

HOUSE BILL NO. 1452

Introduced by

Representatives Bosch, Delzer, Mitskog, Pollert, Porter

Senators Holmberg, Patten, Bell, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund; to
3 amend and reenact sections 17-01-01 and 17-07-01 and subsection 5 of section 54-44.4-02 of
4 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to low-emission technology, the energy policy
5 commission, and an exemption from procurement services for energy programs; to provide a
6 continuing appropriation; to provide an appropriation; to provide a transfer; and to provide a
7 report.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 17-01-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **17-01-01. ~~25x'25 initiative~~ Low-emission technology.**

12 The legislative assembly adopts the ~~25x'25~~ low-emission technology initiative with the goal
13 that ~~not later than January 1, 2025,~~ the agricultural, forestry, natural resources, and working
14 land of the United States should provide from ~~renewable resources~~ low-emission technology not
15 less than twenty-five percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to
16 produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, fuel, feed, and fiber. Increasing America's
17 ~~renewable energy~~ low-emission technology use will bring new ~~technologies~~ advancements to
18 market and save consumers money, reduce the nation's dependence on oil from the Middle
19 East, create good new jobs in rural America, ~~and~~ clean up the air ~~and,~~ reduce urban smog, and
20 address global warming issues. As used in this initiative, ~~renewable energy~~ low-emission
21 technology includes biofuels, solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, carbon recycling, carbon
22 sequestration, use of waste heat, recycling, ~~low-emission technologies that create or use~~
23 hydrogen, coal, oil, natural gas, and energy efficiency initiatives. ~~The 25x'25 initiative will benefit~~
24 ~~agriculture and forestry, the environment, and national security and provide economic~~

1 ~~growth~~ Investing and acknowledging a commitment to low-emission technologies allows the
2 state to use its abundant natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.
3 This initiative provides North Dakota consumers with affordable, reliable, and sustainable
4 energy for the benefit of the state's economy and communities.

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 17-07-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **17-07-01. Energy policy commission.**

8 1. The energy policy commission is composed of:

- 9 a. The commissioner of commerce;
- 10 b. A representative of the agriculture community appointed by the governor;
- 11 c. A representative recommended by the lignite energy council appointed by the
12 governor;
- 13 d. A representative recommended by the North Dakota petroleum council appointed
14 by the governor;
- 15 e. A member from the biodiesel or green diesel industry appointed by the governor;
- 16 f. A member from the biomass industry appointed by the governor;
- 17 g. A member from the wind industry appointed by the governor;
- 18 h. A member from the ethanol industry appointed by the governor;
- 19 i. A representative recommended by the North Dakota petroleum marketers
20 association appointed by the governor;
- 21 j. A member from the North Dakota investor-owned electric utility industry
22 appointed by the governor;
- 23 k. A member from the generation and transmission electric cooperative industry
24 appointed by the governor;
- 25 l. A member from the lignite coal-producing industry appointed by the governor;
- 26 m. A member from the refining or gas-processing industry appointed by the
27 governor; and
- 28 n. Additional nonvoting members appointed by the governor.

29 2. Each member of the commission shall serve for a term of two years, beginning July
30 first, may be reappointed for additional terms, and serves at the pleasure of the
31 governor.

- 1 3. The commissioner of commerce is chairman of the commission.
- 2 4. The commission shall meet at least ~~four~~^{two} times per biennium or as often as the
3 chairman deems necessary. The commission shall hold at least two public hearings
4 per biennium, ~~at which time interested parties may present testimony~~ in coordination
5 with the state energy research center and allow public input from invited national and
6 regional leaders and interested persons regarding issues pertinent to the state's
7 comprehensive energy policy. The department of commerce shall provide staffing for
8 the commission.
- 9 5. The legislative assembly shall develop a comprehensive energy policy for the state.
10 ~~The commission shall monitor progress made toward the goals outlined in the energy~~
11 ~~policy and make recommendations to the energy policy as needed~~ In coordination with
12 the state energy research center, the commission shall identify and make
13 recommendations to the clean sustainable energy authority on low-emission
14 technology and advancements in energy efficiencies for the state. The
15 recommendations must include consideration of environmental benefits;
16 advancements or developments that have led to increased economic benefits and
17 positive environmental public health benefits for the citizens and visitors of North
18 Dakota, including cleaner air, soil, and water; improved efficiencies; reduction of
19 waste; lower carbon-intensive agricultural products; and units of energy. The
20 recommendations also may consider other factors, including environmental, social,
21 and governance policies and the effect on financial or capital markets. The
22 commission shall monitor the progress of implementing and achieving environmental
23 benefits through the state's comprehensive energy policy. The commission shall report
24 biennially to the legislative management.
- 25 6. The members of the commission who are not state employees are entitled to mileage
26 and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees. Unless otherwise
27 provided in this subsection, the expenses of appointed members are to be paid by the
28 department of commerce. A state employee who is a member of the commission must
29 receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expenses, to be
30 paid by the employing agency.

