

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tentative Agenda

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, October 16, 2006
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

9:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Consideration of the minutes of the August 30, 2006, meeting
Comments by Representative Rick Berg, Chairman

REPORTS

9:05 a.m. Presentation by Ms. Sherry Neas, Office of Management and Budget, on the outcome of the study of the procurement assistance center study

Receipt of the Department of Commerce Division of Community Services annual report on renaissance zone progress

Comments by interested persons

Committee discussion and directives

BUSINESS CLIMATE STUDY AND VENTURE AND RISK CAPITAL STUDY

9:30 a.m. Committee review and public comments regarding the following bill drafts:

- Relating to the business climate study requirements for the 2007-08 interim (70189)
- Creating an airport economic development fund to be administered by the Aeronautics Commission and providing for an appropriation (70187)
- Expanding the Housing Finance Agency mortgage loan financing program and housing grant program and providing for a Legislative Council study of housing needs (70208)
- Expanding the agricultural business investment tax credit to include investments in livestock feeding, handling, milking, or holding operations that use distillers grain produced as a byproduct at an ethanol or biodiesel plant (70186)
- Increasing from \$4 million to \$8 million the amount of loans outstanding the Bank of North Dakota may guarantee under the beginning entrepreneur loan guarantee program, updating the eligibility requirements under the beginning entrepreneur loan guarantee program, updating the definition of biodiesel production facility for purposes of the Biodiesel Partnership in Assisting Community Expansion (PACE) fund program, and appropriating funds for the Biodiesel PACE fund and the PACE fund (70148)
- Creating a tourism PACE fund and creating a rural community tourism enhancement grant program to provide matching funds to communities (70195)
- Expanding the Department of Commerce image information program to include the private sector and creating a Department of Commerce Division of Tourism visitor information center program (70194)
- Creating a business and tourism acceleration commission to provide assistance for the research, development, technology, and marketing needs of businesses and entrepreneurs in the state to aid in innovation for new or existing businesses; expansion of existing and development of new tourism-based businesses; and growth of international business through trade (70181)

- Requiring biennial tax expenditure reports and business incentive reports, increasing the cap on the seed capital investment tax credits, providing sales tax exemptions for tourism equipment and wireless service provider equipment, repealing the beginning entrepreneur income tax deduction, and providing for a Legislative Council study of issues relating to wireless service providers (70179)
- Creating a tax credit for contributions to tourism organizations, a tax credit for business expenses associated with recruitment of employees, and a tax credit for employers to encourage use of higher education internships (70200)
- Modifying the open records law relating to research and development performed by public entities, creating a Department of Commerce Division of Innovation and Technology, expanding the research and technology tax credits, and providing for an innovation matching grant program to be administered by the Department of Career and Technical Education (70182)
- Specifying the information provided in the State Board of Higher Education annual performance and accountability report to include economic development information and student recruitment information, creating a higher education new program startup matching grant program to be administered by the State Board of Higher Education, and providing for a State Board of Higher Education study of the implementation of the services of CCbenefits, Inc. (70221)
- Modifying the centers of excellence program (70180)
- Providing for a Job Service North Dakota study of chronic unemployment and soft skills training and providing for an appropriation to expand the web site spider program to identify job listings available in North Dakota (70192)
- Expanding the duties of the Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Development to include development and implementation of the state's talent strategy, development and implementation of a statewide intelligence coordination strategy, administration of a higher education internship program, and administration of the followup information on North Dakota education and training (FINDET); providing for the Commissioner of Commerce to make biennial reports on the status of workforce development; and providing for the Department of Commerce to study workforce intelligence and higher education internships (70193)
- Requiring the Division of Workforce Development to develop and implement a career education program and a career promotion program for students in kindergarten through grade 12 and to provide for the Department of Commerce to perform a career education study (70191)
- Requiring the Department of Commerce to establish and implement a program to attract out-of-state workers and requiring the Division of Workforce Development to study, develop, and implement strategies to assist North Dakota businesses in recruitment of permanent immigrants to fill high-demand, high-skill jobs (70190)

4:45 p.m. Closing remarks by Chairman Berg

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Committee Members

Representatives Rick Berg (Chairman), Dawn Marie Charging, Donald L. Clark, Donald D. Dietrich, Mark A. Dosch, Eliot Glassheim, Pam Gulleon, Jim Kasper, Bob Martinson, Lisa Meier, Eugene Nicholas, Kenton Onstad, Dan J. Ruby, Elwood Thorpe, Clark Williams
 Senators April Fairfield, Nicholas P. Hacker, Duane Mutch, Randy A. Schobinger, John O. Syverson, Ryan M. Taylor, John M. Warner