an independent review of the results. Evaluation criteria
20 may include how the work performed has:

- 21 1. Contributed to development of an advanced technology product or process and
22 enhanced the ability of a company to make investments in the state, or otherwise
23 enticed a company to invest in or move to the state;
- 24 2. Promoted economic development of the public or private sectors in the state;
- 25 3. Led to a patent or research that is commercially viable; or
- 26 4. Positively affected workforce in the state.

27 **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**
28 **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY GRANT FUND.** The office of management and budget shall
29 transfer \$300,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the advanced
30 technology grant fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

1 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - ADVANCED**
2 **TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any
3 moneys in the advanced technology grant fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated,
4 the sum of \$300,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of
5 commerce for the purpose of the advanced technology grant program, for the biennium
6 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. This appropriation is considered a one-time
7 funding item.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1448**

Industry and Business Committee (Sen. Barta, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0883.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1448 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1448

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
4/7/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

10:12 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas, Senator Scott Meyer.

Discussion Topics:

- Addition of Funds.
- LIFT Loan Vs. Grant.

10:13 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag recessed the meeting.

10:26 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag reconvened the meeting.

10:26 a.m. Senator Barta, District 43, introduced the bill in favor and answered committee questions.

10:39 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Steven Hall, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
4/9/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

3:36 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas, Senator Scott Meyer.

Discussion Topics:

- Study in place of bill.
- Grant Matching Program

3:36 p.m. Senator Thomas testified in favor and submitted testimony #44872.

3:38 p.m. Senator Meyer testified in favor.

3:38 p.m. Senator Thomas moved amendment LC# 25.0883.02002 to change the bill into a study.

3:38 p.m. Senator Conley seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed: 5-0-0.

3:38 p.m. Senator Thomas moved a Do Pass as amended.

3:39 p.m. Senator Schaible seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed: 5-0-0.

Senator Thomas will carry the bill.

3:42 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag adjourned the meeting.

Steven Hall, Committee Clerk

25.0883.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Thomas
April 9, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1448

Introduced by

Representatives Christy, Bahl, Hagert, Ista, Nathe, O'Brien, Toman, Warrey, Dockter

Senators Boschee, Meyer, Davison

In place of the amendment (25.0883.02001) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1448 is amended by amendment (25.0883.02002) as follows:

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant
3 program, and advanced technology grant fund, for an Act to provide for a legislative
4 management study relating to the development of advanced technologies.

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

6 ~~SECTION 1. A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and~~
7 ~~enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~Definitions:~~

9 ~~In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:~~

10 ~~1. "Chief information officer" means the chief information officer of the information~~
11 ~~technology department.~~

12 ~~2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of commerce.~~

13 ~~3. "Committee" means the advanced technology review committee.~~

14 ~~4. "Department" means the department of commerce.~~

15 ~~5. "Vice chancellor for information technology" means the chief information officer and~~
16 ~~vice chancellor for information technology of the North Dakota university system.~~

17 ~~Advanced technology review committee - Membership - Meetings.~~

18 ~~1. The advanced technology review committee consists of:~~

19 ~~a. The chief information officer or a designee within the information technology~~
20 ~~department;~~

- ~~b. The vice chancellor for information technology or a designee within the North Dakota university system;~~
- ~~c. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced technology knowledge, appointed by the governor;~~
- ~~d. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives;~~
- ~~e. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the senate; and~~
- ~~f. The commissioner, or a designee within the department of commerce, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the committee and provide recommendations to the committee regarding grant awards.~~
- ~~2. By July first of each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer and vice chancellor for information technology shall compile a list of individuals with significant private sector information and advanced technology knowledge working within the state to be forwarded to the governor and the majority leaders of the house of representatives and senate. The governor and the majority leaders of the house of representatives and senate must consider the listed individuals for committee membership appointments.~~
- ~~3. The chief information officer, vice chancellor for information technology, and commissioner are permanent members of the committee. The term of office of the members of the committee appointed from the private sector is four years except the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the majority leader of the senate is three years and the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the governor is two years. Each term of office commences on August first. Members serve at the pleasure of the appointing entity and may be reappointed for additional terms. By August first of each year, the chairman of the legislative management shall select one of the appointed members to serve as the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the committee shall select a vice chair. If a committee member ceases to qualify as a member of the appointing entity, that individual's membership on the committee~~

