

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a North Dakota business climate initiative study by the  
2 legislative council and department of commerce.

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

4 **SECTION 1. NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS CLIMATE INITIATIVE - LEGISLATIVE**  
5 **COUNCIL STUDY.** During the 2005-06 and 2007-08 interims, the legislative council shall study  
6 the state's business climate through a business climate initiative. The business climate  
7 initiative must include receipt of agency reports regarding economic development legislation  
8 introduced by the legislative council during previous legislative sessions, active participation in  
9 business climate focus groups across the state, and active participation in biennial business  
10 congresses. The focus groups shall discuss ways to enhance the state's business climate to  
11 stimulate job growth and enhance economic prosperity by encouraging the growth of existing  
12 businesses in the state, creating new businesses in the state, and encouraging expansion or  
13 relocation of businesses to this state. Each business congress must receive a report on the  
14 activities of the focus group discussions, shall identify methods to enhance the state's business  
15 climate to stimulate job growth and enhance economic prosperity, and shall evaluate the impact  
16 of existing state economic development programs. The department of commerce shall  
17 organize the business climate focus groups and the business congresses. Before each  
18 business congress, which must be held before June 1, 2006, and before June 1, 2008, the  
19 department shall hold a minimum of six focus group discussions, two of which specifically focus  
20 on local economic developers and four of which specifically focus on private business needs.  
21 The department shall consult with the legislative council in compiling focus group and business  
22 congress participant invitation lists and drafting and distributing invitations, establishing focus  
23 group and business congress dates and locations, and preparing agendas for focus groups and  
24 business congresses. The legislative council shall contract with a third party to provide

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- 1 professional services to plan, facilitate, report on, and coordinate followup for the focus groups
- 2 and business congresses. The legislative council shall report its findings and
- 3 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
- 4 the sixtieth and sixty-first legislative assemblies.