

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1003
(Appropriations Committee)
(At the request of the Governor)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the North Dakota university system; to provide for legislative council studies; to create and enact a new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the adoption of the midwestern regional higher education compact; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds or other income, to the North Dakota university system and to the various institutions of higher learning under the supervision of the North Dakota university system for the purpose of defraying their expenses, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001, as follows:

Subdivision 1.

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Equity and special needs pool	\$4,290,128
Technology pool	21,948,467
Critical salary pool	<u>2,630,992</u>
General fund appropriation	\$28,869,587

Subdivision 2.

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE

Salaries and wages	\$2,194,131
Operating expenses	760,709
Equipment	26,000
Student financial assistance grants	4,450,281
Information technology management	215,255
Professional student exchange program	1,310,716
Disabled student services	26,560
Technical administration	197,627
Contingency and capital improvements emergency fund	398,000
Scholars program	706,230
Native American scholarships	204,082
Title II	534,000
Competitive research program	1,971,100
Prairie public broadcasting	992,513
Board initiatives	<u>2,296,000</u>
Total operating funds	\$16,283,204
Less estimated income	<u>4,933,900</u>
General fund appropriation	\$11,349,304

Subdivision 3.

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

Salaries and wages	\$16,406,677
Operating expenses	4,893,212
Equipment	367,187
Capital improvements	<u>958,835</u>

Total operating funds	\$22,625,911
Less estimated income	<u>7,789,776</u>
General fund appropriation	\$14,836,135
Local funds appropriation	\$11,370,000
Total all funds appropriation	\$33,995,911

Subdivision 4.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA - LAKE REGION

Salaries and wages	\$4,374,197
Operating expenses	1,338,042
Equipment	150,338
Capital improvements	<u>1,094,318</u>
Total operating funds	\$6,956,895
Less estimated income	<u>1,948,806</u>
General fund appropriation	\$5,008,089
Local funds appropriation	\$6,403,766
Total all funds appropriation	\$13,360,661

Subdivision 5.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA - WILLISTON

Salaries and wages	\$5,280,022
Operating expenses	1,521,116
Equipment	249,596
Capital improvements	<u>88,790</u>
Total operating funds	\$7,139,524
Less estimated income	<u>2,300,265</u>
General fund appropriation	\$4,839,259
Local funds appropriation	\$1,653,000
Total all funds appropriation	\$8,792,524

Subdivision 6.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Salaries and wages	\$98,902,879
Operating expenses	27,655,286
Equipment	1,520,260
Capital improvements	4,917,136
Special initiatives pool	<u>1,462,223</u>
Total operating funds	\$134,457,784
Less estimated income	<u>52,633,093</u>
General fund appropriation	\$81,824,691
Local funds appropriation	\$282,733,609
Total all funds appropriation	\$417,191,393

Subdivision 7.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Salaries and wages	\$85,829,387
Operating expenses	21,576,515
Equipment	1,867,800
Capital improvements	8,652,531
Skills training center	<u>1,535,000</u>
Total operating funds	\$119,461,233
Less estimated income	<u>55,903,914</u>
General fund appropriation	\$63,557,319
Local funds appropriation	\$111,620,179
Total all funds appropriation	\$231,081,412

Subdivision 8.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Salaries and wages	\$23,706,342
Operating expenses	6,605,363
Equipment	1,494,368
Capital improvements	<u>2,635,885</u>
Total operating funds	\$34,441,958
Less estimated income	<u>9,485,836</u>
General fund appropriation	\$24,956,122
Local funds appropriation	\$15,580,000
Total all funds appropriation	\$50,021,958

Subdivision 9.

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Salaries and wages	\$14,074,351
Operating expenses	4,074,962
Equipment	390,000
Capital improvements	<u>693,962</u>
Total operating funds	\$19,233,275
Less estimated income	<u>6,146,576</u>
General fund appropriation	\$13,086,699
Local funds appropriation	\$8,221,397
Total all funds appropriation	\$27,454,672

Subdivision 10.

MAYVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Salaries and wages	\$8,142,255
Operating expenses	2,211,150
Equipment	170,500
Capital improvements	<u>931,671</u>
Total operating funds	\$11,455,576
Less estimated income	<u>2,908,718</u>
General fund appropriation	\$8,546,858
Local funds appropriation	\$7,400,000
Total all funds appropriation	\$18,855,576

Subdivision 11.

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

Salaries and wages	\$28,733,664
Operating expenses	6,043,525
Equipment	917,929
Capital improvements	<u>1,050,466</u>
Total operating funds	\$36,745,584
Less estimated income	<u>11,501,851</u>
General fund appropriation	\$25,243,733
Local funds appropriation	\$19,003,936
Total all funds appropriation	\$55,749,520

Subdivision 12.

VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

Salaries and wages	\$11,009,411
Operating expenses	2,842,167
Equipment	323,100
Capital improvements	812,334
Center for innovation in instruction	299,583
Special initiatives	<u>68,714</u>
Total operating funds	\$15,355,309
Less estimated income	<u>3,893,786</u>
General fund appropriation	\$11,461,523
Local funds appropriation	\$8,820,000
Total all funds appropriation	\$24,175,309

Subdivision 13.

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY - BOTTINEAU

Salaries and wages	\$3,930,059
Operating expenses	1,063,035
Equipment	147,500
Capital improvements	<u>218,130</u>
Total operating funds	\$5,358,724
Less estimated income	<u>1,424,817</u>
General fund appropriation	\$3,933,907
Local funds appropriation	\$2,124,426
Total all funds appropriation	\$7,483,150

Subdivision 14.

NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE

Salaries and wages	\$1,770,118
Operating expenses	423,601
Equipment	65,011
Capital improvements	79,541
Grants to centennial trees	<u>147,486</u>
Total operating funds	\$2,485,757
Less estimated income	<u>859,006</u>
General fund appropriation	\$1,626,751
Local funds appropriation	\$1,336,082
Total all funds appropriation	\$3,821,839

Subdivision 15.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA MEDICAL CENTER

Salaries and wages	\$32,021,200
Operating expenses	7,502,327
Equipment	<u>547,915</u>
Total operating funds	\$40,071,442
Less estimated income	<u>10,812,782</u>
General fund appropriation	\$29,258,660
Local funds appropriation	\$47,592,145
Total all funds appropriation	\$87,663,587
Grand total general fund appropriation H.B. 1003	\$328,398,637
Grand total estimated income appropriation H.B. 1003	\$172,543,126
Grand total local funds appropriation H.B. 1003	\$523,858,540
Grand total all funds appropriation H.B. 1003	\$1,024,800,303

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION TRANSFER. The higher education contingency and capital improvements emergency fund, board initiatives, and disabled student services in subdivision 2 of section 1 must be used for the benefit of the institutions and entities in subdivisions 2 through 15 of section 1 as determined by the state board of higher education. The board shall notify the office of management and budget of the allocation of general fund authority from the higher education contingency and capital improvements emergency fund, board initiatives, and disabled student services to the various entities and institutions and which line items in the various institutions and entities must be adjusted.

SECTION 3. ADDITIONAL INCOME - APPROPRIATION. Operating fund income received in excess of the estimated income line item appropriated to the entities in section 1 of this Act which is deposited in their respective operating funds in the state treasury up to the following amounts is hereby appropriated and may be spent subject to state board of higher education approval:

INSTITUTION	AMOUNT
North Dakota university system office	\$425,990
Bismarck state college	706,289
University of North Dakota - Lake Region	143,970
University of North Dakota - Williston	224,310

University of North Dakota	5,019,907
North Dakota state university	4,732,776
North Dakota state college of science	846,333
Dickinson state university	602,255
Mayville state university	267,347
Minot state university	1,157,210
Valley City state university	355,978
Minot state university - Bottineau	131,711
North Dakota forest service	85,900
University of North Dakota medical center	5,947,201
Total	\$20,647,177