~~ceases immediately and the appointing entity shall appoint a new member to the committee for the remainder of the term.~~

~~4. A committee member representing the private sector is entitled to receive compensation in an amount not exceeding one hundred thirty five dollars per day and travel and expense reimbursement as provided by law for state officers for attending meetings of the committee, to be paid by the department within the limits of legislative appropriations.~~

~~5. The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the committee chairman to review and approve grant applications from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and small businesses that are in the initial phases of advanced technology product research, development, and innovation and are unable to access financial resources for prototype product development.~~

~~**Advanced technology grant program - Eligibility - Use of funds.**~~

~~1. The department shall administer the advanced technology grant program to provide grants for activities identified in this chapter. The department shall provide administrative support for the program, including the drafting of application forms, receiving applications, reviewing applications for completeness and compliance with committee policy, and forwarding complete applications to the committee in accordance with the guidelines established by the committee.~~

~~2. The committee shall establish guidelines for entities to qualify for an advanced technology grant under this section. Program guidelines relating to ownership of intellectual property, inventions, and discoveries must address activities and issues unique to technologies, patents, and companies created as a result of an advanced technology grant.~~

~~3. In determining whether to approve an application for grant funding, the committee shall consider the extent to which the applicant's proposal will support early stage research and development of advance technologies, promote economic development, and advance the workforce in the state. The committee shall give priority to applications promoting the advancement of artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, and similar research and development and product innovation.~~

~~proposals. The committee shall consider and process applications in a timely manner to allow applicants an opportunity to leverage other funds.~~

~~4. Grant recipients shall use funding awarded under this section to enhance advance technology product research, development, and innovation, and to the extent possible, leverage state, federal, and private sources of funding. An entity receiving a grant under this section may not use the funds for capital or building investments or other activities not identified in this chapter. The funds may not be used for administrative costs or to supplant funding for regular operations of the entity. If an entity awarded a grant no longer conducts its activities in the state, the entity must repay the awarded grant funding to department.~~

~~**Advanced technology grant fund.**~~

~~The advanced technology grant fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by the department. Moneys in the fund must be used for providing grants and for the payment of committee and department administrative expenses incurred related to the requirements of this chapter, subject to legislative appropriations. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be credited to the fund.~~

~~**Advanced technology grant program - Postaward monitoring.**~~

~~Upon completion of work performed from funding provided by an advanced technology grant, the department shall conduct an independent review of the results. Evaluation criteria may include how the work performed has:~~

~~1. Contributed to development of an advanced technology product or process and enhanced the ability of a company to make investments in the state, or otherwise enticed a company to invest in or move to the state;~~

~~2. Promoted economic development of the public or private sectors in the state;~~

~~3. Led to a patent or research that is commercially viable; or~~

~~4. Positively affected workforce in the state.~~

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

DEVELOPMENT. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the development of advanced technologies. The study must include an analysis of the availability of public and private funds to develop advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing; the desirability and feasibility of

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Legislative Assembly

1 establishing an advanced technology grant program and committee; the capability of an existing
2 state agency to facilitate the development of advanced technology through a grant program; the
3 desirability and feasibility of a private dollar grant matching program to promote advanced
4 technology development; and consideration of private sector interest in advanced technology
5 development. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,
6 together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
7 legislative assembly.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1448
4/10/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

8:52 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

8:53 a.m. Senator Thomas introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44888.

8:56 a.m. Senator Thomas moved amendment LC 25.0883.02002.

8:56 a.m. Senator Sorvaag seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	N
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 15-1-0.

8:57 a.m. Senator Thomas moved a Do Pass as Amended.

8:57 a.m. Senator Sorvaag seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

Senator Thomas will carry the bill.

8:58 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

CO
4/10/25
1045

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1448

Introduced by

Representatives Christy, Bahl, Hagert, Ista, Nathe, O'Brien, Toman, Warrey, Dockter

Senators Boschee, Meyer, Davison

In place of the amendment (25.0883.02001) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1448 is amended by amendment (25.0883.02002) as follows:

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century~~
2 ~~Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant~~
3 ~~program, and advanced technology grant fund.~~ for an Act to provide for a legislative
4 management study relating to the development of advanced technologies.

