

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

SENATE BILL NO. 2249
(Senators Holmberg, Bekkedahl, Meyer)
(Representatives Mock, J. Nelson, Porter)

AN ACT to create and enact sections 15-11-40 and 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state energy research center and the state energy research center fund; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide a report; and to provide an expiration date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Section 15-11-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

15-11-40. State energy research center - Report.

1. The state energy research center at the university of North Dakota energy and environmental research center is created for the purpose of conducting exploratory, transformational, and innovative research that advances future energy opportunities and benefits the state's economy and environment through:
 - a. Exploratory research of technologies and methodologies that facilitate the prudent development, and clean and efficient use, of the state's energy resources;
 - b. Greater access to energy experts for timely scientific and engineering studies to support the state's interests; and
 - c. Education and outreach related to the state's energy resources.
2. The state energy research center shall report all research activities and accomplishments annually to the interim legislative energy development and transmission committee and to the industrial commission. Upon request, the state energy research center shall report all research activities and accomplishments to the appropriations committees of the legislative assembly.
3. To effectuate the purposes of this section, the energy and environmental research center may:
 - a. Select the research topics and projects to be pursued;
 - b. Enter contracts or agreements with other North Dakota institutions of higher education to support select research topics and projects;
 - c. Enter contracts or agreements with federal, private, and nonprofit organizations to carry out selected research topics and projects; and
 - d. Accepting donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from any source to carry out the selected research topics and projects.
4. The state energy research center may not conduct research or pursue projects that will result in the exploration, storage, treatment, or disposal of high-level radioactive waste in North Dakota.

SECTION 2. Section 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

57-51.1-07.9. State energy research center fund - Continuing appropriation.

The state energy research center fund is a special fund in the state treasury. Before depositing oil and gas gross production tax and oil extraction tax revenues under section 57-51.1-07.5, one percent of the revenues must be deposited monthly into the state energy research center fund, up to five million dollars per biennium. All moneys deposited in the state energy research center fund and interest on all such moneys are appropriated on a continuing basis to the industrial commission for distribution to the state energy research center. The state energy research center shall use the funds in accordance with section 15-11-40.

SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through June 30, 2023, and after that date is ineffective.

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-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2249.

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 78 Nays 12 Absent 4

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State