Any additional excess estimated income is hereby appropriated and may be spent only upon authorization of the emergency commission. Any funds received by the board of higher education and the entities of the North Dakota university system pursuant to federal acts, private grants, and other sources not deposited in the operating funds in the state treasury are hereby appropriated for the period beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

SECTION 4. TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The state board of higher education is authorized to approve the transfer of funds between line items for each entity included in section 1 of this Act and shall notify the office of management and budget of each transfer.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION. The scholars program, university system contingency fund, student financial assistance grants, professional student exchange program, native American scholarships, and operating expenses contained in subdivision 2 of section 1 of chapter 32 of the 1997 Session Laws are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11 and any unexpended funds from these appropriations are available during the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS. The state board of higher education is authorized to adjust or increase full-time equivalent positions as needed, subject to the availability of funds. The university system shall report any adjustments to the office of management and budget prior to the submission of the 2001-03 budget request.

SECTION 7. UNEXPENDED GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS - EXCESS INCOME. Unexpended general fund dollars appropriated to and excess income received by entities listed in section 1 of chapter 32 of the 1997 Session Laws are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11 and any unexpended funds from these appropriations or revenues are available during the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001, and may be expended, as directed by the state board of higher education, for capital repairs and improvements, equipment, and other one-time expenditures.

SECTION 8. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS - LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY. The capital improvements at Bismarck state college and UND-Lake Region require a minimum local match as follows:

Bismarck state college - music addition	\$200,000
UND-Lake Region - auditorium renovation	\$495,000

Bismarck state college may, after receiving approval from the budget section, obtain and utilize any available funds, in addition to the minimum local match of \$200,000, received from federal, public, private, or other sources which are hereby appropriated to Bismarck state college to assist in the music addition and related renovations at Bismarck state college.

UND-Lake Region may, after receiving approval from the budget section, obtain and utilize any available funds, in addition to the minimum local match of \$495,000, received from federal, public, private, or other sources which are hereby appropriated to UND-Lake Region to assist in the auditorium renovation at UND-Lake Region.

SECTION 9. BOND ISSUANCE - PURPOSES. The state board of higher education, in accordance with chapter 15-55, may issue and sell self-liquidating, tax-exempt bonds in an amount not

exceeding \$4,750,000 for the purpose of financing capital projects at institutions under the control of the board, including an amount not exceeding \$250,000 for student union improvements at Bismarck state college and \$4,500,000 for a health and wellness center at North Dakota state university. Bonds issued under the provisions of this Act may not become a general obligation of the state of North Dakota.

SECTION 10. USE OF PROCEEDS - APPROPRIATION. The proceeds resulting from the sale of bonds authorized under section 9, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, in the amount of \$250,000 for the student union improvements at Bismarck state college and \$4,500,000 for a health and wellness center at North Dakota state university and other available funds from other sources are hereby appropriated for these projects. Any unexpended balance from the sale of bonds must be placed in a sinking fund for the retirement of the authorized bonds.

SECTION 11. LOCAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED. Any local funds beyond the local funds appropriated in Section 1 of this Act are hereby appropriated for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001, and may be spent subject to approval of the state board of higher education and reported to the budget section of the legislative council.

SECTION 12. SERVICE, ACCESS, GROWTH, AND EMPOWERMENT. Prior to purchasing goods or contracting for services for the service, access, growth, and empowerment project, the state board of higher education must receive permission from either the legislative assembly or the budget section of the legislative council. Information provided must include a business plan project.

SECTION 13. NDSU/NDSCS SKILLS TRAINING CENTER. The general fund moneys provided by the 1999 legislative assembly for the skills training center may only be used for renovations to the skills training center. Any general fund moneys provided for the skills training center for the 1999-2001 biennium are intended to be the final direct general fund support provided by the legislative assembly, and no direct general fund support may be provided for the operations of or renovations or additions to the skills training center after the 1999-2001 biennium.