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

6 ~~— **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and~~
7 ~~enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **Definitions.**~~

9 ~~— In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:~~

10 ~~— 1. "Chief information officer" means the chief information officer of the information~~
11 ~~technology department.~~

12 ~~— 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of commerce.~~

13 ~~— 3. "Committee" means the advanced technology review committee.~~

14 ~~— 4. "Department" means the department of commerce.~~

15 ~~— 5. "Vice chancellor for information technology" means the chief information officer and~~
16 ~~vice chancellor for information technology of the North Dakota university system.~~

17 ~~— **Advanced technology review committee – Membership – Meetings.**~~

18 ~~— 1. The advanced technology review committee consists of:~~

19 ~~— a. The chief information officer or a designee within the information technology~~
20 ~~department.~~

- ~~b. The vice chancellor for information technology or a designee within the North Dakota university system;~~
- ~~c. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced technology knowledge, appointed by the governor;~~
- ~~d. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives;~~
- ~~e. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the senate; and~~
- ~~f. The commissioner, or a designee within the department of commerce, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the committee and provide recommendations to the committee regarding grant awards.~~
- ~~2. By July first of each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer and vice chancellor for information technology shall compile a list of individuals with significant private sector information and advanced technology knowledge working within the state to be forwarded to the governor and the majority leaders of the house of representatives and senate. The governor and the majority leaders of the house of representatives and senate must consider the listed individuals for committee membership appointments.~~
- ~~3. The chief information officer, vice chancellor for information technology, and commissioner are permanent members of the committee. The term of office of the members of the committee appointed from the private sector is four years except the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the majority leader of the senate is three years and the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the governor is two years. Each term of office commences on August first. Members serve at the pleasure of the appointing entity and may be reappointed for additional terms. By August first of each year, the chairman of the legislative management shall select one of the appointed members to serve as the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the committee shall select a vice chair. If a committee member ceases to qualify as a member of the appointing entity, that individual's membership on the committee~~

ceases immediately and the appointing entity shall appoint a new member to the committee for the remainder of the term.

~~4. A committee member representing the private sector is entitled to receive compensation in an amount not exceeding one hundred thirty five dollars per day and travel and expense reimbursement as provided by law for state officers for attending meetings of the committee, to be paid by the department within the limits of legislative appropriations.~~

~~5. The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the committee chairman to review and approve grant applications from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and small businesses that are in the initial phases of advanced technology product research, development, and innovation and are unable to access financial resources for prototype product development.~~

Advanced technology grant program – Eligibility – Use of funds.

~~1. The department shall administer the advanced technology grant program to provide grants for activities identified in this chapter. The department shall provide administrative support for the program, including the drafting of application forms, receiving applications, reviewing applications for completeness and compliance with committee policy, and forwarding complete applications to the committee in accordance with the guidelines established by the committee.~~

~~2. The committee shall establish guidelines for entities to qualify for an advanced technology grant under this section. Program guidelines relating to ownership of intellectual property, inventions, and discoveries must address activities and issues unique to technologies, patents, and companies created as a result of an advanced technology grant.~~

~~3. In determining whether to approve an application for grant funding, the committee shall consider the extent to which the applicant's proposal will support early stage research and development of advance technologies, promote economic development, and advance the workforce in the state. The committee shall give priority to applications promoting the advancement of artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, and similar research and development and product innovation~~

~~proposals. The committee shall consider and process applications in a timely manner to allow applicants an opportunity to leverage other funds.~~

~~4. Grant recipients shall use funding awarded under this section to enhance advance technology product research, development, and innovation, and to the extent possible, leverage state, federal, and private sources of funding. An entity receiving a grant under this section may not use the funds for capital or building investments or other activities not identified in this chapter. The funds may not be used for administrative costs or to supplant funding for regular operations of the entity. If an entity awarded a grant no longer conducts its activities in the state, the entity must repay the awarded grant funding to department.~~

~~**Advanced technology grant fund.**~~

~~The advanced technology grant fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by the department. Moneys in the fund must be used for providing grants and for the payment of committee and department administrative expenses incurred related to the requirements of this chapter, subject to legislative appropriations. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be credited to the fund.~~

