

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2024
(Appropriations Committee)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the ethics commission; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the ethics commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the ethics commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

| | <u>Base Level</u> | <u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u> | <u>Appropriation</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Ethics commission | \$623,984 | \$514,258 | \$1,138,242 |
| Total general fund | \$623,984 | \$514,258 | \$1,138,242 |
| Full-time equivalent positions | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 |

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

| <u>One-Time Funding Description</u> | <u>2021-23</u> | <u>2023-25</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Attorney fees | \$0 | \$72,000 |
| Office relocation | 0 | 25,000 |
| New FTE position one-time costs | <u>0</u> | <u>1,825</u> |
| Total general fund | \$0 | \$98,825 |

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The ethics commission shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - FEE STRUCTURE. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the feasibility and desirability of establishing a rate structure to offset the operating expenses of the ethics commission. The study must include a comparison of the funding method for ethics commissions used by other states within the region. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. REPORT - ETHICS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. During the 2023-24 interim, the ethics commission shall provide reports to the legislative management regarding the activities and operations of the commission. The reports must include information regarding the number of complaints received by the commission, education and outreach efforts, and the status of the commission's budget.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2024.

Senate Vote: Yeas 37 Nays 10 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 52 Nays 39 Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State