A BILL for an Act to create a higher education open educational resources incentive grant program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES GRANTS. Pursuant to section 54-44.1-11, the sum of $5,000,000 appropriated from the general fund in the performance funding pool line item of subdivision 1 of section 1 of chapter 34 of the 2013 Session Laws may be continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017. The state board of higher education may use up to $1,000,000 of unexpended appropriation authority from this line item for the purpose of creating a grant program to increase the use of open educational resources.

1. The board may award grants to academic faculty and instructional staff at institutions under the control of the board for salary performance bonuses or equipment and resources for the development and implementation of open educational resources. Total grant funds awarded to an individual under this section may not exceed $20,000.

2. The board shall establish an advisory committee to develop criteria upon which all requests for grants will be reviewed. The advisory committee must include at least one faculty member and one student member. The advisory committee shall review all grant requests and recommend to the board the approval of grants.

3. The North Dakota university system office shall provide staff services as necessary to implement and administer the grant program.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT. During the 2015-16 interim, the state board of higher education shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the status of the open educational resources grant program created in section 1 of this Act.
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report must include information regarding the number of grants awarded and a summary of the
projects that received grant funding.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.