

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE BILL NO. 2018
(Appropriations Committee)
(At the request of the Governor)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of commerce; to provide exemptions; to provide appropriations to various agencies; to authorize the office of management and budget to borrow funds from the Bank of North Dakota; to provide for an unemployment compensation shared work demonstration project; to provide for a transfer from the beginning farmer revolving loan fund; to provide a statement of legislative intent; to create and enact two new sections to chapter 54-34.3, a new section to chapter 54-44.5, and three new sections to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a division of economic development and finance international business and trade office, a division of economic development and finance local economic developer certification program, creation of an office of renewable energy and energy efficiency within the division of community services, department of commerce target industry requirements, a department of commerce state employee image training program, and a department of commerce business hotline program; to amend and reenact sections 2 and 3 of House Bill No. 1009, as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, subsection 2 of section 4-14.1-07, sections 4-14.1-08, 4-14.1-09, 4-14.1-10, and 54-34.3-03, subsection 1 of section 54-34.3-06, and sections 57-02-27.3 and 57-51.1-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the agriculture commissioner's appropriation, administration of ethanol production incentives, the structure of the division of economic development and finance, the division of economic development and finance North Dakota American Indian business development office, taxable valuation of wind turbine electric generators, and the permanent oil tax trust fund; to provide for state agency studies and reports to the legislative council; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. BASE LEVEL FUNDING INFORMATION. The amounts identified in this section represent the base level funding component appropriated to the department of commerce in section 3 of this Act as follows:

Salaries and wages	\$6,713,340
Operating expenses	8,237,247
Grants	46,585,026
North Dakota development fund	1,550,000
Agricultural products utilization	2,983,179
Discretionary grants	1,447,127
Lewis and Clark bicentennial	<u>3,851,911</u>
Total all funds - Base level	\$71,367,830
Less estimated income - Base level	<u>52,353,107</u>
Total general fund - Base level	\$19,014,723

SECTION 2. FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS OR ENHANCEMENTS INFORMATION. The amounts identified in this section represent the funding adjustments or enhancements to the base funding level for the department of commerce which are included in the appropriation in section 3 of this Act as follows:

Salaries and wages	\$986,030
Operating expenses	1,294,721
Capital assets	25,000
Grants	3,517,844

North Dakota development fund	(1,550,000)
Agricultural products utilization	(192,179)
Discretionary funds	3,000
Economic development initiatives	644,568
Economic development grants	150,000
Lewis and Clark bicentennial	80,733
Total all funds - Adjustments/enhancements	\$4,959,717
Less estimated income - Adjustments/enhancements	4,836,887
Total general fund - Adjustments/enhancements	\$122,830

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the department of commerce for the purpose of defraying the expenses of its various divisions for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007, as follows:

Salaries and wages	\$7,699,370
Operating expenses	9,531,968
Capital assets	25,000
Grants	50,102,870
Agricultural products utilization	2,791,000
Discretionary funds	1,450,127
Economic development initiatives	644,568
Economic development grants	150,000
Lewis and Clark bicentennial	3,932,644
Total all funds	\$76,327,547
Less estimated income	57,189,994
Total general fund appropriation	\$19,137,553

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of management and budget for the purpose of establishing and maintaining procurement information on the internet and for performing the procurement assistance study, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The office of management and budget is authorized one full-time equivalent position.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of performing the technology commercialization study provided for in Senate Bill No. 2032, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$360,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the upper great plains transportation institute for the purpose of performing the transportation study provided for in Senate Bill No. 2032, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - JOB SERVICE. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$20,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and from other funds to be collected by job service, the sum of \$20,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to job service North Dakota for the purpose of defraying any implementation costs associated with implementing a shared work demonstration project, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 8. JOB SERVICE NORTH DAKOTA - SHARED WORK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. During the 2005-06 interim, job service North Dakota shall develop, implement, and

operate a shared work demonstration project to demonstrate the feasibility of providing for a statewide shared work unemployment compensation program. Job service North Dakota shall seek the advice of the unemployment insurance advisory council in developing, implementing, and operating this demonstration project. The demonstration project must:

