

**Workforce Safety and Insurance
Budget No. 485
Senate Bill No. 2021**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2015-17 legislative appropriations	260.14	\$0	\$68,865,170	\$68,865,170
2015-17 base budget	250.14	0	63,322,422	63,322,422
Legislative increase (decrease) to base budget	10.00	\$0	\$5,542,748	\$5,542,748

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BASE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for Workforce Safety and Insurance is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in Senate Bill No. 2015.

	Changes to Base Budget			Total
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	
The legislative action:				
Added funding for base payroll changes for cost-to-continue 2013-15 biennium salaries and benefit increases and for other base payroll changes.			\$2,051,066	\$2,051,066
Added funding for 2015-17 biennium performance salary adjustments of 2 to 4 percent per year.			1,683,348	1,683,348
Added funding for employee health insurance premiums to reflect a premium estimate of \$1,130.22 per month.			905,500	905,500
Added 6 FTE positions including 1 underwriter FTE position, 2 vocational rehabilitation case manager FTE positions, 2 nurse case manager FTE positions, and 1 physical therapist FTE position.	6.00		\$878,474	\$878,474
Converted temporary positions to FTE positions including: 3 claim adjuster FTE positions and 1 collections specialist FTE position.	4.00		499,217	499,217
Reduced operating expenses primarily relating to a reduction in information technology software (\$1.5 million).			(1,999,857)	(1,999,857)
Removed data warehouse project funding authorized in the 2013-15 biennium.			(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)
Removed web portal project funding authorized in the 2013-15 biennium.			(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)

Removed policy replacement project funding authorized in the 2013-15 biennium.			(1,225,000)	(1,225,000)
Removed litigation contingency funding authorized in the 2013-15 biennium for the failed computer system project.			(750,000)	(750,000)
Added one-time funding for a computer software replacement project.			6,000,000	6,000,000
Added one-time funding for litigation costs for a failed computer software replacement project.			1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	<u>10.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,542,748</u>	<u>\$5,542,748</u>

FTE Changes

The 2015-17 biennium appropriations for Workforce Safety and Insurance include funding for 260.14 FTE positions, an increase of 10 FTE positions from the 2013-15 biennium. The Legislative Assembly added the following 6 FTE positions:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1 Underwriter	\$0	\$129,759	\$129,759
2 Vocational rehabilitation case managers	0	259,518	259,518
2 Nurse case managers	0	279,146	279,146
1 Physical therapist	0	210,051	210,051
Total	\$0	\$878,474	\$878,474

The Legislative Assembly converted the following temporary positions to FTE positions:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
3 Claims adjusters	\$0	\$378,083	\$378,083
1 Collections specialist	0	121,134	121,134
Total	\$0	\$499,217	\$499,217

One-Time Funding

The Legislative Assembly identified \$7 million of other funds as one-time funding, including \$6 million to complete a computer software replacement project and \$1 million for litigation costs for a computer software replacement project.

Related Legislation

Premium payments - Section 2 of House Bill No. 1103 amends North Dakota Century Code Section 65-04-33(3) authorizing Workforce Safety and Insurance to assess a penalty of \$5,000 of each premium period an employer is uninsured, a change from \$2,000 of each premium period.

Roughrider Industries - Section 1 of House Bill No. 1120 amends Section 65-06.2-06 requiring Roughrider Industries to participate in the Workforce Safety and Insurance account for state entities.

Workers' compensation claim information - Section 1 of House Bill No. 1159 amends Section 65-05-30 authorizing health care providers, hospitals, or clinics to disclose information or render an opinion on a claim for workers' compensation, and provides an exemption from liability for the disclosure of the information or opinion.

Workers' compensation coverage - Section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2060 creates a new section to Chapter 65-05 providing requirements for coverage of chronic opioid therapy in workers' compensation.