1 **SECTION 3.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
2 enacted as follows:

3 **Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter:

- 5 1. "Authority" means the clean sustainable energy authority.
- 6 2. "Clean" means a technology or concept that reduces emissions to the air, water, or
7 land and meets or exceeds state and federal environmental regulations.
- 8 3. "Commission" means the industrial commission.
- 9 4. "Fund" means the clean sustainable energy fund.
- 10 5. "Program" means the clean sustainable energy program.
- 11 6. "Sustainable" means a technology or concept that allows the use of a natural resource
12 to be maintained or enhanced through increased efficiency and life cycle benefits
13 without adversely impacting energy security, affordability, reliability, resilience, or
14 national security.

15 **Clean sustainable energy authority - Purpose.**

16 There is created the clean sustainable energy authority to support research, development,
17 and technological advancements through partnerships and financial support for the large scale
18 development and commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that
19 reduce environmental impacts of energy production. The purpose of the financial support is to
20 enhance the production of clean sustainable energy, to make the state a world leader in the
21 production of clean sustainable energy, and to diversify and grow the state's economy.

22 **Clean sustainable energy authority - Membership - Meetings.**

- 23 1. The clean sustainable energy authority consists of fifteen members, including seven
24 voting members and eight ex officio, nonvoting members.
- 25 2. The seven voting members consist of:
 - 26 a. One member appointed by the legislative management to serve as chairman;
 - 27 b. Two members appointed by the lignite research council;
 - 28 c. Two members appointed by the oil and gas research council;
 - 29 d. One member appointed by the renewable energy council; and
 - 30 e. One member appointed by the western Dakota energy association.
- 31 3. The eight ex officio, nonvoting members consist of:

- 1 a. One member appointed by the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund advisory
- 2 board;
- 3 b. The commissioner of commerce or the commissioner's designee;
- 4 c. The director of the department of environmental quality or the director's designee;
- 5 d. The director of mineral resources or the director's designee;
- 6 e. The director of the North Dakota pipeline authority or the director's designee;
- 7 f. The director of the North Dakota transmission authority or the director's designee;
- 8 g. The director of the state energy research center or the director's designee;
- 9 h. The president of the Bank of North Dakota or the president's designee;
- 10 4. The term of office for the chairman is two years. The term of office for the other voting
- 11 members is four years, and the other voting members may not serve more than two
- 12 consecutive terms. The terms of office for the voting members commence on July first.
- 13 The initial terms for the voting members of the authority must be staggered following a
- 14 method determined by the authority.
- 15 5. The authority shall meet at least semiannually. The chairman shall call a meeting upon
- 16 written request from three voting members of the authority. Four voting members is a
- 17 quorum at any meeting.

18 **Clean sustainable energy authority - Duties - Report.**

- 19 1. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for program guidelines,
- 20 including eligibility criteria for entities to receive funding under this chapter.
- 21 2. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for grant awards, loan
- 22 approvals, or other financial assistance to provide funding to support research,
- 23 development, and technological advancements for the large scale development and
- 24 commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that reduce
- 25 environmental impacts in accordance with this chapter. Any projects, processes,
- 26 activities, and technologies selected by the commission for funding must have been
- 27 recommended by the authority, must demonstrate feasibility based on a technical
- 28 review, must have other sources of financial support, and must achieve the priorities
- 29 and purposes of the program. At the request of the authority, the Bank of North Dakota
- 30 shall provide a recommendation regarding the economic feasibility of a project,
- 31 process, activity, or technology under consideration by the authority. The Bank shall

1 review the business plan, financial statements, and other information necessary to
2 provide a recommendation.

3 ~~3. The authority shall make recommendations to the legislative assembly on a~~
4 ~~comprehensive environmental, social, and governance policy for the state. The~~
5 ~~authority shall monitor the progress made to implement the environmental, social, and~~
6 ~~governance policy.~~

7 ~~4.~~ The authority may consult with any other state agency necessary to carry out the
8 purposes under this chapter.

9 ~~5.4.~~ Each biennium, the authority shall provide a written report to the legislative
10 management regarding its activities.