1. Operate for one selected employer, which must have at least seventy-five employees and must be an experienced-rated employer.
2. Operate in accordance with a specific written agreement between job service North Dakota, the selected employer, and the labor representative of the collective bargaining agreement if a collective bargaining agreement exists.
3. Allow shared work compensation to be paid to employees who, being otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, have their working hours reduced by the selected employer by at least ten percent but no more than sixty percent.
4. Operate in such a manner that the selected employer's unemployment insurance experience ratings are not compromised.
5. Operate in such a manner that the unemployment trust fund is not so negatively impacted as to result in a greater tax burden to the remainder of the employers contributing to the trust fund.
6. Operate from January 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, after which the demonstration project must cease.
7. Provide that employees receiving benefits calculated solely under the shared work demonstration project are not subject to the sixty percent weekly earnings disregard provided for under section 52-06-06.

SECTION 9. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - SHARED WORK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. During the 2005-06 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the implementation by job service North Dakota of a shared work demonstration project. If the legislative council conducts this study, the legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixtieth legislative assembly.

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the agricultural fuel tax fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$75,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and from federal funds, the sum of \$150,000, or so much as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the agricultural products utilization commission for the purpose of an animal identification initiatives grant program to meet national standards for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The state's administrator of the animal identification program as provided for in section 36-09-25 shall establish the grant criteria to be used by the agricultural products utilization commission for allocating the grants to auction markets, weighing associations, and feedlots.

SECTION 11. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - BORROWING AUTHORITY - APPROPRIATION - REPAYMENT FROM PERMANENT OIL TAX TRUST FUND. As requested by the centers of excellence commission, the office of management and budget shall borrow the sum of \$15,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank of North Dakota, which is appropriated for the purpose of providing funding to centers of excellence as directed by the centers of excellence commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. By June 30, 2007, the office of management and budget shall repay any loan obtained pursuant to provisions of this section, including accrued interest, from funds available in the permanent oil tax trust fund. Repayment may be made from transfers into the permanent oil tax trust fund after a total of \$77,000,000 of oil tax revenues has been received by the general fund during

the 2005-07 biennium, including the \$71,000,000 deposited in the general fund in accordance with section 57-51.1-07.2.

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - PERMANENT OIL TAX TRUST FUND - LOAN REPAYMENT. Notwithstanding section 57-51.1-07.2, there is appropriated out of any moneys in the permanent oil tax trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$16,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of management and budget for the purpose of repaying the Bank of North Dakota for loans and accrued interest relating to funds borrowed for centers of excellence, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The appropriation made under this section is limited to 50 percent or \$16,000,000, whichever is less, of the revenues deposited in the permanent oil tax trust fund that exceed \$6,000,000 for the 2005-07 biennium.

SECTION 13. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - CONTINGENT BORROWING AUTHORITY - APPROPRIATION. As requested by the centers of excellence commission and subject to emergency commission and budget section approval, the office of management and budget shall borrow the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank of North Dakota, which is appropriated for the purpose of providing funding to centers of excellence as directed by the centers of excellence commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The office of management and budget shall request funding from the sixtieth legislative assembly to repay any loan obtained pursuant to provisions of this section, including accrued interest, from funds available in the permanent oil tax trust fund. The borrowing authority and appropriation provided for in this section is available only if all other funding provided by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly for centers of excellence has been obligated.

SECTION 14. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FUTURE FUNDING FOR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE. It is the intent of the fifty-ninth legislative assembly that the centers of excellence program be a continuing program for economic development in North Dakota and that the legislative assembly intends to make available an additional \$30,000,000 for centers of excellence in future bienniums using similar funding mechanisms which will provide a total of \$50,000,000 for centers of excellence.

SECTION 15. AGRICULTURE FUEL TAX REFUNDS. The less estimated income line item in section 3 of this Act includes \$575,000 from refunds of tax for fuel used for agricultural purposes, to be used by the agricultural products utilization commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 16. TRANSFER. During the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007, the director of the office of management and budget and the state treasurer shall transfer \$425,000 from the beginning farmer revolving loan fund to the agricultural fuel tax fund.

SECTION 17. EXEMPTION. The funds appropriated in the agricultural products utilization line item in section 3 of this Act are not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unexpended funds from this line item for grants are available for grants during the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.

SECTION 18. EXEMPTION. The funds appropriated in the discretionary funds line item in section 3 of this Act are not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unexpended funds from this line item may be spent during the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.