SECTION 14. PROGRAM COORDINATION AND ACCREDITATION. The legislative assembly urges the state board of higher education to carefully review requests by state institutions of higher education applying for accreditation of programs that have already been accredited at other state institutions. The board should consider student access and quality issues as well as costs when reviewing such requests. Whenever such a request is made or accreditation is granted, the board is encouraged to direct the campuses offering similar programs to cooperate in jointly offering the similar programs by using the staffs and resources of the other campuses. Also, the legislative assembly expresses its strong support for the board to continue implementing policies and procedures to ensure coordination and cooperation between campuses where similar programs are offered.

SECTION 15. TECHNOLOGY POOL. The technology pool amount in subdivision 1 of section 1 must be used for the benefit of the institutions and entities in subdivisions 2 through 15 of section 1 as determined by the board of higher education. Technology funding allocations are to be made based on historic funding, the higher education computer network strategic plan, base funding for higher education computer network computer center operations, and base funding for interactive video network and on-line Dakota information network operations.

SECTION 16. CRITICAL SALARY POOL. The critical salary pool amount in subdivision 1 of section 1 must be used for the benefit of the institutions and entities in subdivisions 2 through 15 of section 1 as determined by the board of higher education. When making allocations from the critical salary pool in subdivision 1 of section 1, the state board of higher education shall allocate funds to address additional salary increases beyond legislative appropriations, for market and equity issues.

SECTION 17. EQUITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS POOL. The equity and special needs pool in subdivision 1 of section 1 must be used for the benefit of the institutions and entities in subdivisions 3 through 13 of section 1 as determined by the board of higher education. When making allocations from the equity and special needs pool in subdivision 1 of section 1, the board of higher education shall allocate the funds to address equity funding issues and special academic program needs of the entities under its control.

SECTION 18. MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY - BOTTINEAU INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE. The board of higher education is strongly encouraged to consider allocating \$200,000 from either the equity and special needs pool or the board initiatives funding to Minot state university - Bottineau for Minot state university - Bottineau's information technology initiative.

SECTION 19. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING. The legislative council shall consider studying higher education funding during the 1999-2000 interim. If conducted, the study should solicit input from the governor, board of higher education, executive branch, university system campuses, and representatives of business and industry. The study should address the expectations of the North Dakota university system in meeting the state's needs in the twenty-first century, the funding methodology needed to meet these expectations and needs, and an accountability system and reporting methodology for the university system. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the fifty-seventh legislative assembly.

SECTION 20. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - TRIBAL COLLEGES. The legislative council shall consider studying the tribally controlled colleges in this state and the United Tribes technical college, including a review of funding sources and the number of Indian and non-Indian students attending each college, for the purpose of determining the desirability and feasibility of a grant program to assist the colleges in providing education to students who are less than one-quarter Indian. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the fifty-seventh legislative assembly.

SECTION 21. UTILITY SAVINGS. Any utility savings realized during the 1999-2001 biennium by the entities listed in section 1 of this Act must be used for maintenance or capital project expenditures.

SECTION 22. LAND BOARD DISTRIBUTIONS. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 15-03-05.2, during the 1999-2001 biennium, the board of university and school lands shall distribute to the appropriate entities in section 1 of this Act all income from permanent funds managed for the benefit of those institutions.

SECTION 23. PARTICIPATION IN MIDWESTERN REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM. Notwithstanding section 24 of this Act, it is the intent of the fifty-sixth legislative assembly that during the 1999-2001 biennium North Dakota's membership in the midwestern regional higher education compact may not include participation in the compact's student exchange program. The legislative council shall consider including a review of North Dakota's participation in the student exchange program portion of the midwestern regional higher education compact in the study provided for in section 19 of this Act.

SECTION 24. A new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Midwestern regional higher education compact. The midwestern regional higher education compact is adopted as follows:

Article I. Purpose

The purpose of the midwestern higher education compact is to provide greater higher education opportunities and services in the midwestern region, with the aim of furthering regional access to, research in, and choice of higher education for the citizens residing in the states that are parties to this compact.

