

Introduced by

Representatives Kempenich, Brandenburg, Headland, Louser, D. Ruby, Schmidt

Senators Bowman, Rust

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-27-23, 54-44.1-03, 54-44.1-12, and  
2 54-44.1-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the control over the rate of  
3 expenditures.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-27-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **54-27-23. Cash flow financing.**

8 In order to effectively meet the cyclical cash flow needs of state government, the office of  
9 management and budget upon approval of the emergency commission is hereby authorized to  
10 issue certificates in anticipation of revenue, notes, or bonds, to special funds on deposit in the  
11 state treasury. Any issue of such certificates, notes, or bonds must be approved by the  
12 emergency commission and are to be used for cash flow financing only, and not to offset  
13 projected deficits in state finances unless first approved by the budget section of the legislative  
14 management. The budget section may approve additional cash flow financing not to exceed  
15 eighty percent of estimated general fund revenues relating to sales or production occurring prior  
16 to June thirtieth, to be collected in July and August after the end of the biennium. Such  
17 additional cash flow financing is only effective for sixty days unless an extension or reapproval  
18 is received from the budget section. If a revenue shortfall of greater than five percent occurs,  
19 the office of management and budget shall order budget ~~allocations~~reductions under section  
20 54-44.1-12 prior to approval by the budget section of such additional cash flow financing. It is  
21 the intent of the legislative assembly that all borrowing must be repaid by the end of the  
22 biennium. The terms of any specific issue of such certificates, notes, or bonds may not exceed  
23 one hundred eighty days from the date of issuance whereupon the principal and interest on the  
24 certificates, notes, or bonds must be paid in full from the state general fund or from another

1 issue of a similar nature. All principal and interest on such issues made during a biennial period  
2 must be repaid in full at the close of the biennial period from the state general fund. When  
3 certificates, notes, or bonds are issued for cash flow purposes to funds which otherwise would  
4 be invested, with the investment income accruing to the special fund, the certificate must bear  
5 an investment rate of return which must be agreed upon by the state investment board, and  
6 must be at a level commensurate with the yield to be reasonably expected by such fund if  
7 invested in alternate securities.

8 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-44.1-03. Powers and duties of the director of the budget.**

11 The director of the budget, or such subordinate officer as the director of the budget shall  
12 designate, shall:

- 13 1. Be vested with the duties, powers, and responsibilities involved in securing budget  
14 estimates and work programs from the several departments and agencies of the state  
15 government.
- 16 2. Be vested with the duties, powers, and responsibilities involved in the preparation of  
17 revenue and fixed expense estimates.
- 18 3. Develop financial policies and plans as the basis for budget recommendations to the  
19 legislative assembly, and prepare detailed documents in accordance with such  
20 financial policies and plans for presentation to the legislative assembly.
- 21 4. Coordinate the fiscal affairs and procedures of the state to assure the carrying out of  
22 the financial plans and policies approved by the legislative assembly.
- 23 5. Exercise continual control over the execution of the budget affecting the departments,  
24 institutions, and agencies of the executive branch of the state government involving  
25 approval of all commitments for conformity with the program provided in the budget,  
26 frequent comparison of actual revenues and budget estimates, and control of the rate  
27 of expenditures through a system of semiannual, quarterly, or monthly  
28 ~~allotments~~ budget reductions.
- 29 6. Investigate, examine, and make exhaustive studies:
  - 30 a. Of the structure and operation of the entire executive branch of government and  
31 of every office, institution, and agency thereof.

- 1           b. Of all the functions, duties, and services of all executive branch offices,  
2           departments, institutions, industries, boards, bureaus, and commissions.
- 3           c. Of all the books, records, and methods of accounting of each office or agency of  
4           the executive branch to ascertain and determine whether their policies, practices,  
5           and systems of accounting are sound, necessary, practical, and efficient.
- 6        7. Develop a long-term capital improvements budget for consideration by the legislative  
7        assembly.
- 8        8. Have the authority to procure from the various officers, departments, agencies, and  
9        employees such information as may be necessary for the preparation and execution of  
10       the budget.
- 11       9. Provide such assistance as the legislative assembly may request and be available to  
12       assist its appropriations committees with any needed information or material and make  
13       its records and information available at all times to the legislative assembly and its  
14       committees and designees.
- 15       10. Perform all other necessary duties to carry out the provisions of this chapter and of  
16       chapter 54-14.

