

**Legislative Council
Budget No. 160
House Bill Nos. 1001 and 1015, Senate Bill No. 2015**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2015-17 legislative appropriations	37.00	\$13,439,133	\$70,000	\$13,509,133
2015-17 base budget	37.00	12,487,475	69,999	12,557,474
Legislative increase (decrease) to base budget	0.00	\$951,658	\$1	\$951,659

ONGOING AND ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

	Ongoing General Fund Appropriation	One-Time General Fund Appropriation	Total General Fund Appropriation
2015-17 legislative appropriations	\$12,773,673	\$665,460	\$13,439,133
2013-15 legislative appropriations	12,487,475	375,000	12,862,475
2015-17 legislative increase (decrease) to 2013-15 appropriations	\$286,198	\$290,460	\$576,658
Percentage increase (decrease) to 2013-15 appropriations	2.3%	77.5%	4.5%

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BASE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Legislative Council is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in Senate Bill No. 2015.

	Changes to Base Budget			Total
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	
The legislative action:				
Added funding for base payroll changes for cost-to-continue 2013-15 biennium salaries and benefit increases and for other base payroll changes.		\$374,792	\$1	\$374,793
Added funding for 2015-17 biennium performance salary adjustments of 2 to 4 percent per year.		312,460		312,460
Added funding for employee health insurance premiums to reflect a premium estimate of \$1,130.22 per month.		128,339		128,339
Removed market equity salary funding.		(100,000)		(100,000)

Added funding for 2015-17 biennium compensation adjustments of 3 percent per year for legislators' attendance at interim meetings.	27,158	27,158
Increased funding for travel related to committee and other meetings to reflect anticipated increases in registration fees, lodging rates, and other travel-related costs.	66,167	66,167
Reduced funding for operating expenses, including information technology--consulting, information technology--data processing, office supplies, and postage.	(522,718)	(522,718)
Added one-time funding to replace a copier.	30,000	30,000
Added one-time funding for desktop computer, laptop computer, monitor, and iPad replacements.	135,460	135,460
Added one-time funding for office improvements.	50,000	50,000
Added one-time funding for consulting services to assist with a Legislative Management study of incarceration issues. (House Bill No. 1015)	50,000	50,000
Added one-time funding to contract with consultants to study oil and gas tax incentives and oil and gas recovery techniques. (Senate Bill No. 2015)	400,000	400,000
Total	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$1</u>
	<u>\$951,658</u>	<u>\$951,659</u>

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly approved 37 FTE positions for the Legislative Council for the 2015-17 biennium, the same as the 2013-15 biennium.

One-Time Funding

In Section 3 of House Bill No. 1001, the Legislative Assembly identified a total of \$215,460 from the general fund for one-time funding items. Of this amount, \$50,000 is for office improvements, \$30,000 is for office equipment replacement, and \$135,460 is for information technology equipment. The Legislative Assembly also provided a \$50,000 one-time general fund appropriation for consulting services to assist with a Legislative Management study of incarceration issues in House Bill No. 1015 and a \$400,000 one-time general fund appropriation to contract with consultants to study oil and gas tax incentives and oil and gas recovery techniques in Senate Bill No. 2015. This funding, summarized as follows, is not to be considered part of the agency's 2017-19 biennium base budget, and the Legislative Council is to report to the Appropriations Committees during the 2017 legislative session on the use of this funding.

Office improvements	\$50,000
Office equipment replacement	30,000
Information technology equipment	135,460
Incarceration issues study	50,000
Oil and gas tax incentives and recovery techniques study	400,000
Total	<u>\$665,460</u>

Other Sections in House Bill No. 1001

Transfers - Section 4 allows transfers of funds between line items of appropriations for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council as requested by the Chairman of the Legislative Management.

Continuation of appropriation authority - Section 5 allows transfers of funds between line items of the 2013-15 biennium appropriations for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council as requested by the Chairman of the Legislative Management. In addition, the section also provides unspent funds appropriated for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council for the 2013-15 biennium be continued and that unexpended appropriations enacted prior to the 2013-15 biennium may be canceled as directed by the Chairman of the Legislative Management.

Compensation of members of the Legislative Assembly - Sections 6 and 7 increase legislators' daily pay during legislative sessions, monthly compensation, and additional monthly compensation by 3 percent for each year of the 2015-17 biennium. Sections 9 and 10 increase legislators' interim meeting pay by 3 percent for each year of the 2015-17 biennium.

Legislative Council expenditures - Section 8 amends North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-06 relating to Legislative Council expenditures to allow the Director of the Legislative Council to use available funds for salary adjustments to assist with staff recruitment, retention, and recognition of exceptional performance.

Legislative Management study - Bonding - Section 11 provides for a Legislative Management study of the use of bonding to finance state building, road, and water construction projects.

Related Legislation

Incarceration issues study - Section 4 of House Bill No. 1015 requires the Legislative Management to study pretrial services, sentencing alternatives, treatment options, and other related issues. The section also requires Legislative Management create an incarceration issues committee to conduct the study and identifies the members of the committee. Section 3 of House Bill No. 1015 provides a \$50,000 appropriation from the general fund for consulting services to assist with the Legislative Management study of incarceration issues. Funding for consulting services related to the incarceration issues study is considered one-time funding.

Oil and gas tax incentives and recovery techniques study - Section 11 of Senate Bill No. 2015 provides one-time funding of \$400,000 from the general fund to contract with consultants to study oil and gas tax incentives and oil and gas recovery techniques.

Records requests by members of the Legislative Assembly - Section 25 of Senate Bill No. 2015 creates a new section to Chapter 44-04 to provide any record of the Legislative Council relating to a request for public records made by the Legislative Council on behalf of a member of the Legislative Assembly is a public record. The Legislative Council must maintain a written or digital record of any request for public records made on behalf of a member of the Legislative Assembly. The record must identify the member of the Legislative Assembly who made the request.

Legislative Assembly rooms and halls - Section 26 of Senate Bill No. 2015 amends Section 48-08-04 to provide that during the interim, the Pioneer Room and three additional meeting rooms in the judicial wing are under the control of the legislative branch and may not be used without the authorization of the Legislative Council.