A BILL for an Act to provide for the creation of an initiated and referred measure study commission; to provide for a report to the legislative management; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

1. During the 2017-18 interim, an initiated and referred measure study commission shall undertake a comprehensive study of the initiated and referred measure laws of North Dakota. The commission shall study, among other subjects:

   a. The process and cost of placing initiated and referred measures on the ballot and campaigning in support of or opposition to ballot measures in North Dakota;

   b. The processes used to place initiated and referred measures on the ballot in other states;

   c. Whether any provision of the state constitution or state law relating to initiated or referred measures should be amended. If an amendment is warranted, the commission shall prepare a draft resolution to amend the constitution or a draft bill to amend the state law for consideration by the next legislative assembly; and

   d. The effect of out-of-state funding on the initiated and referred measure process and whether limits on out-of-state funding are necessary.

2. The commission shall hold at least four meetings and report its findings and any recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the legislative management before September 1, 2018.

3. The commission must consist of:
Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly

a. One individual appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court, who shall
   serve as the commission chairman;

b. Three members of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader
   of the house of representatives, and three members of the senate, one of whom
   must be a member of the minority party, appointed by the majority leader of the
   senate;

c. One individual appointed as a nonvoting member by the secretary of state;

d. Seven citizen members appointed by the governor, who shall provide public
   notice of available citizen positions on the commission and establish a procedure
   for submission of applications. One of the seven must be a member of an
   association that represents employees and their interests;

e. One individual appointed by the greater North Dakota chamber;

f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota newspaper association;

g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau; and

h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union.

4. A citizen member appointed to the commission by the governor may not be an elected
   or appointed official, a board member or employee of an organization identified in
   subdivisions e through h of subsection 3, or an employee of the governor's office.

5. The chairman of the legislative management committee may fill any vacancy on the
   commission. A vacancy must be filled by an individual who satisfies the criterion for the
   vacant position, such that the requirements in subsection 3 are met throughout the
   existence of the commission.

6. The commission may request appropriate staff services from the legislative council.

7. Commission members are entitled to mileage and expenses as provided by law for
   state officers and employees. Commission members who are members of the
   legislative assembly also are entitled to compensation for attendance at commission
   meetings at the rate provided for members of the legislative assembly for attendance
   at interim committee meetings. The expenses of the commission are to be paid by the
   the legislative council.

8. All appointments of commission members must be completed within sixty days after
   the effective date of this Act.
SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through June 30, 2019, and after that date is ineffective.

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