17        **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.1-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19        **54-44.1-12. Control over rate of expenditures - Report.**

- 20        1. The director of the budget shall exercise continual control over the execution of the  
21        budget affecting the departments and agencies of state government, with the  
22        exception of the legislative and judicial branches. Execution means the analysis and  
23        approval of all commitments for conformity with the program provided in the budget,  
24        frequent comparison of actual revenues and budget estimates, and on the basis of  
25        these analyses and comparisons control the rate of expenditures through a system of  
26        ~~allotments~~budget reductions. The ~~allotment~~budget reductions must be made by  
27        specific fund and all departments and agencies that receive moneys from that fund  
28        must be ~~allotted~~reduced on a uniform percentage basis, except that appropriations to  
29        the department of public instruction for state school aid, transportation aid, and special  
30        education aid may only be ~~allotted~~reduced to the extent that the ~~allotment~~reduction  
31        can be offset by transfers from the foundation aid stabilization fund as follows:

- 1 a. The first two and one-half percent ~~allotment~~budget reduction from the general  
2 fund must be offset with a transfer from the foundation aid stabilization fund.
- 3 b. Any general fund ~~allotment~~budget reduction in excess of two and one-half  
4 percent that is necessary, after all moneys available in the budget stabilization  
5 fund have been transferred to the general fund under section 54-27.2-03, may be  
6 offset with a transfer from the foundation aid stabilization fund.
- 7 2. Before an ~~allotment~~a budget reduction is made which will reduce the amount of funds  
8 which can be disbursed pursuant to an appropriation or before an ~~allotment~~a budget  
9 reduction disallowing a specific expenditure is made, the director shall find one or  
10 more of the following circumstances to exist:
- 11 a. The moneys and estimated revenues in a specific fund from which the  
12 appropriation is made are insufficient to meet all legislative appropriations from  
13 the fund.
- 14 b. The payment or the obligation incurred is not authorized by law.
- 15 c. The expenditure or obligation is contrary to legislative intent as recorded in any  
16 reliable legislative records, including:
- 17 (1) Statements of legislative intent expressed in enacted appropriation  
18 measures or other measures enacted by the legislative assembly; and
- 19 (2) Statements of purpose of amendment explaining amendments to enacted  
20 appropriation measures, as recorded in the journals of the legislative  
21 assembly.
- 22 d. Circumstances or availability of facts not previously known or foreseen by the  
23 legislative assembly which make possible the accomplishment of the purpose of  
24 the appropriation at a lesser amount than that appropriated.
- 25 3. If a general fund budget reduction is made under this section, each state agency and  
26 institution that received state special fund appropriation authority for the same time  
27 period shall prepare a report detailing how the agency or institution would reduce its  
28 state special fund appropriation authority by the same percentage as the general fund  
29 budget reduction. Each state agency and institution shall submit its report to the office  
30 of management and budget and legislative council within sixty days of the date of the  
31 general fund budget reduction.

1       **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.1-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **54-44.1-12.1. Implementation of legislative intent - Legislative objection to execution**  
4 **of budget - Effect of objection.**

- 5       1. The budget section of the legislative management may object to any ~~allotment~~budget  
6 reduction made under section 54-44.1-12, any expenditure of a budget unit, or any  
7 failure to make an ~~allotment~~a budget reduction or expenditure if the budget section  
8 determines that the ~~allotment~~budget reduction or expenditure or the failure to make an  
9 ~~allotment~~a budget reduction or expenditure is contrary to legislative intent as recorded  
10 in any reliable legislative records. The budget section shall file that objection in  
11 certified form with the legislative council. The filed objection must contain a concise  
12 statement of the budget section's reasons for the objection.
- 13       2. The legislative council shall attach to each objection a certification of the time and date  
14 of the filing of the objection and, as soon as possible, shall transmit a copy of the  
15 objection and the certification to the director of the budget and the affected budget  
16 unit. The legislative council shall maintain a permanent register of all objections under  
17 this section.
- 18       3. Within fourteen days after the filing of an objection, the affected budget unit shall  
19 respond in writing to the budget section. After receipt of that response, the budget  
20 section may withdraw or modify its objection.
- 21       4. After the filing of an objection, the burden of persuasion is upon the budget unit in any  
22 action for judicial review of whether the ~~allotment~~budget reduction or expenditure or  
23 the failure to make an ~~allotment~~a budget reduction or expenditure is contrary to law. If  
24 the budget unit fails to meet its burden of persuasion, the court shall render judgment  
25 against the budget unit for court costs. These court costs must include reasonable  
26 attorney's fees and must be payable from the appropriation of the budget unit.