

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1452

Introduced by

Representatives Bosch, Delzer, Mitskog, Pollert, Porter

Senators Holmberg, Patten, Bell, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund; to
3 amend and reenact sections 17-01-01 and 17-07-01 and subsection 5 of section 54-44.4-02 of
4 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to low-emission technology, the energy policy
5 commission, and an exemption from procurement services for energy programs; to provide a
6 continuing appropriation; to provide an appropriation; to provide a transfer; and to provide a
7 report.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 17-01-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **17-01-01. ~~25x'25 initiative~~ Low-emission technology.**

12 The legislative assembly adopts the ~~25x'25~~ low-emission technology initiative with the goal
13 that ~~not later than January 1, 2025,~~ the agricultural, forestry, natural resources, and working
14 land of the United States should provide from ~~renewable resources~~ low-emission technology not
15 less than twenty-five percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to
16 produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, fuel, feed, and fiber. Increasing America's
17 ~~renewable energy~~ low-emission technology use will bring new ~~technologies~~ advancements to
18 market and save consumers money, reduce the nation's dependence on oil from the Middle
19 East, create good new jobs in rural America, ~~and clean up the air and,~~ reduce urban smog, and
20 address global warming issues. As used in this initiative, ~~renewable energy~~ low-emission
21 technology includes biofuels, solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, carbon recycling, carbon
22 sequestration, use of waste heat, recycling, ~~low-emission technologies that create or use~~
23 hydrogen, coal, oil, natural gas, and energy efficiency initiatives. ~~The 25x'25 initiative will benefit~~
24 ~~agriculture and forestry, the environment, and national security and provide economic~~

1 growth Investing and acknowledging a commitment to low-emission technologies allows the
2 state to use its abundant natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.
3 This initiative provides North Dakota consumers with affordable, reliable, and sustainable
4 energy for the benefit of the state's economy and communities.

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 17-07-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **17-07-01. Energy policy commission.**

8 1. The energy policy commission is composed of:

- 9 a. The commissioner of commerce;
- 10 b. A representative of the agriculture community appointed by the governor;
- 11 c. A representative recommended by the lignite energy council appointed by the
12 governor;
- 13 d. A representative recommended by the North Dakota petroleum council appointed
14 by the governor;
- 15 e. A member from the biodiesel or green diesel industry appointed by the governor;
- 16 f. A member from the biomass industry appointed by the governor;
- 17 g. A member from the wind industry appointed by the governor;
- 18 h. A member from the ethanol industry appointed by the governor;
- 19 i. A representative recommended by the North Dakota petroleum marketers
20 association appointed by the governor;
- 21 j. A member from the North Dakota investor-owned electric utility industry
22 appointed by the governor;
- 23 k. A member from the generation and transmission electric cooperative industry
24 appointed by the governor;
- 25 l. A member from the lignite coal-producing industry appointed by the governor;
- 26 m. A member from the refining or gas-processing industry appointed by the
27 governor; and
- 28 n. Additional nonvoting members appointed by the governor.

29 2. Each member of the commission shall serve for a term of two years, beginning July
30 first, may be reappointed for additional terms, and serves at the pleasure of the
31 governor.

- 1 3. The commissioner of commerce is chairman of the commission.
- 2 4. The commission shall meet at least ~~four~~two times per biennium or as often as the
- 3 chairman deems necessary. The commission shall hold at least two public hearings
- 4 per biennium, ~~at which time interested parties may present testimony in coordination~~
- 5 with the state energy research center and allow public input from invited national and
- 6 regional leaders and interested persons regarding issues pertinent to the state's
- 7 comprehensive energy policy. The department of commerce shall provide staffing for
- 8 the commission.
- 9 5. The legislative assembly shall develop a comprehensive energy policy for the state.
- 10 ~~The commission shall monitor progress made toward the goals outlined in the energy~~
- 11 ~~policy and make recommendations to the energy policy as needed~~In coordination with
- 12 the state energy research center, the commission shall identify and make
- 13 recommendations to the clean sustainable energy authority on low-emission
- 14 technology and advancements in energy efficiencies for the state. The
- 15 recommendations must include consideration of environmental benefits;
- 16 advancements or developments that have led to increased economic benefits and
- 17 positive environmental public health benefits for the citizens and visitors of North
- 18 Dakota, including cleaner air, soil, and water; improved efficiencies; reduction of
- 19 waste; lower carbon-intensive agricultural products; and units of energy. The
- 20 recommendations also may consider other factors, including environmental, social,
- 21 and governance policies and the effect on financial or capital markets. The
- 22 commission shall monitor the progress of implementing and achieving environmental
- 23 benefits through the state's comprehensive energy policy. The commission shall report
- 24 biennially to the legislative management.
- 25 6. The members of the commission who are not state employees are entitled to mileage
- 26 and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees. Unless otherwise
- 27 provided in this subsection, the expenses of appointed members are to be paid by the
- 28 department of commerce. A state employee who is a member of the commission must
- 29 receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expenses, to be
- 30 paid by the employing agency.

