

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 create and enact two new sections to chapter 49-01, subsection 4 of section
 3 49-22-22, subsection 4 of section 49-22.1-21, and a new section to chapter 64-02 of the North
 4 Dakota Century Code, relating to a public service commission program fund, a public utility
 5 assessment, siting process administrative fees, and fees for registered service companies and
 6 to license and test a registered service person; to amend and reenact sections 49-01-05,
 7 57-43.2-19, 64-02-10, and 64-02-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the salary of
 8 the commissioners, the transfer and distribution of funds in the highway tax distribution fund,
 9 fees to test or calibrate weighing and measuring devices, and the deposit of fees; to provide a
 10 report; ~~and~~ to provide for a transfer; and to declare an emergency.

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

12 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
 13 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
 14 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
 15 other income, to the public service commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
 16 public service commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023,
 17 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
20 Salaries and wages	\$9,495,560	\$199,086	\$9,694,646
21 Operating expenses	1,763,826	2,744	1,766,570
22 <u>Salaries and wages</u>	<u>\$9,495,560</u>	<u>\$495,928</u>	<u>\$9,991,488</u>
23 <u>Operating expenses</u>	<u>1,763,826</u>	<u>37,744</u>	<u>1,801,570</u>
24 Capital assets	25,000	120,000	145,000

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly

1	Grants	20,000	0	20,000
2	Abandoned mined lands contractual	6,000,000	0	6,000,000
3	services			
4	Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0	900,000
5	Railroad safety program	589,018	24,608	613,626
6	<u>Railroad safety program</u>	<u>589,018</u>	<u>25,706</u>	<u>614,724</u>
7	Specialized legal services	<u>94,000</u>	<u>326,000</u>	<u>420,000</u>
8	Total all funds	\$18,887,404	\$672,438	\$19,559,842
9	Less estimated income	12,172,476	1,206,850	13,379,326
10	Total general fund	\$6,714,928	(\$534,412)	\$6,180,516
11	<u>Total all funds</u>	<u>\$18,887,404</u>	<u>\$1,005,378</u>	<u>\$19,892,782</u>
12	<u>Less estimated income</u>	<u>12,172,476</u>	<u>1,289,219</u>	<u>13,461,695</u>
13	<u>Total general fund</u>	<u>\$6,714,928</u>	<u>(\$283,841)</u>	<u>\$6,431,087</u>
14	Full-time equivalent positions	43.00	0.00	43.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-sixth legislative assembly for the 2019-21 biennium and the 2021-23 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

19	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2019-21</u>	<u>2021-23</u>
20	Specialized legal services	\$336,000	\$0
21	Grain insolvency litigation	100,000	0
22	Real-time kinematic equipment	<u>0</u>	<u>120,000</u>
23	Total all funds	\$436,000	\$120,000
24	Less estimated income	<u>436,000</u>	<u>114,600</u>
25	Total general fund	\$0	\$5,400

The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The public service commission shall report to the appropriation committees of the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

SECTION 3. TRANSFER AND REPAYMENT - BEGINNING FARMER REVOLVING LOAN FUND. The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer from the beginning farmer revolving loan fund to

1 the public service commission the sum of \$900,000, or so much of the sum as may be
2 necessary, included in the estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act to pay for costs
3 associated with a rail rate complaint case. Transfers must be made during the biennium
4 beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, upon order of the commission. If any
5 amounts are spent pursuant to this section, the public service commission shall reimburse the
6 beginning farmer revolving loan fund using amounts available from damages or proceeds
7 received, net of legal fees, from a successful outcome of a rail complaint case.

8 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 49-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
9 and enacted as follows:

10 **Public service commission program fund - Transfer to general fund.**

- 11 1. A special fund is established in the state treasury and designated as the public service
12 commission program fund. Moneys deposited in the fund may be spent by the public
13 service commission pursuant to legislative appropriation to defray the expenses of the
14 commission.
- 15 2. Revenue from the following sources must be deposited in the public service
16 commission program fund:
- 17 a. Any fees collected to test or calibrate weighing and measuring devices and
18 licensing of registered service companies and persons;
- 19 b. All money received from the public utility assessment;
- 20 c. All money received from the siting administrative fee; and
- 21 d. All interest and investment income earned on the balance of the fund.
- 22 3. The office of management and budget shall transfer any balance in the public service
23 commission program fund that exceeds ~~twice the amount of the current biennium's-~~
24 ~~appropriation~~one million one hundred thousand dollars to the general fund at the end
25 of each biennium.

26 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 49-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
27 and enacted as follows:

28 **Public utility fee.**

- 29 1. The commission shall assess each electric and gas utility a fee in proportion to the
30 utility's respective gross operating revenues from the retail sale of gas and electric
31 service within the state during the preceding calendar year. The total ~~public utility fee of~~

1 the combined assessments may not exceed ~~two hundred twenty-five~~ ~~three hundred~~
2 thousand dollars per biennium. The fee must be paid quarterly and deposited in the
3 public service commission program fund.

4 2. In January of each year, each electric and gas public utility shall file with the public
5 service commission the amount of gross receipts derived from the company's
6 customers within the state during the preceding calendar year. The commission shall
7 review the gross receipts annually and adjust the fee for each utility in proportion to
8 the gross operating revenues.

