

SENATE BILL NO. 2135

Introduced by

Senators Hogue, Klein, Wardner

Representatives Carlson, K. Koppelman, Vigesaa

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the creation of an initiated and referred measure study
2 commission; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide an
3 appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1. INITIATED AND REFERRED MEASURE STUDY COMMISSION - DUTIES -**
6 **MEMBERSHIP - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 7 1. During the 2017-18 interim, an initiated and referred measure study commission shall
8 undertake a comprehensive study of the initiated and referred measure laws of North
9 Dakota. The commission shall study, among other subjects:
- 10 a. The process and cost of placing initiated and referred measures on the ballot and
11 campaigning in support of or opposition to ballot measures in North Dakota;
- 12 b. The processes used to place initiated and referred measures on the ballot in
13 other states; and
- 14 c. Whether any provision of the state constitution or state law relating to initiated or
15 referred measures should be amended. If an amendment is warranted, the
16 commission shall prepare a draft resolution to amend the constitution or a draft
17 bill to amend the state law for consideration by the next legislative assembly.
- 18 2. The commission shall hold at least four meetings and report its findings and any
19 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
20 recommendations, to the legislative management before September 1, 2018.
- 21 3. The commission must consist of:
- 22 a. One individual appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court, who shall
23 serve as the commission chairman;

- 1 b. Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of
- 2 the house of representatives;
- 3 c. Two senators appointed by the majority leader of the senate;
- 4 d. One individual appointed by the governor;
- 5 e. One individual appointed by the greater North Dakota chamber;
- 6 f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota newspaper association;
- 7 g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau; and
- 8 h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union.
- 9 4. The chairman of the legislative management committee may fill any vacancy on the
- 10 commission.
- 11 5. The commission may request appropriate staff services from the legislative council.
- 12 6. Commission members are entitled to mileage and expenses as provided by law for
- 13 state officers and employees. Commission members who are members of the
- 14 legislative assembly also are entitled to compensation for attendance at commission
- 15 meetings at the rate provided for members of the legislative assembly for attendance
- 16 at interim committee meetings.

17 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
18 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000, or so much of the
19 sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for the purpose of reimbursing commission
20 members and staff for travel necessary to carry out commission duties as provided in section 1
21 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.