1 **SECTION 3.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
2 enacted as follows:

3 **Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter:

- 5 1. "Authority" means the clean sustainable energy authority.
- 6 2. "Clean" means a technology or concept that reduces emissions to the air, water, or
7 land and meets or exceeds state and federal environmental regulations.
- 8 3. "Commission" means the industrial commission.
- 9 4. "Fund" means the clean sustainable energy fund.
- 10 5. "Program" means the clean sustainable energy program.
- 11 6. "Sustainable" means a technology or concept that allows the use of a natural resource
12 to be maintained or enhanced through increased efficiency and life cycle benefits
13 without adversely impacting energy security, affordability, reliability, resilience, or
14 national security.

15 **Clean sustainable energy authority - Purpose.**

16 There is created the clean sustainable energy authority to support research, development,
17 and technological advancements through partnerships and financial support for the large scale
18 development and commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that
19 reduce environmental impacts of energy production. The purpose of the financial support is to
20 enhance the production of clean sustainable energy, to make the state a world leader in the
21 production of clean sustainable energy, and to diversify and grow the state's economy.

22 **Clean sustainable energy authority - Membership - Meetings.**

- 23 1. The clean sustainable energy authority consists of fifteen members, including seven
24 voting members and eight ex officio, nonvoting members.
- 25 2. The seven voting members consist of:
 - 26 a. One member appointed by the legislative management to serve as chairman;
 - 27 b. Two members appointed by the lignite research council;
 - 28 c. Two members appointed by the oil and gas research council;
 - 29 d. One member appointed by the renewable energy council; and
 - 30 e. One member appointed by the western Dakota energy association.
- 31 3. The eight ex officio, nonvoting members consist of:

- 1 a. One member appointed by the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund advisory
- 2 board;
- 3 b. The commissioner of commerce or the commissioner's designee;
- 4 c. The director of the department of environmental quality or the director's designee;
- 5 d. The director of mineral resources or the director's designee;
- 6 e. The director of the North Dakota pipeline authority or the director's designee;
- 7 f. The director of the North Dakota transmission authority or the director's designee;
- 8 g. The director of the state energy research center or the director's designee;
- 9 h. The president of the Bank of North Dakota or the president's designee;
- 10 4. The term of office for the chairman is two years. The term of office for the other voting
- 11 members is four years, and the other voting members may not serve more than two
- 12 consecutive terms. The terms of office for the voting members commence on July first.
- 13 The initial terms for the voting members of the authority must be staggered following a
- 14 method determined by the authority.
- 15 5. The authority shall meet at least semiannually. The chairman shall call a meeting upon
- 16 written request from three voting members of the authority. Four voting members is a
- 17 quorum at any meeting.

18 **Clean sustainable energy authority - Duties - Report.**

- 19 1. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for program guidelines,
- 20 including eligibility criteria for entities to receive funding under this chapter.
- 21 2. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for grant awards, loan
- 22 approvals, or other financial assistance to provide funding to support research,
- 23 development, and technological advancements for the large scale development and
- 24 commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that reduce
- 25 environmental impacts in accordance with this chapter. Any projects, processes,
- 26 activities, and technologies selected by the commission for funding must have been
- 27 recommended by the authority, must demonstrate feasibility based on a technical
- 28 review, must have other sources of financial support, and must achieve the priorities
- 29 and purposes of the program. At the request of the authority, the Bank of North Dakota
- 30 shall provide a recommendation regarding the economic feasibility of a project,
- 31 process, activity, or technology under consideration by the authority. The Bank shall

1 review the business plan, financial statements, and other information necessary to
2 provide a recommendation.

3 3. The authority may consult with any other state agency necessary to carry out the
4 purposes under this chapter.

