

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Government Finance Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-35 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to legislative management studies of state agency fees; to provide for a  
3 legislative management study relating to establishing new state agency fees; and to declare an  
4 emergency.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-35 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Legislative interim committee review of state agency fees.**

9 1. The legislative management shall assign to one or more interim committees a study of  
10 selected state agency fees as provided in this section.

11 a. By July 1, 2022, each state agency that is authorized to impose forty fees or  
12 fewer shall submit a report to the office of management and budget including:

13 (1) The amount of each fee;

14 (2) When the fee was implemented;

15 (3) Why the fee is set at the specific dollar amount;

16 (4) Where the fee is deposited; and

17 (5) Whether the fee is critical for the budget of the agency.

18 b. By July 1, 2024, each state agency that is authorized to impose more than forty  
19 fees shall submit a report to the legislative management including:

20 (1) The amount of each fee;

21 (2) When the fee was implemented;

22 (3) Why the fee is set at the specific dollar amount;

23 (4) Where the fee is deposited; and

24 (5) Whether the fee is critical for the budget of the agency.

- 1           c. By September first in the year the reports are received, the office of management  
2           and budget shall compile all of the reports into a single report and provide the  
3           report to the legislative management.
- 4        2. In addition to the report required under subsection 1, each state agency shall provide  
5        an analysis of each fee. The analysis must include:
- 6           a. A comparison of revenue generated by the fee to the cost incurred to provide the  
7           services associated with the fee;
- 8           b. The history of the fee, including when it was created and any subsequent  
9           changes;
- 10          c. The appropriateness of the fee amount and the affordability of the fee to the  
11          public; and
- 12          d. The appropriateness of using other government revenues to pay a portion of  
13          services associated with the fee and the effect of the use of other revenues.
- 14        3. An interim committee assigned a fee study shall:
- 15           a. Make a recommendation regarding the fee which identifies whether the fee  
16           should remain unchanged or be eliminated, increased, decreased, or otherwise  
17           modified and the rationale for the recommendation.
- 18           b. Report its findings and recommendations to the legislative management. As part  
19           of its recommendations, the committee shall identify potential state agency fees  
20           to be reviewed during the subsequent interim.
- 21        4. Any state agency authorized by the legislative assembly to impose a fee shall provide  
22        data, analysis, and other information as requested by the interim committee  
23        conducting a study under this section.
- 24        5. Fees to be examined under this section include those deposited in the general fund or  
25        the agency operating budget. Fees to be examined do not include fees for service.
- 26        6. If a state agency is unable to meet the deadline imposed under subsection 1, the state  
27        agency may appeal to the legislative management for an extension.
- 28        7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, state agencies may not establish any new  
29        fees under chapter 28-32 unless the fee was approved by the legislative assembly, the  
30        budget section, or the emergency commission.

1       8. By July first of each even-numbered year, each agency that has fees shall provide a  
2           report to the legislative management indicating whether any fees were added, deleted,  
3           or changed during the course of the biennium.

4       **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY.** During the 2021-22 interim, the  
5 legislative management shall consider studying the creation of a general fee policy relating to  
6 how state agencies' fees should be established for new programs and a continued review of  
7 existing fees. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,  
8 together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations to the sixty-eighth  
9 legislative assembly.

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