

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

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

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

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

8 **17-07-01. Energy policy commission.**

9 1. The energy policy commission is composed of:

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

- 1 2. Each member of the commission shall serve for a term of two years, beginning July
2 first, may be reappointed for additional terms, and serves at the pleasure of the
3 governor.
- 4 3. The commissioner of commerce, or the commissioner's designee, is chairman of the
5 commission.
- 6 4. The commission shall meet at least ~~four~~two times per biennium or as often as the
7 chairman deems necessary. The commission shall hold at least two public hearings
8 per biennium, ~~at which time interested parties may present to receive testimony in-~~
9 ~~coordination with the state energy research center and allow public input from invited-~~
10 ~~national and regional leaders and interested persons~~ regarding issues pertinent to the
11 state's comprehensive energy policy and low-emission technology initiative. The
12 department of commerce shall provide staffing for the commission.
- 13 5. ~~The legislative assembly shall develop a comprehensive energy policy for the state.-~~
14 ~~The commission shall monitor progress made toward the goals outlined in the energy-~~
15 ~~policy and make recommendations to the energy policy as needed~~~~In coordination with-~~
16 ~~the state energy research center, the~~The commission shall~~may~~ identify and make
17 recommendations to the clean sustainable energy authority on technologies related to
18 low-emission technology and advancements in energy efficiencies for the state. The
19 recommendations must~~may~~ include consideration of ~~environmental benefits;~~
20 advancements or developments that have led to increased economic benefits and
21 positive environmental public health benefits for the citizens and visitors of North
22 Dakota, including cleaner air, soil, and water; improved efficiencies; reduction of
23 waste; lower carbon-intensive agricultural products or processes; and units~~quantities~~
24 of energy used. The recommendations also may consider other factors, including
25 environmental, social, and governance policies and the effect on financial or capital
26 markets. The commission shall consider and make recommendations on policies to
27 ensure the availability of affordable, reliable, resilient, and sustainable energy in the
28 state; to expand value-added energy; and to expand the opportunities to diversify the
29 use of North Dakota's natural resources, which may increase state tax revenues. The
30 commission shall study and evaluate critical energy infrastructure and shall make
31 recommendations to ensure the state's comprehensive energy policy supports

1 electrical grid reliability and resiliency and supports sufficient dispatchable generation
2 capacity to avoid brownouts, blackouts, or outages. The commission shall monitor the
3 progress of implementing and achieving environmental benefits through the state's
4 comprehensive energy policy.

5 6. The legislative assembly shall consider recommendations from the commission to
6 develop a comprehensive energy policy for the state. The commission shall report its
7 recommendations biennially to the legislative management.

8 ~~6.7.~~ The members of the commission who are not state employees are entitled to mileage
9 and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees. Unless otherwise
10 provided in this subsection, the expenses of appointed members are to be paid by the
11 department of commerce. A state employee who is a member of the commission must
12 receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expenses, to be
13 paid by the employing agency.

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

16 **Definitions.**

17 As used in this chapter:

- 18 1. "Authority" means the clean sustainable energy authority.
- 19 2. "Clean" means a technology or concept that reduces emissions to the air, water, or
20 land and meets or exceeds state and federal environmental regulations.
- 21 3. "Commission" means the industrial commission.
- 22 4. "Fund" means the clean sustainable energy fund.
- 23 5. "Program" means the clean sustainable energy program.
- 24 6. "Sustainable" means a technology or concept that allows the use of a natural resource
25 to be maintained or enhanced through increased efficiency and life cycle benefits
26 without while either increasing or not adversely impacting energy security, affordability,
27 reliability, resilience, or national security.

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

29 There is created the clean sustainable energy authority to support research, development,
30 and technological advancements through partnerships and financial support for the large scale
31 development and commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that

1 reduce environmental impacts and increase sustainability of energy production and delivery.
2 The purpose of the financial support is to enhance the production of clean sustainable energy,
3 to make the state a world leader in the production of clean sustainable energy, and to diversify
4 and grow the state's economy.