5 4. Each biennium, the authority shall provide a written report to the legislative
6 management regarding its activities.

7 **Clean sustainable energy program - Powers and duties of the commission.**

8 1. The commission is granted all the powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this
9 chapter, including the power to:

10 a. Provide grants, loans, or other forms of financial assistance to qualified entities
11 for the research, demonstration, development, and commercialization of projects,
12 processes, activities, and technologies that reduce environmental impacts and
13 use energy sources derived from within the state. Other forms of financial
14 assistance include venture capital investments and interest rate buydowns. The
15 commission must require an entity to provide assurance of financial and other
16 types of support that demonstrate a commitment to the project, process, activity,
17 or technology.

18 b. Enter into contracts or agreements to carry out the purposes of this chapter,
19 including contracting for the administration of the program.

20 c. Keep accurate records of all financial transactions performed under this chapter.

21 d. Cooperate with any private, local, state, or national organization to make
22 contracts and agreements for programs that advance the mission of the program.

23 e. Accept loan repayments, donations, grants, contributions, or gifts from any public
24 or private source to carry out the purposes of this chapter, which must be
25 deposited in the clean sustainable energy fund.

26 f. Make guidelines necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including
27 guidelines relating to the ownership of intellectual property.

28 2. The commission may acquire, purchase, hold, use, lease, license, sell, transfer, or
29 dispose of any interest in an asset necessary for clean sustainable energy technology
30 development to facilitate the production, transportation, distribution, or delivery of
31 clean energy commodities produced in the state as a purchases of last resort.

1 3. The commission shall provide administrative support to the authority for the operation
2 of the program, including the preparation of forms, review of applications, and ongoing
3 review of any contracts. The commission may contract with a public or private entity to
4 provide technical assistance necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter.

5 4. The commission is not subject to the reporting requirements under chapter 54-60.1.

6 **Clean sustainable energy program - Access to records.**

7 1. To the extent the commission or authority determines the materials or data consist of
8 trade secrets or commercial, financial, or proprietary information of individuals or
9 entities applying to or contracting with the commission or receiving commission
10 services under this chapter, materials and data submitted to, made by, or received by
11 the commission or authority, are not public records subject to section 44-04-18 and
12 section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota, and are subject to section
13 44-04-18.4.

14 2. A person or entity may file a request with the commission to have material designated
15 as confidential under subsection 1. The request must contain any information required
16 by the commission and must include at least the following:

17 a. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.

18 b. An explanation of why the information derives independent economic value,
19 actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons.

20 c. An explanation of why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper
21 means of other persons.

22 d. A general description of any person that may obtain economic value from
23 disclosure or use of the information, and how the person may obtain this value.

24 e. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.

25 3. Any request under subsection 2 is confidential. The commission shall examine the
26 request and determine whether the information is relevant to the matter at hand and is
27 a trade secret under the definition in section 47-25.1-01 or 44-04-18.4. If the
28 commission determines the information is either not relevant or not a trade secret, the
29 commission shall notify the requester and the requester may ask for the return of the
30 information and the request within ten days of the notice. If no return is sought, the
31 information and request are public record.

1 4. The names or identities of independent technical reviewers on a project or program
2 are confidential, may not be disclosed by the commission, and are not public records
3 subject to section 44-04-18 or section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North
4 Dakota.

5 **Clean sustainable energy fund - Continuing appropriation.**

6 There is created in the state treasury the clean sustainable energy fund. The fund consists
7 of all moneys transferred to the fund by the legislative assembly; interest upon moneys in the
8 fund; principal and interest payments to the fund; and donations, grants, and other contributions
9 received by the commission for deposit in the fund. All moneys in the fund are appropriated to
10 the commission on a continuing basis to provide grants, loans, and other financial assistance
11 and for administrative and operating costs of the authority and program pursuant to the
12 provisions under this chapter.

13 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 54-44.4-02 of the North Dakota
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15 5. Procurements by the industrial commission for energy-related programs under
16 chapters 17-05, 54-17.5, 54-17.6, 54-17.7, section 3 of this Act, and 54-63 and under
17 those statutes in title 38 authorizing the industrial commission to perform well and hole
18 pluggings, reclamation work, equipment removal, leak prevention, and similar work.

19 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - CLEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND.**

20 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
21 appropriated, the sum of \$40,000,000, which the office of management and budget shall
22 transfer to the clean sustainable energy fund, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and
23 ending June 30, 2023.