

HOUSE BILL NO. 1008

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the public service
2 commission; to provide for a legislative management study; and to authorize ~~a transfer~~transfers.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
5 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
6 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
7 other income, to the public service commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
8 public service commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019,
9 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
12 Salaries and wages	\$9,643,095	\$0	\$9,643,095
13 Operating expenses	1,877,562	0	1,877,562
14 Capital assets	26,400	0	26,400
15 Grants	20,000	0	20,000
16 Abandoned mined lands contractual	8,000,000	0	8,000,000
17 Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0	900,000
18 Railroad safety program	523,345	0	523,345
19 Specialized legal services	150,000	0	150,000
20 Total all funds	\$21,140,402	\$0	\$21,140,402
21 Less estimated income	13,964,575	0	13,964,575
22 Total general fund	\$7,175,827	\$0	\$7,175,827
23 Full-time equivalent positions	46.00	0.00	46.00
24 <u>Salaries and wages</u>	<u>\$9,643,095</u>	<u>(\$662,102)</u>	<u>\$8,980,993</u>

1	Operating expenses	1,877,562	(47,736)	1,829,826
2	Capital assets	26,400	(26,400)	0
3	Grants	20,000	0	20,000
4	Abandoned mined lands contractual	8,000,000	(2,000,000)	6,000,000
5	Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0	900,000
6	Railroad safety program	523,345	5,743	529,088
7	Specialized legal services	150,000	580,000	730,000
8	Total all funds	\$21,140,402	(\$2,150,495)	\$18,989,907
9	Less estimated income	13,964,575	(1,375,972)	12,588,603
10	Total general fund	\$7,175,827	(\$774,523)	\$6,401,304
11	Full-time equivalent positions	46.00	(2.00)	44.00

SECTION 2. HEALTH INSURANCE INCREASE. The appropriation in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$125,934, of which \$76,487 is from the general fund, for increases in employee health insurance premiums from \$1,130 to \$1,249 per month.

SECTION 3. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-fourth legislative assembly for the 2015-17 biennium and the 2017-19 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

19	One-Time Funding Description	2015-17	2017-19
20	Specialized legal services	\$575,624	\$0
21	Total all funds	\$575,624	\$0
22	Total special funds	336,000	0
23	Total general fund	\$239,624	\$0
24	Specialized legal services	\$575,624	\$636,000
25	Total all funds	\$575,624	\$636,000
26	Total special funds	336,000	636,000
27	Total general fund	\$239,624	\$0

28 The 2017-19 one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the
 29 2019-21 biennium. The public service commission shall report to the appropriations committees
 30 of the sixty-sixth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium
 31 beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.

1 **SECTION 4. TRANSFER AND REPAYMENT - BEGINNING FARMER REVOLVING LOAN**

2 **FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer from the beginning farmer revolving loan fund to
3 the public service commission the sum of \$900,000, or so much of the sum as may be
4 necessary, included in the estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act to pay for costs
5 associated with a rail rate complaint case. Transfers must be made during the biennium
6 beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, upon order of the commission. If any
7 amounts are spent pursuant to this section, the public service commission shall reimburse the
8 beginning farmer revolving loan fund using amounts available from damages or proceeds
9 received, net of legal fees, from a successful outcome of a rail complaint case.

10 **SECTION 5. ESTIMATED INCOME - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

11 **FUND.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$300,000, of one-time
12 funding from the strategic investment and improvements fund for specialized legal service costs
13 during the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.

14 **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - IMPACT OF WIND ENERGY.**

- 15 1. During the 2017-18 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the
16 impact of wind energy development on the environment, addressing and researching
17 issues common to North Dakota landowners, and identifying potential issues for
18 legislation. The study may include consideration of:
- 19 a. The impact of wind energy development on the environment, including aesthetic
20 impacts;
 - 21 b. The impact of wind energy development on property values;
 - 22 c. The impact of wind energy development on agriculture;
 - 23 d. The advantages and disadvantages of implementing legislation for pooling or
24 unitization of wind resources similar to that of the oil and gas industry in chapter
25 38-08; and
 - 26 e. The necessary processes for the decommissioning of a wind energy project.
- 27 2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together
28 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-sixth
29 legislative assembly.