

Sixty-seventh  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2002

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the judicial branch;  
2 to amend and reenact sections 14-08.1-08, 14-09-08.1, 14-09-08.2, 14-09-09.29, 14-09-26,  
3 27-02-02, and 27-05-03 and subsection 2 of section 50-09-02.1 of the North Dakota Century  
4 Code, relating to clerk of court responsibilities regarding child support, salaries of justices of the  
5 supreme court, and salaries of district court judges; to provide for a report; to provide a  
6 statement of legislative intent; and to provide an exemption.

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

8 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds  
9 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
10 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and  
11 other income, to the judicial branch for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the judicial  
12 branch for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, as follows:

13 Subdivision 1.

14 SUPREME COURT

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
15			
16			
17	Salaries and wages	(\$102,613)	\$11,236,107
18	Operating expenses	(355,668)	2,350,094
19	Capital assets	2,032,000	2,032,000
20	Guardianship monitoring program	<u>4,112</u>	<u>287,154</u>
21	Total all funds	\$1,577,831	\$15,905,355
22	Less estimated income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
23	Total general fund	\$1,577,831	\$15,905,355

24 Subdivision 2.

1		DISTRICT COURTS		
2			Adjustments or	
3		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
4	Salaries and wages	\$73,242,268	\$3,911,435	\$77,153,703
5	Operating expenses	20,396,902	755,340	21,152,242
6	Capital assets	0	2,328,000	2,328,000
7	Judges' retirement	<u>280,332</u>	<u>(143,086)</u>	<u>137,246</u>
8	Total all funds	\$93,919,502	\$6,851,689	\$100,771,191
9	Less estimated income	<u>1,659,596</u>	<u>32,314</u>	<u>1,691,910</u>
10	Total general fund	\$92,259,906	\$6,819,375	\$99,079,281
11	Subdivision 3.			
12	JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD			
13			Adjustments or	
14		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
15	Judicial conduct commission and	<u>\$1,250,962</u>	<u>\$69,235</u>	<u>\$1,320,197</u>
16	disciplinary board			
17	Total all funds	\$1,250,962	\$69,235	\$1,320,197
18	Less estimated income	<u>482,701</u>	<u>19,799</u>	<u>502,500</u>
19	Total general fund	\$768,261	\$49,436	\$817,697
20	Subdivision 4.			
21	BILL TOTAL			
22			Adjustments or	
23		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
24	Grand total general fund	\$107,355,691	\$8,446,642	\$115,802,333
25	Grand total special funds	<u>2,142,297</u>	<u>52,113</u>	<u>2,194,410</u>
26	Grand total all funds	\$109,497,988	\$8,498,755	\$117,996,743
27	Full-time equivalent positions	363.00	(1.50)	361.50

28       **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**  
 29 **SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect one-time funding  
 30 items approved by the sixty-sixth legislative assembly for the 2019-21 biennium and the  
 31 2021-23 biennium one-time funding items included in section 1 of this Act:

	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2019-21</u>	<u>2021-23</u>
1			
2	Docket management system	\$0	\$2,000,000
3	Juvenile case management system	0	2,000,000
4	Zoom remote video equipment	0	360,000
5	Wi-fi access points	0	157,600
6	Copy machines	82,500	0
7	Audio and visual equipment	64,852	0
8	Law library remodel	<u>970,000</u>	<u>0</u>
9	Total all funds	\$1,117,352	\$4,517,600
10	Less estimated income	<u>970,000</u>	<u>0</u>
11	Total general fund	\$147,352	\$4,517,600

12 The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget  
13 for the 2023-25 biennium. The supreme court shall report to the appropriations committees of  
14 the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium  
15 beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

16 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There are appropriated any funds received by the supreme  
17 court, district courts, and judicial conduct commission and disciplinary board, not otherwise  
18 appropriated, pursuant to federal acts and private gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose  
19 as designated in the federal acts or private gifts, grants, and donations for the period beginning  
20 July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

21 **SECTION 4. EXEMPTION - TRANSFERS.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director  
22 of the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority between line items  
23 in section 1 of this Act as requested by the supreme court upon a finding by the court that the  
24 nature of the duties of the court and its staff requires the transfers to carry on properly the  
25 functions of the judicial branch of government.

26 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-08.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **14-08.1-08. Certification of records.**

29 ~~The clerk of court and any~~An authorized agent of the child support agency, in any  
30 circumstance or proceeding requiring proof of the contents of the official records of the state  
31 regarding any information maintained in the state case registry of the automated data

1 processing system established under section 50-09-02.1, may certify the content of those  
2 records. A certification provided under this section is prima facie evidence of the contents of  
3 those records.