Article II. The Commission

1. The compacting states create the midwestern higher education commission, hereinafter called the commission. The commission is a body corporate of each compacting state. The commission has all the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth in this chapter, including the power to sue and be sued, and any additional powers conferred upon it by

subsequent action of the respective legislative assemblies of the compacting states in accordance with the terms of this compact.

2. The commission consists of the following five resident members from each state: the governor or the governor's designee who serves during the tenure of office of the governor; two legislators, one from each house, except for Nebraska, which may appoint two legislators from its legislative assembly, who serve two-year terms and are appointed by the appropriate appointing authority in each house of the legislative assembly; and two other at large members, at least one of whom is to be selected from the field of higher education. The at large members are to be appointed as provided by the laws of the appointing state. One of the two at large members initially appointed in each state serves a two-year term. The other, and any regularly appointed successor to either at large member, serves a four-year term. All vacancies are to be filled in accordance with the laws of the appointing states. Any commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy serves until the end of the incomplete term.
3. The commission shall select annually, from among its members, a chairman, a vice chairman, and a treasurer.
4. The commission shall appoint an executive director who serves at its pleasure and who is secretary to the commission. The treasurer, the executive director, and other personnel as the commission determines must be bonded in the amounts required by the commission.
5. The commission shall meet at least once each calendar year. The chairman may call additional meetings and upon the request of a majority of the commission members of three or more compacting states, shall call additional meetings. The commission shall give public notice of all meetings. All meetings must be open to the public.
6. Each compacting state represented at any meeting of the commission is entitled to one vote. A majority of the compacting states constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the commission.

Article III. Powers and Duties of the Commission

1. The commission shall adopt bylaws governing its management and operations.
2. Notwithstanding the laws of any compacting state, the commission shall provide for the personnel policies and programs of the compact in its bylaws.
3. The commission shall submit a budget to the governor and legislative assembly of each compacting state at the time and for the period required by each state. The budget must contain recommendations regarding the amount to be appropriated by each compacting state.
4. The commission shall report annually to the legislative assemblies and governors of the compacting states, to the midwestern governors' conference, and to the midwestern legislative conference of the council of state governments regarding the activities of the commission during the preceding year. The reports must include any recommendations that have been adopted by the commission.
5. The commission may borrow, accept, or contract for the services of personnel from any state or from the United States, or from any subdivision or agency thereof, from any interstate agency, or from any person.
6. The commission may accept for any of its purposes and functions under the compact donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state or the United States or from any subdivision or agency thereof, from an interstate agency, or from any person, and may receive, use, and dispose of the same.

7. The commission may enter agreements with any other interstate education organization or agency, with institutions of higher education located in nonmember states, and with any of the various states to provide adequate programs and services in higher education for the citizens of the respective compacting states. After negotiations with interested institutions and interstate organizations or agencies, the commission shall determine the cost of providing the programs and services in higher education for use in these agreements.
8. The commission may establish and maintain offices in one or more of the compacting states.
9. The commission may establish committees and hire staff as necessary to carry out its functions.
10. The commission may provide for actual and necessary expenses for the attendance of its members at official meetings of the commission or of its designated committees.