~~**Advanced technology grant program – Postaward monitoring.**~~

~~Upon completion of work performed from funding provided by an advanced technology grant, the department shall conduct an independent review of the results. Evaluation criteria may include how the work performed has:~~

- ~~1. Contributed to development of an advanced technology product or process and enhanced the ability of a company to make investments in the state, or otherwise enticed a company to invest in or move to the state;~~
- ~~2. Promoted economic development of the public or private sectors in the state;~~
- ~~3. Led to a patent or research that is commercially viable; or~~
- ~~4. Positively affected workforce in the state.~~

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

DEVELOPMENT. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the development of advanced technologies. The study must include an analysis of the availability of public and private funds to develop advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing; the desirability and feasibility of

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Legislative Assembly

- 1 establishing an advanced technology grant program and committee; the capability of an existing
- 2 state agency to facilitate the development of advanced technology through a grant program; the
- 3 desirability and feasibility of a private dollar grant matching program to promote advanced
- 4 technology development; and consideration of private sector interest in advanced technology
- 5 development. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,
- 6 together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
- 7 legislative assembly.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED AND AMENDED HB 1448**

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0883.02002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1448, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0883.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Thomas
April 9, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1448

Introduced by

Representatives Christy, Bahl, Hagert, Ista, Nathe, O'Brien, Toman, Warrey, Dockter
Senators Boschee, Meyer, Davison

In place of the amendment (25.0883.02001) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1448 is amended by amendment (25.0883.02002) as follows:

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century~~
2 ~~Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant~~
3 ~~program, and advanced technology grant fund.~~ for an Act to provide for a legislative
4 management study relating to the development of advanced technologies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 ~~SECTION 1. A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and~~
7 ~~enacted as follows:~~

~~Definitions.~~

9 ~~In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:~~

10 ~~1. "Chief information officer" means the chief information officer of the information~~
11 ~~technology department.~~

12 ~~2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of commerce.~~

13 ~~3. "Committee" means the advanced technology review committee.~~

14 ~~4. "Department" means the department of commerce.~~

15 ~~5. "Vice chancellor for information technology" means the chief information officer and~~
16 ~~vice chancellor for information technology of the North Dakota university system.~~

~~Advanced technology review committee - Membership - Meetings.~~

18 ~~1. The advanced technology review committee consists of:~~

19 ~~a. The chief information officer or a designee within the information technology~~
20 ~~department;~~

- 1 ~~b. The vice chancellor for information technology or a designee within the North~~
2 ~~Dakota university system;~~
- 3 ~~c. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced~~
4 ~~technology knowledge, appointed by the governor;~~
- 5 ~~d. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced~~
6 ~~technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the house of~~
7 ~~representatives;~~
- 8 ~~e. One individual from the private sector with significant information and advanced~~
9 ~~technology knowledge, appointed by the majority leader of the senate; and~~
- 10 ~~f. The commissioner, or a designee within the department of commerce, who shall~~
11 ~~serve as a nonvoting member of the committee and provide recommendations to~~
12 ~~the committee regarding grant awards;~~
- 13 ~~2. By July first of each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer and vice~~
14 ~~chancellor for information technology shall compile a list of individuals with significant~~
15 ~~private sector information and advanced technology knowledge working within the~~
16 ~~state to be forwarded to the governor and the majority leaders of the house of~~
17 ~~representatives and senate. The governor and the majority leaders of the house of~~
18 ~~representatives and senate must consider the listed individuals for committee~~
19 ~~membership appointments;~~
- 20 ~~3. The chief information officer, vice chancellor for information technology, and~~
21 ~~commissioner are permanent members of the committee. The term of office of the~~
22 ~~members of the committee appointed from the private sector is four years except the~~
23 ~~initial term of office of the individual appointed by the majority leader of the senate is~~
24 ~~three years and the initial term of office of the individual appointed by the governor is~~
25 ~~two years. Each term of office commences on August first. Members serve at the~~
26 ~~pleasure of the appointing entity and may be reappointed for additional terms. By~~
27 ~~August first of each year, the chairman of the legislative management shall select one~~
28 ~~of the appointed members to serve as the chairman of the committee. The chairman of~~
29 ~~the committee shall select a vice chair. If a committee member ceases to qualify as a~~
30 ~~member of the appointing entity, that individual's membership on the committee~~