SECTION 19. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES. The economic development initiatives line item in section 3 of this Act includes \$394,568 from the general fund and \$250,000 of special funds raised by the department of commerce for the following economic development initiatives recommended by the primary sector business congress for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007:

Target industry identification and report
Image information program

Business hotline program
Local economic developer certification and training program
Dakota manufacturing initiative
Intellectual property rights study and report
Economic development incentives study and report
Business climate initiative study

SECTION 20. LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR DEVELOPMENT GRANT. The department of commerce shall provide a \$100,000 grant from funds appropriated in the economic development grants line item in section 3 of this Act to an economic development corporation in the Red River valley research corridor by June 30, 2006, to increase opportunities in the state for expanded research and business development in the life sciences sector for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 21. RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL GRANT - BUDGET SECTION REPORT. The department of commerce shall provide a grant of up to \$50,000 from the funds appropriated in the economic development grants line item in section 3 of this Act to the rural development council for the purpose of matching federal funds for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The department of commerce shall report to the budget section after July 1, 2006, on the use of this funding.

SECTION 22. WHEAT SCAB RESEARCH GRANT - AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UTILIZATION COMMISSION. Upon receipt, review, and approval of an application for grant funding that meets the provisions of House Bill No. 1519, as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, from a private company within the state doing research on sensor technology for the purpose of obtaining more detailed environmental data relating to wheat scab disease and to improve the management of the disease, the agricultural products utilization commission shall provide a grant to this company of \$100,000 from its funding available for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 23. LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL - ADDITIONAL SALES TAX ON LODGING. The Lewis and Clark bicentennial line item in section 3 of this Act includes \$3,041,511, or such lesser amount as is generated from the separate and additional tax imposed under section 57-39.2-03.8 or 57-39.7-01 of the North Dakota Century Code.

SECTION 24. STATE TAX COMMISSIONER - AUDIT OF ETHANOL PRODUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM. The state tax commissioner shall conduct an audit of the ethanol production incentive program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 25. RED RIVER VALLEY RESEARCH CORRIDOR MARKETING - BUDGET SECTION REPORT. An amount up to \$400,000 from the general fund in section 3 of this Act must be made available through a grant to the Red River valley research corridor for the purpose of matching federal funds. The funds are available for the period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007. The department of commerce shall report to the budget section after July 1, 2006, on the use of this funding.

SECTION 26. CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY - BUDGET SECTION REPORT. An amount up to \$50,000 from the general fund in section 3 of this Act must be made available through a grant to the North Dakota center for technology program. The department of commerce shall report to the budget section after July 1, 2006, on the use of this funding.

SECTION 27. PARTNERS IN MARKETING - BUDGET SECTION REPORT. An amount up to \$250,000 from the general fund in section 3 of this Act must be made available for grants in the partners in marketing grant program. The department of commerce shall report to the budget section after July 1, 2006, on the use of this funding.

SECTION 28. NORTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENT FUND - INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE OFFICE. Notwithstanding chapter 10-30.5, during the 2005-07 biennium the North

Dakota development fund shall provide the division of economic development and finance with grant funds of up to \$500,000 for the purpose of funding the international business and trade office. The North Dakota development fund shall distribute funds to the division of economic development and finance upon proof of the division securing one dollar of matching funds from other public or private sources for every two dollars from the development fund.

SECTION 29. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 4-14.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. The ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall determine the amount of production incentives to which a plant is entitled under this section by multiplying the number of gallons of ethanol produced by the plant and marketed to a distributor or wholesaler by forty cents. The ~~commission~~ office shall forward the production incentives to the plant upon receipt of an affidavit by the plant indicating that the ethanol is to be sold at retail to consumers. The affidavit must be accompanied by an affidavit from a wholesaler or retailer indicating that the ethanol is to be sold at retail to consumers. Within ninety days after the conclusion of the plant's fiscal year, the plant shall submit to the budget section of the legislative council a statement by a certified public accountant indicating whether the plant produced a profit from its operation in the preceding fiscal year, after deducting the payments received under this section.