11 **Clean sustainable energy program - Powers and duties of the commission.**

12 1. The commission is granted all the powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this
13 chapter, including the power to:

14 a. Provide grants, loans, or other forms of financial assistance to qualified entities
15 for the research, demonstration, development, and commercialization of projects,
16 processes, activities, and technologies that reduce environmental impacts and
17 use energy sources derived from within the state. Other forms of financial
18 assistance include venture capital investments and interest rate buydowns. The
19 commission must require an entity to provide assurance of financial and other
20 types of support that demonstrate a commitment to the project, process, activity,
21 or technology.

22 b. Enter into contracts or agreements to carry out the purposes of this chapter,
23 including contracting for the administration of the program.

24 c. Keep accurate records of all financial transactions performed under this chapter.

25 d. Cooperate with any private, local, state, or national organization to make
26 contracts and agreements for programs that advance the mission of the program.

27 e. Accept loan repayments, donations, grants, contributions, or gifts from any public
28 or private source to carry out the purposes of this chapter, which must be
29 deposited in the clean sustainable energy fund.

30 f. Make guidelines necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including
31 guidelines relating to the ownership of intellectual property.

- 1 2. The commission may acquire, purchase, hold, use, lease, license, sell, transfer, or
2 dispose of any interest in an asset necessary for clean sustainable energy technology
3 development to facilitate the production, transportation, distribution, or delivery of
4 clean energy commodities produced in the state as a purchases of last resort.
- 5 3. The commission shall provide administrative support to the authority for the operation
6 of the program, including the preparation of forms, review of applications, and ongoing
7 review of any contracts. The commission may contract with a public or private entity to
8 provide technical assistance necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter.
- 9 4. The commission is not subject to the reporting requirements under chapter 54-60.1.

10 **Clean sustainable energy program - Access to records.**

- 11 1. To the extent the commission or authority determines the materials or data consist of
12 trade secrets or commercial, financial, or proprietary information of individuals or
13 entities applying to or contracting with the commission or receiving commission
14 services under this chapter, materials and data submitted to, made by, or received by
15 the commission or authority, are not public records subject to section 44-04-18 and
16 section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota, and are subject to section
17 44-04-18.4.
- 18 2. A person or entity may file a request with the commission to have material designated
19 as confidential under subsection 1. The request must contain any information required
20 by the commission and must include at least the following:
 - 21 a. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.
 - 22 b. An explanation of why the information derives independent economic value,
23 actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons.
 - 24 c. An explanation of why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper
25 means of other persons.
 - 26 d. A general description of any person that may obtain economic value from
27 disclosure or use of the information, and how the person may obtain this value.
 - 28 e. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.
- 29 3. Any request under subsection 2 is confidential. The commission shall examine the
30 request and determine whether the information is relevant to the matter at hand and is
31 a trade secret under the definition in section 47-25.1-01 or 44-04-18.4. If the

1 commission determines the information is either not relevant or not a trade secret, the
2 commission shall notify the requester and the requester may ask for the return of the
3 information and the request within ten days of the notice. If no return is sought, the
4 information and request are public record.

5 4. The names or identities of independent technical reviewers on a project or program
6 are confidential, may not be disclosed by the commission, and are not public records
7 subject to section 44-04-18 or section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North
8 Dakota.

9 **Clean sustainable energy fund - Continuing appropriation.**

10 There is created in the state treasury the clean sustainable energy fund. The fund consists
11 of all moneys transferred to the fund by the legislative assembly; interest upon moneys in the
12 fund; principal and interest payments to the fund; and donations, grants, and other contributions
13 received by the commission for deposit in the fund. All moneys in the fund are appropriated to
14 the commission on a continuing basis to provide grants, loans, and other financial assistance
15 and for administrative and operating costs of the authority and program pursuant to the
16 provisions under this chapter.

17 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 54-44.4-02 of the North Dakota
18 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

19 5. Procurements by the industrial commission for energy-related programs under
20 chapters 17-05, 54-17.5, 54-17.6, 54-17.7, section 43 of this Act, and 54-63 and under
21 those statutes in title 38 authorizing the industrial commission to perform well and hole
22 pluggings, reclamation work, equipment removal, leak prevention, and similar work.

23 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - CLEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND.**

24 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
25 appropriated, the sum of ~~\$25,000,000~~\$40,000,000, which the office of management and budget
26 shall transfer to the clean sustainable energy fund, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2021,
27 and ending June 30, 2023.