

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

SENATE BILL NO. 2161  
(Senators Sickler, Bekkedahl, Patten, Sorvaag)  
(Representatives Mitskog, Nathe)

AN ACT to amend and reenact 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 center's funding.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-11-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-11-40. State energy research center - Report. (~~Effective through June 30, 2027~~)**

1. The state energy research center at the university of North Dakota energy and environmental research center is created ~~for the purpose of conducting~~to conduct 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~~carry out 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~~Accept 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. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-51.1-07.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**57-51.1-07.9. State energy research center fund - Continuing appropriation. (Effective through ~~June 30, 2027~~ June 30, 2029)**

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~~seven million ~~five hundred thousand~~ 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.

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President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

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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. 2161.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 46            Nays 0            Absent 1

House Vote:    Yeas 89            Nays 3            Absent 2

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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