4 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **14-09-08.1. Support payments - Payment to state disbursement unit - Transfer of**  
7 **proceedings for enforcement of decree - Procedures upon failure to pay.**

- 8 1. In any action in which a court orders that payments for child support be made, the  
9 court shall provide in its order that the payments be paid to the state disbursement unit  
10 for remittance to the obligee.
- 11 2. a. Each party subject to the order shall immediately inform the state disbursement  
12 unit of the party's:
- 13 (1) Social security number;
  - 14 (2) Residential and mailing addresses and any change of address;
  - 15 (3) Telephone number;
  - 16 (4) Motor vehicle operator's license number;
  - 17 (5) Employer's name, address, and telephone number;
  - 18 (6) Electronic mail address; and
  - 19 (7) Change of any other condition which may affect the proper administration of  
20 this chapter.
- 21 b. Each order for payment of child support must notify each party of the  
22 requirements in subdivision a and require the party to provide the information  
23 within ten days from the date of the order or ten days after any change in the  
24 information.
- 25 c. In any subsequent child support enforcement or modification action between the  
26 parties, upon sufficient showing that diligent effort has been made to ascertain  
27 the location of a party, the court shall deem due process requirements for notice  
28 and service to have been met, with respect to the noticed party, by delivery of  
29 written notice to the most recent residential or employer address provided by the  
30 noticed party pursuant to this subsection.

- 1           d. The requirements of this subsection continue in effect until all child support  
2           obligations have been satisfied with respect to each child subject to the order.
- 3           3. Whenever there is failure to make the payments as required, the clerk of court may,  
4           and upon request of the obligee or child support agency shall, send notice of the  
5           arrears by first-class mail, with affidavit of service, to the person required to make the  
6           payments, or request a district judge of the judicial district to issue a citation for  
7           contempt of court against the person who has failed to make the payments. The  
8           citation may be served on that person by first-class mail with affidavit of service to the  
9           person's last-known address.
- 10          4. The court of its own motion or on motion of the child support agency or the state's  
11          attorney of the county of venue, the county of the recipient's residence, or the county  
12          of the obligor's residence may cause a ~~certified copy of any~~ support order in the action  
13          to be transcribed and filed with the clerk of the district court of any county in this state  
14          in which the obligee or the obligor may reside from time to time. Thereafter, this  
15          section applies as if the support order were issued by the district court of the county to  
16          which the support order is transcribed. No fee may be charged for transcribing or filing  
17          a ~~certified copy of any~~ support order under this section.

18          **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19          amended and reenacted as follows:

20          **14-09-08.2. Support for children after majority - Retroactive application.**

- 21          1. A judgment or order requiring the payment of child support until the child attains  
22          majority continues as to the child until the end of the month during which the child is  
23          graduated from high school or attains the age of nineteen years, whichever occurs  
24          first, if:
- 25                  a. The child is enrolled and attending high school and is eighteen years of age ~~prior-~~  
26                  ~~to~~before the date the child is expected to be graduated; and
- 27                  b. The child resides with the person to whom the duty of support is owed.
- 28          2. A judgment or order may require payment of child support after majority under  
29          substantially the circumstances described in subsection 1.
- 30          3. The person to whom the duty of support is owed under either subsection 1 or 2 may  
31          file an affidavit with the district court and provide a copy to the child support agency

1           stating that the requirements of subsection 1 are met, the school in which the child is  
2           enrolled, and the anticipated date of the child's graduation. Upon filing of the affidavit,  
3           the child support resumes pursuant to subsection 1 or pursuant to the terms of a  
4           judgment or order described in subsection 2. A fee may not be charged for filing such  
5           an affidavit.

6           4. ~~The clerk of court~~child support agency shall serve the affidavit by first-class mail upon  
7           the person owing the duty of support. If at any time thereafter the person owing the  
8           duty of support files a motion with the court, supported by that person's affidavit that  
9           the child is no longer enrolled in or attending high school or is no longer residing with  
10          the person to whom the duty of support is owed, the court shall determine if the child is  
11          enrolled in and attending high school and residing with the person to whom the duty of  
12          support is owed and shall enter an order accordingly.

13          5. This section applies to child support orders concerning children described in  
14          subsection 1 or 2, regardless of the date of entry of the order.

15          6. This section does not preclude the entry of an order for child support which continues  
16          after the child reaches age eighteen, if the parties agree, or if the court determines the  
17          support to be appropriate.

