

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2032

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 17-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
2 to the western infrastructure strategy office; and to provide an appropriation.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 17-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as
5 follows:

6 **17-10-01. Western infrastructure strategy office.**

7 The western infrastructure strategy office is governed by the department of commerce. The
8 department of commerce shall appoint a director and the director may contract for services for
9 the completion of the director's duties within the limits of legislative appropriations.

10 **17-10-02. Duties of the western infrastructure strategy office.**

11 The director shall develop and maintain a current comprehensive strategic plan to identify
12 the current and future regional infrastructure needs of counties and communities affected by oil
13 and gas development through the collection and analysis of information and opinions of state
14 and local governmental entities and stakeholders involved in and affected by oil and gas
15 development.

16 **17-10-03. Duties of the director.**

17 The director shall collect information from available resources and through studies directed
18 by the department of commerce, as well as the North Dakota association of oil and gas
19 producing counties, analyze information from all available sources, and create a strategic plan
20 to address and prioritize the current and future impacts and infrastructure needs of the state
21 and counties and communities affected by oil and gas development. The director shall consult
22 and cooperate with state and local governmental entities, oil and gas industry representatives,
23 landowners, mineral owners, and other stakeholders involved in and affected by oil and gas

1 development. For the plan, the director must include an analysis of all current funding,
2 programs, and incentives used to address impacts and infrastructure needs.

3 As directed by the department of commerce, the director shall analyze any changes or
4 additions to funding, programs, and incentives to meet impacts and infrastructure needs. The
5 director shall make recommendations to the department of commerce to make the most efficient
6 use of state and local resources to meet the current and future impacts and infrastructure needs
7 of the state and counties and communities affected by oil and gas development. The director
8 may make recommendations for future areas of study and improved gathering of information
9 and, as requested, coordinate and direct state-funded studies relating to western infrastructure
10 and impacts. The director shall update the plan and recommendations based on changing
11 conditions.

12 **17-10-04. Reporting requirements.**

13 The director shall deliver a written report on the western infrastructure strategy office's
14 activities to the legislative council each biennium. The western infrastructure strategy office is
15 not subject to the requirements of chapter 54-60.1, but to ensure public accountability, the
16 director shall provide an annual report to the department of commerce detailing activities and
17 expenditures incurred during the preceding year. The director shall provide annual updates to
18 the budget section of the legislative management, the North Dakota association of oil and gas
19 producing counties, and the legislative management.

20 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
21 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, or so much of the
22 sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of establishing the
23 western infrastructure strategy office, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending
24 June 30, 2017.