SECTION 30. AMENDMENT. Section 4-14.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-14.1-08. Ethanol production incentive - Calculation - Payment. The ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall provide quarterly to each eligible facility a production incentive based on the average North Dakota price per bushel of corn received by farmers during the quarter, as established by the North Dakota agricultural statistics service and the average North Dakota rack price per gallon [3.79 liters] of ethanol during the quarter, as compiled by the American coalition for ethanol. The amount payable as a production incentive must be calculated by including the sum arrived at under subsection 1 with the sum arrived at under subsection 2.

1. a. If the average quarterly price per bushel of corn is above one dollar and eighty cents, for each one cent by which the quarterly price is above one dollar and eighty cents, the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall add to the amount payable under this section one-tenth of one cent times the number of gallons of ethanol produced by the eligible facility during the quarter.
 - b. If the average quarterly price per bushel of corn is one dollar and eighty cents, the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall add zero to any amount payable under this section.
 - c. If the average quarterly price per bushel of corn is below one dollar and eighty cents, for each one cent by which the quarterly price is below one dollar and eighty cents, the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall subtract from the amount payable under this section one-tenth of one cent times the number of gallons of ethanol produced by the eligible facility during the quarter.
2. a. If the average quarterly rack price per gallon of ethanol is above one dollar and thirty cents, for each one cent by which the average quarterly rack price is above one dollar and thirty cents, the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall subtract from the amount payable under this section, two-tenths of one cent times the number of gallons of ethanol produced by the eligible facility during the quarter.

- b. If the average quarterly rack price per gallon of ethanol is one dollar and thirty cents, the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall subtract zero from any amount payable under this section.
- c. If the average quarterly rack price per gallon of ethanol is below one dollar and thirty cents, for each one cent by which the average quarterly rack price is below one dollar and thirty cents, the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency shall add to the amount payable under this section two-tenths of one cent times the number of gallons of ethanol produced by the eligible facility during the quarter.

SECTION 31. AMENDMENT. Section 4-14.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-14.1-09. Subsidy limitations. The ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency may not distribute more than one million six hundred thousand dollars annually in payments under section 4-14.1-08. No eligible facility may receive state ethanol payments that exceed a cumulative total of ten million dollars. Change in ownership of an eligible facility does not affect the ten million dollar cumulative total allowed to be paid to that eligible facility under this section.

SECTION 32. AMENDMENT. Section 4-14.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4-14.1-10. Ethanol production incentive fund - Continuing appropriation. There is created in the state treasury a special fund known as the ethanol production incentive fund. The fund consists of transfers made in accordance with section 39-04-39 and deposits made in accordance with section 57-43.1-03.1. All moneys in the fund are appropriated on a continuing basis to the ~~agricultural products utilization commission~~ office of renewable energy and energy efficiency for use in paying ethanol production incentives under sections 4-14.1-07, 4-14.1-08, and 4-14.1-09.

SECTION 33. AMENDMENT. Section 2 of House Bill No. 1009, as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, is amended and reenacted as follows:

SECTION 2. FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS OR ENHANCEMENTS INFORMATION. The amounts identified in this section represent the funding adjustments or enhancements to the base funding level for the agriculture commissioner which are included in the appropriation in section 3 of this Act as follows:

Salaries and wages		\$1,243,403
Operating expenses		896,050
Capital assets		(3,000)
Grants		1,674,225
Board of animal health	4,309,224	1,159,224
Contingent appropriation - Wildlife services		130,000
State meat inspection		(763,461)
Pride of Dakota		(180,948)
Wildlife services		(800,000)
Safe send		(308,870)
Noxious weeds		(1,596,836)
Agriculture in the classroom		(45,000)
Total all funds - Adjustments/enhancements	\$1,554,847	\$1,404,847
Less estimated income - Adjustments/enhancements	4,294,916	1,144,916
Total general fund - Adjustments/enhancements		\$259,931

SECTION 34. AMENDMENT. Section 3 of House Bill No. 1009, as approved by the fifty-ninth legislative assembly, is amended and reenacted as follows:

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of defraying the expenses of that agency, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007, as follows:

Salaries and wages		\$5,738,433
Operating expenses		4,255,875
Capital assets		5,000
Grants		1,774,225
Board of animal health	2,178,688	<u>2,028,688</u>
Contingent appropriation - Wildlife services		130,000
Crop harmonization board		25,000
Total all funds	\$14,107,224	<u>\$13,957,221</u>
Less estimated income	9,613,765	<u>9,463,765</u>
Total general fund appropriation		\$4,493,456

SECTION 35. AMENDMENT. Section 54-34.3-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-34.3-03. Division structure. The division consists of:

1. A finance office;
2. An international business and trade office; ~~and~~
3. ~~Other offices that~~ Offices established by statute; and
4. Offices the director organizes and establishes as necessary to carry out most efficiently and effectively the mission and duties of the division.

