

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

SENATE BILL NO. 2022  
(Appropriations Committee)  
(At the request of the Governor)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the commission on legal counsel for indigents; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 29-07-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the application fee for indigent defense services; and to provide legislative intent.

**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, and from special funds derived from other income, to the commission on legal counsel for indigents for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the commission on legal counsel for indigents, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Commission on legal counsel for indigents	\$11,779,282	\$2,525,122	\$14,304,404
Accrued leave payments	0	116,872	116,872
Total all funds	\$11,779,282	\$2,641,994	\$14,421,276
Less special funds	<u>1,970,852</u>	<u>527,014</u>	<u>2,497,866</u>
Total general fund	\$9,808,430	\$2,114,980	\$11,923,410
Full-time equivalent positions	30.00	3.00	33.00

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 29-07-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. Lawyers provided to represent indigent persons must be compensated at a reasonable rate to be determined by the commission on legal counsel for indigents. Expenses necessary for the adequate defense of an indigent person prosecuted in district court, other than for a violation of a home rule county's ordinance, when approved by the commission, must be paid by the state. Expenses necessary for the adequate defense of an indigent person prosecuted for violation of a home rule county's ordinance must be paid by the home rule county. Expenses necessary for the adequate defense of an indigent person prosecuted in municipal court, when approved by the judge, must be paid by the city in which the alleged offense took place. The city shall also pay the expenses in any matter transferred to district court pursuant to section 40-18-06.2 or 40-18-15.1, in any appeal taken to district court from a judgment of conviction in municipal court pursuant to section 40-18-19, and in an appeal or postconviction matter seeking relief from a conviction resulting from violation of a municipal ordinance. A defendant requesting representation by counsel at public expense, or for whom counsel provided at public expense without a request is considered appropriate by the court, shall submit an application for indigent defense services. For an application for indigent defense services in the district court, a nonrefundable application fee of ~~twenty-five~~thirty-five dollars must be paid at the time the application is submitted. The district court may extend the time for payment of the fee or may waive or reduce the fee if the court determines the defendant is financially unable to pay all or part of the fee. If the application fee is not paid before disposition of the case, the fee amount must be added to the amount to be reimbursed under this section. Application fees collected under this subsection must be forwarded for deposit in the indigent defense administration fund established under subsection 4.

**SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES.** It is the intent of the sixty-third legislative assembly that a defendant who has been charged with a felony and for whom counsel is provided by the commission on legal counsel for indigents pay \$575 for reimbursement of attorney's fees.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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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-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2022.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 47            Nays 0            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 92            Nays 1            Absent 1

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State