1 ~~ceases immediately and the appointing entity shall appoint a new member to the~~
2 ~~committee for the remainder of the term.~~

3 ~~4. A committee member representing the private sector is entitled to receive~~
4 ~~compensation in an amount not exceeding one hundred thirty five dollars per day and~~
5 ~~travel and expense reimbursement as provided by law for state officers for attending~~
6 ~~meetings of the committee, to be paid by the department within the limits of legislative~~
7 ~~appropriations.~~

8 ~~5. The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the committee chairman to~~
9 ~~review and approve grant applications from entrepreneurs, startup companies, and~~
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15 ~~grants for activities identified in this chapter. The department shall provide~~
16 ~~administrative support for the program, including the drafting of application forms,~~
17 ~~receiving applications, reviewing applications for completeness and compliance with~~
18 ~~committee policy, and forwarding complete applications to the committee in~~
19 ~~accordance with the guidelines established by the committee.~~

20 ~~2. The committee shall establish guidelines for entities to qualify for an advanced~~
21 ~~technology grant under this section. Program guidelines relating to ownership of~~
22 ~~intellectual property, inventions, and discoveries must address activities and issues~~
23 ~~unique to technologies, patents, and companies created as a result of an advanced~~
24 ~~technology grant.~~

25 ~~3. In determining whether to approve an application for grant funding, the committee~~
26 ~~shall consider the extent to which the applicant's proposal will support early stage~~
27 ~~research and development of advance technologies, promote economic development,~~
28 ~~and advance the workforce in the state. The committee shall give priority to~~
29 ~~applications promoting the advancement of artificial intelligence, machine learning,~~
30 ~~quantum computing, and similar research and development and product innovation.~~

1 ~~proposals. The committee shall consider and process applications in a timely manner~~
2 ~~to allow applicants an opportunity to leverage other funds.~~

3 ~~4. Grant recipients shall use funding awarded under this section to enhance advance~~
4 ~~technology product research, development, and innovation, and to the extent possible,~~
5 ~~leverage state, federal, and private sources of funding. An entity receiving a grant~~
6 ~~under this section may not use the funds for capital or building investments or other~~
7 ~~activities not identified in this chapter. The funds may not be used for administrative~~
8 ~~costs or to supplant funding for regular operations of the entity. If an entity awarded a~~
9 ~~grant no longer conducts its activities in the state, the entity must repay the awarded~~
10 ~~grant funding to department.~~

11 ~~Advanced technology grant fund.~~

12 ~~The advanced technology grant fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by~~
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14 ~~committee and department administrative expenses incurred related to the requirements of this~~
15 ~~chapter, subject to legislative appropriations. Interest earned on moneys in the fund must be~~
16 ~~credited to the fund.~~

17 ~~Advanced technology grant program - Postaward monitoring.~~

18 ~~Upon completion of work performed from funding provided by an advanced technology~~
19 ~~grant, the department shall conduct an independent review of the results. Evaluation criteria~~
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22 ~~enhanced the ability of a company to make investments in the state, or otherwise~~
23 ~~enticed a company to invest in or move to the state;~~

24 ~~2. Promoted economic development of the public or private sectors in the state;~~

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26 ~~4. Positively affected workforce in the state.~~

27 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

28 **DEVELOPMENT.** During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider
29 studying the development of advanced technologies. The study must include an analysis of the
30 availability of public and private funds to develop advanced technologies, including artificial
31 intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing; the desirability and feasibility of

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Legislative Assembly

- 1 establishing an advanced technology grant program and committee; the capability of an existing
- 2 state agency to facilitate the development of advanced technology through a grant program; the
- 3 desirability and feasibility of a private dollar grant matching program to promote advanced
- 4 technology development; and consideration of private sector interest in advanced technology
- 5 development. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,
- 6 together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
- 7 legislative assembly.