SECTION 36. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 54-34.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. A North Dakota American Indian business development office to assist North Dakota American Indian tribal and individual economic development representatives, businesses, and ~~North Dakota American Indian~~ entrepreneurs with access to state and federal programs designed to assist ~~them~~ these business interests. The office shall provide services to assist in the formation of partnerships between American Indian and non-American Indian businesses.

SECTION 37. A new section to chapter 54-34.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

International business and trade office - Advisory board.

1. The director shall administer the international business and trade office. The purpose of the office is to assist North Dakota businesses expand exports to international markets by:
 - a. Advocating for exporters;
 - b. Offering export educational opportunities to North Dakota businesses;
 - c. Researching and raising awareness of export opportunities, issues, and challenges impacting North Dakota businesses;
 - d. Assisting North Dakota businesses in identifying, developing, and cultivating international markets for products; and

- e. Organizing and carrying out trade missions that seek to facilitate contact and communication between North Dakota businesses and international markets.
2. The director may contract with a third party for the provision of services for the international business and trade office. If the director contracts with a third party under this subsection, all data and data bases collected and created by the third party in performing services for the office are the property of the department and the third party.
3. The division may seek and accept any gift, grant, or donation of funds, property, services, or other assistance from public or private sources for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the office of international business and trade.
4. The director may establish an international business and trade office advisory board with which the director may consult in administering the international business and trade office. Each member of the advisory board created under this subsection is entitled to receive per diem compensation at a rate established by the director not exceeding sixty-two dollars and fifty cents, and reimbursement of expenses as provided by law for state officers, while attending meetings or performing duties directly related to board membership, except that per diem compensation under this section may not be paid to any member who receives compensation or salary as a regular state employee or official.

SECTION 38. A new section to chapter 54-34.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Local economic developer certification program. The director shall implement a certification program through which the division provides training to assist local economic developers in meeting the needs of businesses. The director may contract with a third-party service provider to assist in implementing the program. The director may set and charge a fee for the receipt of services under this program.

SECTION 39. A new section to chapter 54-44.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Office of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The office of renewable energy and energy efficiency is established within the division of community services. The office shall assist in the development of renewable energy within this state to provide secure, diverse, sustainable, and competitive renewable energy supplies and promote the conservation of energy and the wise use of energy resources in both the public and private sectors. The office shall communicate and disseminate information concerning state and federal energy conservation and renewable energy incentives, including tax credits, financing and grants to business entities seeking to invest in wind-generated power and transmission, ethanol production and distribution; and the development of biodiesel, biomass, solar, hydropower, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources. The office shall also manage and distribute all production incentive payments as authorized by chapter 4-14.1.

SECTION 40. A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Target industries - Report to legislative council. The commissioner shall identify target industries on which the commissioner shall focus economic development efforts. The commissioner shall designate one of these target industries as a special focus target industry. In identifying and updating target industries, the commissioner shall solicit the advice of the foundation and the North Dakota university system. The commissioner may contract for the services of a third party in identifying target industries. The commissioner shall report biennially to the legislative council. This report must include information regarding the process used and factors considered in identifying and updating the target industries, the specific tactics the department has used to specifically address the needs of the target industries, the unique tactics and the specific incentives the department has used to support the growth of the special focus target industry, and any recommended legislative changes necessary to better focus economic development services on these industries.

SECTION 41. A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

North Dakota image information program. The commissioner shall implement a program for use by state agencies to assist state agencies and state agencies' employees to present to the public a positive image of the state. The commissioner may expand the program to include use of the program by the private sector.