9 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-01-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **49-01-05. Salary of commissioners.**

12 The annual salary of a commissioner is one hundred ~~ten~~ ~~fifteen~~ thousand ~~eight~~ ~~three~~
13 hundred ~~twenty-nine~~ ~~four~~ dollars through June 30, ~~2020~~ ~~2022~~, and one hundred
14 ~~thirteen~~ ~~seventeen~~ thousand ~~six hundred~~ ~~thirty-four~~ ~~ten~~ dollars thereafter. All fees received or
15 charged by any commissioner for any act or service rendered in any official capacity must be
16 accounted for and paid over by the commissioner monthly to the state treasurer and must be
17 credited to the general fund of the state.

18 **SECTION 7.** Subsection 4 of section 49-22-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
19 and enacted as follows:

20 4. Every applicant under this chapter shall pay to the commission an administrative fee
21 equal to one hundred dollars for each one million dollars of original investment, not to
22 exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. The administrative fee must be deposited in the
23 public service commission fund.

24 **SECTION 8.** Subsection 4 of section 49-22.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is
25 created and enacted as follows:

26 4. Every applicant under this chapter shall pay to the commission an administrative fee
27 equal to one hundred dollars for each one million dollars of original investment, not to
28 exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. The administrative fee must be deposited into the
29 public service commission program fund.

30 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-43.2-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **57-43.2-19. Transfer, deposit, and distribution of funds. (Effective through June 30,**
2 **~~2024~~2025)**

3 All taxes, license fees, penalties, and interest collected under this chapter must be
4 transferred to the state treasurer who shall deposit moneys in a highway tax distribution fund,
5 except all special fuels excise taxes collected on sales of diesel fuel to a railroad under section
6 57-43.2-03 of up to two hundred ~~ninety-four~~ninety-six~~ninety-seven~~ thousand ~~five~~eight~~three~~
7 hundred ~~nine~~thirteen~~sixty-two~~ dollars per year must be transferred to the state treasurer who
8 shall deposit the moneys in the rail safety fund. The highway tax distribution fund must be
9 distributed in the manner as prescribed by section 54-27-19.

10 **Transfer, deposit, and distribution of funds. (Effective after June 30, ~~2024~~2025)** All
11 taxes, license fees, penalties, and interest collected under this chapter must be transferred to
12 the state treasurer who shall deposit moneys in the highway tax distribution fund. The highway
13 tax distribution fund must be distributed in the manner as prescribed by section 54-27-19.

14 **SECTION 10.** A new section to chapter 64-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
15 and enacted as follows:

16 **Fees for registered service companies and to license and test a registered service**
17 **person.**

- 18 1. Annually, each registered service company shall pay a registration fee of one hundred
19 dollars and a licensing fee of fifty dollars for each registered service person.
20 2. The commission may assess a registered service person testing fee not to exceed
21 twenty-five dollars per test.

22 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 64-02-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **64-02-10. Fees to test or calibrate weighing and measuring devices.**

25 The commission shall collect the following fees to:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 26 1. Test overhead monorail, track, dormant, deck, and hanging scale of | |
| 27 one thousand pounds [453 kilograms] or less capacity | 53.00 <u>95.00</u> |
| 28 2. Test movable platform scale | 11.00 <u>20.00</u> |
| 29 3. Test counter or computing scale | 11.00 <u>20.00</u> |
| 30 4. Test hanging scale of fifty pound [22.68 kilogram] capacity or less | 11.00 <u>20.00</u> |
| 31 5. Test a retail motor fuel device | 11.00 <u>20.00</u> |

1	6.	Test or calibrate weighing and measuring standards, per metrologist,	
2		per quarter hour or fraction thereof	17.00
3	7.	Test mobile delivery gasoline and fuel oil meter	24.00 <u>45.00</u>
4	8.	Test gasoline, LPG, or fuel oil meter on common carrier pipelines, or any	
5		other meter used in loading railway cars, transports, or other conveyances	53.00 <u>95.00</u>
6	9.	Test propane, ag chemical, or liquid fertilizer meter	39.00 <u>70.00</u>
7	10.	Test or calibrate weighing and measuring devices other than the above	
8		and those set by rule, per inspector per quarter hour or fraction thereof	41.00 <u>20.00</u>
9	11.	Witnessing any of the above tests	Fifty percent of the applicable fee

10 When a rejected weighing or measuring device has been reconditioned or replaced by new
11 equipment, it must be retested and certified before being put into use except as otherwise
12 provided by rule. The fee for retest and certification is the same as for the first test and
13 certification.

14 When a test of a weighing or measuring device is required in addition to the regularly
15 scheduled test, the commission shall charge a fee equal to the cost of operating the motor
16 vehicle used in conducting the test. The mileage charges, as determined by the commission,
17 must be in addition to the regular test fee and calculated to cover the costs of the additional
18 travel. If a test has been requested and the person requesting it fails to appear or to have the
19 weighing or measuring device ready for testing at the arranged time, there is a charge of ten
20 dollars a quarter hour for the time between the arranged time and the time at which the test can
21 begin.

22 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 64-02-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **64-02-12. Fees collected - Paid into ~~state treasury~~public service commission program**
25 **fund.**

26 All fees and charges collected by the commission under ~~section 64-02-10~~this chapter must
27 be paid into the ~~general fund of the state treasury~~public service commission program fund.

28 **SECTION 13. EMERGENCY.** Sections 4, 7, 8, and 12 of this Act are declared to be an
29 emergency measure.