

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; and to declare an emergency.

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~~ Three members of the legislative assembly, at least
3 one of whom is a member of the minority party, appointed by the legislative
4 management;
5 c. ~~Two senators appointed by the majority leader of the senate~~ One member of a
6 tribal nation appointed by the executive director of the Indian affairs commission;
7 d. ~~One individual~~ Three citizen members appointed by the governor;
8 e. One individual appointed by the greater North Dakota chamber;
9 f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota newspaper association;
10 g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau; ~~and~~
11 h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union; and
12 i. One individual appointed by North Dakota United.

- 13 4. The chairman of the legislative management committee may fill any vacancy on the
14 commission.
15 5. The commission may request appropriate staff services from the legislative council.
16 6. Commission members are entitled to mileage and expenses as provided by law for
17 state officers and employees. Commission members who are members of the
18 legislative assembly also are entitled to compensation for attendance at commission
19 meetings at the rate provided for members of the legislative assembly for attendance
20 at interim committee meetings.

21 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
22 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$50,000~~ \$25,000, or so much
23 of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for the purpose of reimbursing
24 commission members and staff for travel necessary to carry out commission duties as provided
25 in section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.

26 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.