SECTION 42. A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Business hotline. The commissioner shall create and implement a business hotline program. The program must provide for a telephone number through which the department shall provide, during regular business hours, in-state and out-of-state callers with information regarding how to do business in the state, the services and assistance available to businesses, the advantages of doing business in the state, and information on state and other resources that provide assistance to businesses in the state. In addition to directly providing information, the department may use the business hotline as a clearinghouse through which to refer callers to other federal, state, local, or private sector economic developers. The program must include an in-state and out-of-state marketing campaign in support of the program. The commissioner shall follow up on business leads gained through the program and shall gather data on the results of calls, including business expansion, location, and startup.

SECTION 43. AMENDMENT. Section 57-02-27.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-02-27.3. Taxable valuation of centrally assessed wind turbine electric generators. A centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more, on which construction is completed before January 1, 2011, must be valued at three percent of assessed value to determine taxable valuation of the property. However, a centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of one hundred kilowatts or more, for which a purchased power agreement has been executed after April 30, 2005, and before January 1, 2006, and construction is begun after April 30, 2005, and before July 1, 2006, must be valued at one and one-half percent of assessed value to determine taxable valuation of the property and this reduced valuation applies for that property for the duration of the initial purchased power agreement for that generation unit.

SECTION 44. AMENDMENT. Section 57-51.1-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-51.1-07.2. Permanent oil tax trust fund - Deposits - Interest - Adjustment of distribution formula. ~~At the end of any biennium beginning after June 30, 1997, all~~ All revenue deposited in the general fund during ~~that a~~ biennium ~~and~~ derived from taxes imposed on oil and gas under chapters 57-51 and 57-51.1 which exceeds seventy-one million dollars must be transferred by the state treasurer to a special fund in the state treasury known as the permanent oil tax trust fund. The state treasurer shall transfer interest earnings of the permanent oil tax trust fund to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year. The principal of the permanent oil tax trust fund may not be expended except upon a two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house of the legislative assembly.

If the distribution formulas under chapter 57-51 or 57-51.1 are amended effective after June 30, 1997, the director of the budget shall adjust the seventy-one million dollar amount in this section by the same percentage increase or decrease in the amount of revenue allocable to the general fund after the change in the allocation formula, and transfers to the permanent oil tax trust fund shall thereafter be made using that adjusted figure so that the dollar amount of the transfers to the permanent oil tax trust fund is not increased or decreased merely because of changes in the distribution formulas.

~~Notwithstanding section 54-27.2-02, the state treasurer shall make the transfers required by this section before calculating any general fund revenue balance available for transfer to the budget~~

~~stabilization fund under chapter 54-27.2. In this section, "at the end of any biennium" has the same meaning as in section 54-27.2-02.~~

SECTION 45. DAKOTA MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE. The department of commerce shall seek to contract with the Dakota manufacturing extension partnership, incorporated, to implement the Dakota manufacturing initiative. The initiative includes building a membership association of manufacturers in North Dakota and South Dakota, complementing existing national, regional, and local manufacturing entities; providing nonduplicative services to the association's manufacturing members which address critical needs, including identifying and developing private procurement opportunities; and developing a consortium of major manufacturers in North Dakota and South Dakota to design and support overall supply chain development and supplier development. Under the initiative, state funds must be leveraged with additional public and private funds, which may include federal funding sources, South Dakota state funding, and funding from manufacturers.

SECTION 46. NORTH DAKOTA AMERICAN INDIAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE OFFICE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council on the status of the North Dakota American Indian business development office and the status of the international business and trade office; whether the North Dakota American Indian business development office and international business and trade office should continue; whether the division of economic development and finance should continue to contract with a third party for international business and trade office services; and whether there are potential changes that could be made to enhance the support of American Indian businesses and to enhance the support of international trade by North Dakota businesses.

SECTION 47. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council on the status of the certification program through which the division of economic development and finance provides training services to local economic developers. The report must include information regarding what services have been provided under the program to assist local economic developers, to whom the services were provided, local economic developer level of satisfaction with the program, whether the program should continue, and whether there are changes that could be made to better assist local economic developers.

SECTION 48. IMAGE INFORMATION PROGRAM - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council on the status of the image information program. The report must include information regarding what information the program provides to state agencies and state agencies' employees, the manner in which the information is provided, the state agencies reached through the program, whether the program has been expanded to provide information to the private sector, whether the program should continue, and whether there are potential changes that could be made to better enhance the state's and private sector's ability to present a positive image of the state.