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

- 6 1. The clean sustainable energy authority consists of sixteen members, including eight
7 voting members and eight ~~ex officio~~, nonvoting ~~member~~ technical advisors.
8 2. The eight voting members consist of:
9 a. One member appointed by the legislative management to serve as chairman;
10 b. Two members appointed by the lignite research council;
11 c. Two members appointed by the oil and gas research council;
12 d. Two members appointed by the renewable energy council; and
13 e. One member appointed by the western Dakota energy association.
14 3. The eight ~~ex officio~~, nonvoting ~~member~~ technical advisors consist of:
15 a. One member appointed by the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund advisory
16 board;
17 b. The commissioner of commerce or the commissioner's designee;
18 c. The director of the department of environmental quality or the director's designee;
19 d. The director of mineral resources or the director's designee;
20 e. The director of the North Dakota pipeline authority or the director's designee;
21 f. The director of the North Dakota transmission authority or the director's designee;
22 g. The director of the state energy research center or the director's designee;
23 h. The president of the Bank of North Dakota or the president's designee;
24 4. The term of office for the chairman is two years. The term of office for the other voting
25 members is four years, and the other voting members may not serve more than two
26 consecutive terms. The terms of office for the voting members commence on July first.
27 The initial terms for the voting members of the authority must be staggered following a
28 method determined by the authority.
29 5. The authority shall meet at least semiannually. The chairman shall call a meeting upon
30 written request from three voting members of the authority. Five voting members is a
31 quorum at any meeting.

1 6. The authority may not forward a recommendation to the commission unless the
2 recommendation fulfills the purposes of this chapter and is approved by a majority of
3 the voting members of the authority.

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

5 1. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for program guidelines,
6 including eligibility criteria for entities to receive funding under this chapter.

7 2. The nonvoting technical advisors shall develop a process to review and evaluate
8 projects to determine the technical merits and feasibility of any application, including
9 potential benefits of the development of low-emission technology, the expansion of the
10 development of the state's natural resources or energy production, and the
11 contribution to the economic diversity in the state.

12 3. The authority may develop a loan program or a loan guarantee program under the
13 clean sustainable energy fund. The Bank of North Dakota shall administer the loan
14 program or loan guarantee program. The interest rate of a loan under this program
15 may not exceed two percent per year. The maximum term of a loan under this section
16 must be approved by the commission based on a recommendation from the authority.
17 The Bank shall review applications for loans or loan guarantees and shall consider the
18 business plan, financial statements, and other information necessary to evaluate the
19 application. To be eligible for a loan or loan guarantee, an entity shall agree to provide
20 the Bank of North Dakota with information as requested. The Bank of North Dakota
21 may develop policies for loan participation with local financial institutions.

22 4. The authority shall make recommendations to the commission for grant awards, loan
23 approvals, or other financial assistance to provide funding to support research,
24 development, and technological advancements for the large scale development and
25 commercialization of projects, processes, activities, and technologies that reduce
26 environmental impacts and increase sustainability of energy production and delivery in
27 accordance with this chapter. Any projects, processes, activities, and technologies
28 selected by the commission for funding must have been recommended by the
29 authority, must demonstrate feasibility based on a technical review conducted by the
30 nonvoting technical advisors of the authority, must have other sources of financial
31 support, and must achieve the priorities and purposes of the program. At the request

1 of the authority, the Bank of North Dakota shall provide a recommendation regarding
2 the economic feasibility of a project, process, activity, or technology under
3 consideration by the authority. The Bank shall review the business plan, financial
4 statements, and other information necessary to provide a recommendation.

5 3.5. The authority may consult with any other state agency necessary to carry out the
6 purposes under this chapter.

7 4.6. Each biennium, the authority shall provide a written report to the legislative
8 management regarding its activities and the program's financial impact on state
9 revenues and the state's economy.

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

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

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

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 - Loans - Repayments.**

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

18 2. Any bond proceeds deposited in the fund must be used for loans or loan guarantees.
19 The Bank of North Dakota shall deposit in the fund all principal and interest paid on
20 the loans made from the fund. The Bank may use a portion of the interest paid on the
21 outstanding loans as a servicing fee to pay for administrative costs, not to exceed
22 one-half of one percent of the amount of the interest payment. The Bank shall contract
23 with a certified public accounting firm to audit the fund annually if the fund has any
24 outstanding loans. The cost of the audit must be paid from the fund.

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

27 5. Procurements by the industrial commission for energy-related programs under
28 chapters 17-05, 54-17.5, 54-17.6, 54-17.7, section 3 of this Act, and 54-63 and under
29 those statutes in title 38 authorizing the industrial commission to perform well and hole
30 pluggings, reclamation work, equipment removal, leak prevention, and similar work.

1 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - TRANSFER - CLEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND.**
2 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
3 appropriated, the sum of ~~\$40,000,000~~\$25,000,000, which the office of management and budget
4 shall transfer to the clean sustainable energy fund, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2021,
5 and ending June 30, 2023.