Article IV. Activities of the Commission

1. The commission shall collect data on the long-range effects of the compact on higher education. By the end of the fourth year from the effective date of the compact and every two years thereafter, the commission shall review its accomplishments and make recommendations to the governors and legislative assemblies of the compacting states regarding continuance of the compact.
2. The commission shall study higher education issues that are of particular concern to the midwestern region. The commission also shall study the need for higher education programs and services in the compacting states and the resources for meeting those needs. The commission shall prepare reports, on its research, for presentation to the governors and legislative assemblies of the compacting states, as well as to other interested parties. In conducting the studies, the commission may confer with any national or regional planning body. The commission may draft and recommend to the governors and legislative assemblies of the various compacting states suggested legislation addressing issues in higher education.
3. The commission shall study the need for the provision of adequate programs and services in higher education, such as undergraduate, graduate, or professional student exchanges in the region. If a need for exchange in a field is apparent, the commission may enter agreements with any institution of higher education and with any compacting state to provide programs and services in higher education for the citizens of the respective compacting states. After negotiating with interested institutions and the compacting states, the commission shall determine the cost of providing the programs and services in higher education for use in its agreements. The contracting states shall contribute funds not otherwise provided, as determined by the commission, to carry out the agreements. The commission may also serve as the administrative and fiscal agent in carrying out agreements for higher education programs and services.
4. The commission shall serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding higher education activities among institutions and agencies.
5. The commission may provide services and research in any other area of regional concern.

Article V. Finance

1. The compacting states will appropriate the amount necessary to finance the general operations of the commission, not otherwise provided for, when authorized by their respective legislative assemblies. The amount must be apportioned equally among the compacting states.

2. The commission may not incur any obligations prior to the passage of appropriations adequate to meet the same; nor may the commission pledge the credit of any of the compacting states, except by and with the authority of the compacting state.
3. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of its receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission are subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements handled by the commission must be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit must be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.
4. The accounts of the commission must be open at any reasonable time for inspection by duly authorized representatives of the compacting states and by persons authorized by the commission.

Article VI. Eligible Parties and Entry Into Force

1. The states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin are eligible to become parties to this compact. Additional states may be eligible if approved by a majority of the compacting states.
2. This compact becomes effective, as to any eligible party state, when its legislative assembly enacts the compact into law.
3. An amendment to the compact becomes effective upon its enactment by the legislative assemblies of all compacting states.

Article VII. Withdrawal, Default, and Termination

1. A compacting state may withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute repealing the compact, but the withdrawal may not become effective until two years after the enactment of such statute. A withdrawing state is liable for any obligation that it incurred on account of its party status, up to the effective date of withdrawal, except that if the withdrawing state has specifically undertaken or committed itself to any performance of an obligation extending beyond the effective date of withdrawal, it remains liable to the extent of the obligation.
2. If a compacting state at any time defaults in the performance of its obligations, assumed or imposed, in accordance with this compact, all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact or by agreements made under the compact are suspended from the effective date of the default, as fixed by the commission. The commission shall stipulate the conditions and maximum time for compliance under which the defaulting state may resume its regular status. Unless the default is remedied under the stipulations and within the time period set by the commission, the compact may be terminated with respect to the defaulting state by affirmative vote of a majority of the other member states. A defaulting state may be reinstated by performing all acts and obligations required by the commission.

Article VIII. Severability and Construction

The provisions of this compact are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any compacting state or of the United States or its applicability to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the compact and its applicability to any person or circumstance may not be affected. If the compact is found to be contrary to the constitution of any compacting state, the compact remains in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. The provisions of the compact must be liberally construed to effectuate the purpose of the compact.

Midwestern higher education commission - Terms - Vacancies.

1. The members of the midwestern higher education commission representing this state are:
 - a. The governor or the governor's designee.
 - b. One member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the chairman of the legislative council.
 - c. Two at large members, one of whom must be knowledgeable about the field of higher education, appointed by the governor.
2. The term of each legislative appointee is two years. One initial at large member must be appointed for a term of two years and the other for a term of four years. Thereafter, the term of each at large member is four years.
3. If a member vacates the position to which the member was appointed, the position must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as that position was filled initially.

SECTION 25. EMERGENCY. The capital improvements line items contained in subdivisions 2 through 14 of section 1 of this Act and the skills training center line item contained in subdivision 7 of section 1 of this Act are declared to be emergency measures, and those funds are available immediately upon filing of this Act with the secretary of state. Sections 9 and 10 of this Act are declared to be emergency measures.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1003 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 67 Nays 28 Absent 3

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 48 Nays 0 Absent 1

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State