

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the public service
2 commission; and to provide loan authorization.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
5 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
6 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from other funds derived from special funds and
7 federal funds, to the public service commission for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
8 public service commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027,
9 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	Adjustments or <u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	
10				
11				
12	Salaries and wages	\$11,026,304	\$0	\$11,026,304
13	Operating expenses	2,205,487	0	2,205,487
14	Capital assets	25,000	0	25,000
15	Grants	20,000	0	20,000
16	Abandoned mined lands contractual	6,000,000	0	6,000,000
17	services			
18	Rail rate complaint case	900,000	0	900,000
19	Railroad safety program	672,206	0	672,206
20	Specialized legal services	<u>420,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>420,000</u>
21	Total all funds	\$21,268,997	\$0	\$21,268,997
22	Less other funds	<u>13,779,645</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,779,645</u>
23	Total general fund	\$7,489,352	\$0	\$7,489,352
24	Full-time equivalent positions	45.00	0.00	45.00

1 **SECTION 2. RAIL RATE COMPLAINT CASE - LOAN AUTHORIZATION.** The public
2 service commission may obtain a loan from the Bank of North Dakota for costs associated with
3 a rail rate complaint case. The loan may not exceed \$900,000, and the interest rate associated
4 with the loan must be the prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota governmental
5 entities. The public service commission shall repay the loan from amounts available from
6 damages or proceeds received, net of legal fees, from a successful outcome of a rail complaint
7 case. If moneys anticipated to be available on June 30, 2027, are not sufficient to repay the
8 loan, the public service commission may request a deficiency appropriation from the legislative
9 assembly to repay the loan.