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1448

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB1448
4/23/2025
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

4:02 p.m. Chairman Warrey opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Warrey, Representatives Nathe, Ostlie, Senators Barta, Kessel, Sorvaag

Discussion Topics:

- Business concepts
- Committee make up
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) investment

4:02 p.m. Chairman Warrey initiated the discussion.

4:04 p.m. Senator Barta discussed the Senate position.

4:14 p.m. Chairman Warrey will do some research on a minimum funding number.

4:17 p.m. Chairman Warrey closed the meeting.

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1448
4/24/2025
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

11:01 a.m. Chairman Warrey called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Warrey, Representatives Nathe, Senators Barta, Kessel, Sorvaag. Member Absent: Representative Ostlie

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:01 a.m. Chairman Warrey proposed removing the funding and establishing the advanced technology review committee.

11:05 a.m. Representative Nathe moved to amend by removing the \$300,000 and to have the Chairperson of Legislative Management to appoint a chairman and to establish the committee within the Department of Commerce. (Further motion on 4/25/25 to clarify the motion to reject the Senate amendments LC #25.0883.02002, LC #25.0883.02001 and reverting to LC #25.0883.02000).

11:05 a.m. Senator Barta seconded the motion.

11:06 a.m. Motion passed 5-0-1

11:06 a.m. Representative Nathe moved a Do Pass as Amended.

11:06 a.m. Senator Barta seconded the motion.

11:06 a.m. Motion passed 5-0-1.

11:06 a.m. Chairman Warrey will carry the bill for the House.

11:06 a.m. Senator Barta will carry the bill for the Senate.

11:07 a.m. Chairman Warrey adjourned the meeting.

Wyatt Armstrong for Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

Bill reconsidered on 04/26/25

HB 1448 042425 1127 AM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

HB 1448

Date Submitted: April 24, 2025, 11:27 a.m.

Recommendation: In Place Of

Amendment LC #: 25.0883.01003

Engrossed LC #: N/A

Description:

Motioned By: Nathe, Mike

Seconded By: Barta, Jeff

House Carrier: Warrey, Jonathan

Senate Carrier: Barta, Jeff

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 5 - 0 - 1

Rep. Warrey, Jonathan	Yea
Rep. Nathe, Mike	Yea
Rep. Ostlie, Mitch	Absent
Sen. Barta, Jeff	Yea
Sen. Kessel, Greg	Yea
Sen. Sorvaag, Ronald	Yea

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB1448
4/25/2025
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the advanced technology review committee, advanced technology grant program, and advanced technology grant fund; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an appropriation.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Warrey called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Warrey, Representatives Ostlie, Senators Barta, Kessel, Sorvaag

Member Absent: Representative Nathe

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

10:00 a.m. Chairman Warrey requested a motion to reconsider the bill.

10:00 a.m. Senator Kessel moved to reconsider the bill.

10:00 a.m. Senator Barta seconded the motion.

Voice vote.

Motion passed.

10:00 a.m. Senator Barta moved to reject the Senate amendments LC #25.0883.02002, and LC #25.0883.02001. Reverting to LC #25.0883.02000.

10:00 a.m. Representative Ostlie seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0-1

10:01 a.m. Chairman Warrey will carry the bill for the House.

10:01 a.m. Senator Barta will carry the bill for the Senate.

10:01 a.m. Chairman Warrey adjourned the meeting.

Wyatt Armstrong for Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

HB 1448 042525 1008 AM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

HB 1448

Date Submitted: April 25, 2025, 10:08 a.m.

Recommendation: Reject

Amendment LC #: 25.0883.02002

Engrossed LC #: N/A

Description:

Motioned By: Barta, Jeff

Seconded By: Ostlie, Mitch

House Carrier: Warrey, Jonathan

Senate Carrier: Barta, Jeff

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 5 - 0 - 1

Rep. Warrey, Jonathan	Yea
Rep. Nathe, Mike	Absent
Rep. Ostlie, Mitch	Yea
Sen. Barta, Jeff	Yea
Sen. Kessel, Greg	Yea
Sen. Sorvaag, Ronald	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1448**

Your conference committee (Sens. Barta, Kessel, Sorvaag and Reps. Warrey, Nathe, Ostlie) recommends the **SENATE REJECT** its amendments ([25.0883.02002](#)) to Engrossed HB 1448.

Engrossed HB 1448 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.