

SENATE BILL NO. 2142

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, K. Roers, Sorvaag

Representatives Ista, Meier, Mitskog

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of an office of ~~health-care~~ immigration; to provide an
3 appropriation; and to provide for a report.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Office of ~~health-care~~ immigration - Duties - Fees.**

8 There is created an office of ~~health-care~~ immigration within the department of commerce.

9 Employees of the office of ~~health-care~~ immigration report to the commissioner and shall:

10 1. Coordinate and expedite the immigration process and placement of international

11 ~~health-care~~ workers immigrating to North Dakota for employment ~~in health-care~~
12 ~~facilities.~~

13 2. Support recently immigrated individuals ~~working in a health-care facility~~ by assisting
14 with any financial, legal, housing, or other immigration-related applications, forms, or
15 communications necessary to provide for successful immigration to the state.

16 3. Collaborate with ~~health-care facilities~~ ~~employers~~ to establish a system to assist
17 immigrants with accessing basic housing, food, and other essential services
18 necessary to provide for successful immigration to the state.

19 4. Create a communication system among ~~health-care immigrated and other~~ immigrated
20 individuals to provide a network for immigrants to share community resources and
21 provide immigration process assistance.

22 5. Provide outreach services to current and potential ~~health-care~~ immigrants to
23 encourage additional individuals to immigrate to North Dakota for employment ~~in-~~
24 ~~health-care facilities.~~

1 6. Develop guidelines and procedures for a fee system to be assessed to each business
2 benefiting from employment of immigrant workers as a result of assistance provided
3 by the office of ~~health care~~ immigration to offset administrative costs of the office of
4 ~~health care~~ immigration by July 1, 2025. Revenue collected from ~~health care~~
5 immigration assistance fees and any interest earned on these moneys must be
6 deposited in the economic development fund for the benefit of the office of ~~health care~~
7 immigration, subject to legislative appropriations.

8 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - OFFICE OF ~~HEALTH~~**
9 **~~CARE~~ IMMIGRATION - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH**
10 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in
11 the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
12 ~~\$536,257~~\$242,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and out of any moneys in the
13 economic development fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
14 ~~\$536,257~~\$242,500, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of
15 commerce for the purpose of providing salaries and benefits for office of ~~health care~~
16 immigration staff, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The
17 department of commerce is authorized ~~five~~one full-time equivalent ~~positions~~position to
18 administer the office of ~~health care~~ immigration, ~~including one attorney, one administrative~~
19 ~~assistant, and three nurse positions~~. The department of commerce shall report to the sixty-ninth
20 legislative assembly regarding the number of ~~health care~~ immigrants and ~~health care~~
21 ~~facilities~~employers assisted through the office of ~~health care~~ immigration during the 2023-25
22 biennium. The ~~\$536,257~~\$242,500 appropriation from the general fund in this section is
23 considered a one-time funding item.

24 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - IMMIGRATION - BUDGET**
25 **SECTION REPORT - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** During the
26 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall study the immigration needs in the state. The
27 study must include input from the department of commerce regarding the implementation of the
28 office of immigration, the number of immigrants assisted, efficiencies gained in helping
29 immigrant individuals with the immigration process, collaborative efforts with businesses, the
30 status of the immigration communication system, the status of developing a fee system to
31 defray the administrative costs of the office, and other immigration needs in the state. The study

1 must be completed by July 1, 2024. The interim committee assigned the responsibility for this
2 study shall provide a recommendation regarding the current and future immigration needs of the
3 state and the role of the office of immigration to the budget section. The legislative management
4 shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to
5 implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.