

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1504
(Representatives Berg, Keiser, Svedjan)
(Senators Cook, Stenehjem, Wardner)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

AN ACT to provide for a legislative council study of the state's business climate; and to provide for an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS CLIMATE - REPORT. During the 2003-04 interim, the legislative council shall study the state's business climate, including the creation of an index of key objective measurement that address the state's competitiveness with other states; the consideration of methods of creating business partnerships with North Dakota Indian tribes in order to increase primary sector business growth in the state, with a focus on business opportunities that may be available to North Dakota Indian tribes through the United States small business administration 8(a) business development program; and active participation in the activities of the primary sector business congress. In conducting the study, the legislative council shall create a primary sector business congress. The congress must include representatives of primary sector business and may include representatives of local economic developers and the executive branch. The congress shall assist in the business climate study; evaluate the impact of existing state economic development programs on primary sector businesses; identify methods to increase primary sector business job growth in the state; and prioritize for the legislative council the state's primary sector business economic development programs and initiatives. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the fifty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$25,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for the biennium beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2005, for the purpose of conducting the study as provided in section 1 of this Act.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1504.

House Vote: Yeas 92 Nays 0 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State