

**Legislative Council
Budget No. 160
Senate Bill Nos. 2001 and 2200, House Bill No. 1013**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2013-15 executive budget (bills as introduced)	34.00	\$12,150,457	\$69,999	\$12,220,456
2013-15 legislative appropriations	37.00	12,862,475	69,999	12,932,474
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	3.00	\$712,018	\$0	\$712,018
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2011-13 appropriations	3.00	\$1,301,317	(\$1)	\$1,301,316

ONGOING AND ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

	Ongoing General Fund Appropriation	One-Time General Fund Appropriation	Total General Fund Appropriation
2011-13 legislative appropriations	\$10,826,351	\$734,807	\$11,561,158
2013-15 legislative appropriations	12,487,475	375,000	12,862,475
2013-15 legislative increase (decrease) to 2011-13 appropriations	\$1,661,124	(\$359,807)	\$1,301,317
Percentage increase (decrease) to 2011-13 appropriations	15.3%	(49.0%)	11.3%
2013-15 legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	\$462,018	\$250,000	\$712,018
Percentage increase (decrease) to executive budget	3.8%	200.0%	5.9%

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Legislative Council in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in House Bill No. 1015. Consistent with the guidelines, a portion of salaries and wages funding from the general fund (\$143,087) for permanent employees' compensation and benefits is reallocated to an accrued leave payments line item for paying accrued annual leave and sick leave for eligible employees.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Adjusted funding for state employee salaries and benefits consistent with the legislative compensation package guidelines included in House Bill No. 1015.		(\$43,039)		(\$43,039)

Decreased funding for legislator lodging reimbursements for interim meetings during the 2013-14 interim due to decreasing the anticipated inflationary increase relating to lodging rates. The funding included will provide for a daily lodging reimbursement rate of \$77 per night plus tax.		(\$44,943)		(\$44,943)
Added funding for three new fiscal analyst positions and related operating expenses, including information technology and equipment.	3.00	525,000		525,000
Added funding for costs relating to legislators attending meetings of the Energy Producing States Coalition.		25,000		25,000
Added one-time funding to contract with consultants and other personnel to complete a study of education funding and accountability (House Bill No. 1013).		100,000		100,000
Added one-time funding for costs associated with a study of higher education funding methods (Senate Bill No. 2200).		150,000		150,000
Total	<u>3.00</u>	<u>\$712,018</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$712,018</u>

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly added 3 FTE fiscal analyst positions for a total of 37 FTE positions during the 2013-15 biennium, 3 FTE positions more than the 2011-13 biennium.

One-Time Funding

In Section 3 of Senate Bill No. 2001, the Legislative Assembly identified a total of \$125,000 from the general fund for one-time funding items. Of this amount, \$50,000 is for office improvements, \$25,000 is for office equipment replacement, and \$50,000 is for information technology projects. The Legislative Assembly also provided in House Bill No. 1013, a \$100,000 general fund appropriation to contract with consultants and other personnel to complete a study of education funding and accountability and in Senate Bill No. 2200, a \$150,000 general fund appropriation for costs associated with a study of higher education funding methods. This funding, summarized as follows, is not to be considered part of the agency's 2015-17 biennium base budget, and the Legislative Council is to report to the Appropriations Committees during the 2015 legislative session on the use of this funding.

Office improvements	\$50,000
Office equipment replacement	25,000
Information technology projects	50,000
Education funding and accountability study	100,000
Higher education funding methods study	150,000
Total	\$375,000

Other Sections in Bill

Transfers - Section 4 allows transfers of funds between line items of appropriations for the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council as requested by the Chairman of the Legislative Management.

Continuation of appropriation authority - Section 5 allows transfers of funds between line items of the 2011-13 biennium appropriations for the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council as requested by the Chairman of the Legislative Management. In addition, the section also provides unspent funds appropriated for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council for the 2011-13 biennium be continued and that unexpended appropriations enacted prior to the 2011-13 biennium may be canceled as directed by the Chairman of the Legislative Management.

Compensation - Sections 6 and 7 increase legislators' daily pay during legislative sessions, monthly compensation, and additional monthly compensation by 3 percent for each year of the 2013-15 biennium. Sections 8 and 9 of the bill increase legislator's interim meeting pay by 3 percent for each year of the 2013-15 biennium.

Legislative promotional expenses - Section 10 creates a new section to the North Dakota Century Code relating to legislative promotional expenses. The section provides the Legislative Management must establish a policy regarding promotional expenses made on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. Any expenditure made pursuant to this section must be reported to the Legislative Management and may not be construed as a gift for purposes of Article X, Section 18, of the Constitution of North Dakota.

Limited bill analysis pilot project - Section 11 provides legislative intent that the Legislative Management consider implementing a limited bill analysis pilot project for the 2015 legislative session.

Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1059 - Adjusts the definition of temporary employees and their health insurance coverage premium payments to comply with the shared responsibility provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act.

House Bill No. 1129 - Relates to the authentication of official electronic legislative records if the records are the only published records.

House Bill No. 1368 - Increases the maximum meal reimbursement rates for state employees and legislators for in-state travel from a total of \$30 per day to \$35 per day.

Senate Bill No. 2243 - Provides the Legislative Management consider studying behavioral health needs and authorizes the Legislative Council to contract for consulting and coordination of study services to assist the Legislative Management in conducting the behavioral health study.