SECTION 49. BUSINESS HOTLINE PROGRAM - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council on the status of the business hotline program. This report must include information regarding what information the program provides to callers; the number of calls made to the business hotline number; the manner in which the information is provided to callers; followup data; how the program is marketed; whether the program should continue; and whether there are potential changes that could be made to improve the dissemination of business information to businesses in the state, to persons planning on starting a business in the state, and to businesses wishing to do business in the state.

SECTION 50. DAKOTA MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council on the status of the Dakota manufacturing initiative. This report must include information regarding how the initiative has been established and regarding the activities of the Dakota manufacturing extension partnership, incorporated. The commissioner shall include in the report

whether the state should continue this initiative or whether the goal of assisting manufacturers would be better served by alternative means. The commissioner shall report whether there are potential changes that could be made to improve the networking of manufacturing businesses and other suppliers in this state.

SECTION 51. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the department of commerce, in consultation with the state board of higher education, shall conduct a study of the state's intellectual property laws as they relate to the protection of intellectual property rights. The study must include a review of the state's intellectual property laws, including barriers that may inhibit research and development in the state, and must include consideration of successful actions taken by other states to improve the protection of intellectual property rights. The department shall contract with a third party in performing this study. Before July 1, 2006, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council the outcome of the study and identify proposed legislative changes necessary to implement any recommendations to improve the protection of intellectual property rights.

SECTION 52. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. During the 2005-06 interim, the department of commerce shall conduct a study of the state's economic development incentives. The study must include an inventory of all of the state's economic development incentives, a review of the nature of each incentive, an indication of the targeted class of recipients of each incentive, an indication of the stage of business targeted by each incentive, an analysis of possible barriers to using the incentives, an analysis of possible gaps and overlaps in the state's economic development incentive system, a review of the effectiveness of each incentive and how to gauge the effectiveness of each incentive, and a review of economic development incentive best practices and how the state's incentives compare to best practices. The department of commerce may contract with a third party in performing this study. Before July 1, 2006, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislative council the outcome of the study and identify proposed legislative changes necessary to implement any recommended changes to the state's economic development incentive system to make the state's business environment more effective, efficient, and competitive.

SECTION 53. ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES - REPORTING. The commissioner of the department of commerce shall monitor and report annually during the 2005-06 interim to either the budget section or an interim committee designated by the legislative council regarding the following North Dakota economic goals and associated benchmarks:

1. Develop unified efforts for economic development based on collaboration and accountability:
 - a. Site selection ranking of the North Dakota department of commerce.
 - b. Share of local economic development organizations participating in statewide marketing strategy.
2. Strengthen cooperation between the university system, economic development organizations, and private businesses:
 - a. Academic research and development expenditures as percentage of gross state product.
 - b. Industry research and development expenditures as percentage of gross state product.
3. Create quality jobs that retain North Dakota's workforce and attract new high-skilled labor:
 - a. Net job growth.
 - b. New private sector businesses per one hundred thousand residents.

- c. Average annual wage.
 - d. Net migration.
4. Create a strong marketing image that builds on the state's numerous strengths, including workforce, education, and quality of life:
 - a. Positive national and out-of-state media exposure (favorable mentions).
 - b. Number of North Dakota department of commerce web site hits per months.
 - c. Number of leads generated by the North Dakota department of commerce.
 5. Accelerate job growth in sustainable, diversified industry clusters to provide opportunities for the state's economy:
 - a. Net job growth in manufacturing.
 - b. Net job growth in business services.
 - c. New private sector businesses in manufacturing.
 - d. New private sector businesses in business services.
 - e. Number of utility patents per one hundred thousand residents.
 6. Strengthen North Dakota's business climate to increase international competitiveness:
 - a. Gross state product (annual growth rate).
 - b. Venture capital investments (thousands).
 - c. Merchandise export value (per capita).

The department, in cooperation with job service North Dakota, the department of human services, and the university system, shall include in its report the number of individuals trained and the number who became employed as a result of each department's workforce development and training programs, including the state's investment, the areas of occupational training, the average annual salary of those employed, and the average increase in earnings twelve months after completion of training.

SECTION 54. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 43 of this Act is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2004.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2018.

Senate Vote: Yeas 44 Nays 3 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 88 Nays 4 Absent 2

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State