18          7. For purposes of this section:

19           a. A child is treated as being in school during summer vacation if the child was  
20           enrolled in and attending school and did not graduate from high school at the end  
21           of the school period immediately preceding the summer vacation; and

22           b. A child who is currently enrolled in school is not considered to have graduated,  
23           even if all required coursework and examinations have been completed, until the  
24           ceremony is held by the school to commemorate the child's graduation.

25          **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.29 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26          amended and reenacted as follows:

27          **14-09-09.29. Coordination of income withholding activities and child support case**  
28          **management.**

29          The child support agency ~~shall assume responsibility~~is responsible for administration of  
30          income withholding, managing accrual and termination dates and payment ledger adjustments  
31          on the automated system established under section 50-09-02.1, and the receipt and

1 disbursement of child support payments. This section also applies to an order that does not  
2 require the payment of child support but requires the payment of spousal support, if the court  
3 orders the spousal support be paid through the state disbursement unit or be enforced through  
4 income withholding.

5 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **14-09-26. Modification of existing child support orders.**

- 8 1. A child support order issued under any provision of this code and in effect on  
9 October 1, 1998, is deemed to require payment to the state disbursement unit after  
10 September 30, 1998.
- 11 2. A child support order issued under any provision of this code after September 30,  
12 1998, must require payment to the state disbursement unit.
- 13 ~~3. A payment of child support received by a clerk of court after September 30, 1998, is~~  
14 ~~deemed to be a payment to the state disbursement unit. A clerk of court receiving such~~  
15 ~~child support payment after September 30, 1998, shall promptly remit or transfer that~~  
16 ~~payment to the state disbursement unit.~~

17 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **27-02-02. Salaries of justices of supreme court.**

20 The annual salary of each justice of the supreme court is ~~one hundred fifty-nine thousand~~  
21 ~~four hundred nine dollars through June 30, 2020~~one hundred sixty-six thousand six hundred  
22 sixty-two dollars through June 20, 2022, and one hundred sixty-three thousand three hundred  
23 ~~ninety-four~~one hundred sixty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars thereafter. The  
24 chief justice of the supreme court is entitled to receive an additional ~~four thousand five hundred~~  
25 ~~eight dollars per annum through June 30, 2020~~four thousand seven hundred thirteen dollars per  
26 annum through June 30, 2022, and four thousand six hundred twenty-onefour thousand eight  
27 hundred seven dollars per annum thereafter.

28 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-05-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **27-05-03. Salaries and expenses of district judges.**

2       The annual salary of each district judge is ~~one hundred forty-six thousand two hundred~~  
3 ~~sixty-nine dollars through June 30, 2020~~one hundred fifty-two thousand nine hundred  
4 twenty-five dollars through June 30, 2022, and ~~one hundred forty-nine thousand nine hundred~~  
5 ~~twenty-six~~one hundred fifty-five thousand nine hundred eighty-four dollars thereafter. Each  
6 district judge is entitled to travel expenses, including mileage and subsistence while engaged in  
7 the discharge of official duties outside the city in which the judge's chambers are located. The  
8 salary and expenses are payable monthly in the manner provided by law. A presiding judge of a  
9 judicial district is entitled to receive an additional ~~four thousand one hundred fifty-six dollars per~~  
10 ~~annum through June 30, 2020~~four thousand three hundred forty-five dollars per annum through  
11 June 30, 2022, and ~~four thousand two hundred sixty~~four thousand four hundred thirty-two  
12 dollars thereafter.

13       **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 50-09-02.1 of the North Dakota  
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15       2. The state agency shall establish a statewide automated data processing system  
16 designed to conform to requirements imposed by or under title IV-D. ~~The state agency~~  
17 ~~must make that system available for the use of clerks of court in carrying out their~~  
18 ~~duties under section 14-09-08.1.~~ The official records of the state regarding all child  
19 support amounts owed, collected, and distributed must be maintained in that system.  
20 Notwithstanding section 14-08.1-05, any record of a child support obligation that is  
21 currently being enforced in another jurisdiction and not by a child support agency, that  
22 is owed by an obligor who is deceased, or that is owed to a deceased obligee for  
23 whom disbursement of any collections could not occur under section 14-09-25, may  
24 be removed indefinitely from the statewide automated data processing system until a  
25 request is received from a party to the child support case to restore those records.

26       **SECTION 13. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.** It is  
27 the intent of the sixty-seventh legislative assembly that the judicial branch pursue the use of  
28 federal funds from the coronavirus relief fund to defray the cost of remote video equipment and  
29 district court wi-fi access points.