

NORTH DAKOTA LEGACY FUND INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

1. PLAN CHARACTERISTICS AND FUND CONSTRAINTS

The North Dakota legacy fund was created in 2010 when the voters of North Dakota approved a constitutional amendment--now Article X, Section 26, of the Constitution of North Dakota--to provide that 30 percent of oil and gas gross production and oil extraction taxes on oil and gas produced after June 30, 2011, be transferred to the legacy fund. The principal and earnings of the legacy fund may not be spent until after June 30, 2017, and any expenditure of principal after that date requires a vote of at least two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the Legislative Assembly. Not more than 15 percent of the principal of the legacy fund may be spent during a biennium. The legislative Assembly may transfer funds from any source to the legacy fund, and such transfers become part of the principal of the fund. The State Investment Board (SIB) is responsible for investment of the principal of the legacy fund. Interest earnings accruing after June 30, 2017, are transferred to the general fund at the end of each biennium. North Dakota Century Code Section 21-10-11 provides that the goal of investment for the legacy fund is principal preservation while maximizing total return

2. FUND MISSION

The legacy fund was created, in part, due to the recognition that state revenue from the oil and gas industry will be derived over a finite timeframe. The legacy fund defers the recognition of 30 percent of this revenue for the benefit of future generations. The primary mission of the legacy fund is to preserve the real inflation-adjusted purchasing power of the money deposited into the fund while maximizing total return for a prudent level of risk.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCRETION OF THE STATE INVESTMENT BOARD

The legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board (the "Advisory Board") is charged by law under Section 21-10-11 with the responsibility of recommending policies on investment goals and asset allocation of the legacy fund. The SIB is charged with implementing policies and asset allocation and investing the assets of the legacy fund in the manner provided in Section 21-10-07--the prudent institutional investor rule. The fiduciaries shall exercise the judgment and care, under the circumstances then prevailing, that an institutional investor of ordinary prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercises in the management of large investments entrusted to it, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of funds, considering probable safety of capital as well as probable income.

Management responsibility for the investment program not assigned to the SIB in Chapter 21-10 is hereby delegated to the SIB, which must establish written policies for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy.

The SIB may delegate investment responsibility to professional money managers, which are also required to employ investment strategies consistent with the investment policy. Where a money manager has been retained, the SIB's role in determining investment strategy and security selection is supervisory not advisory.

At the discretion of the SIB, the fund's assets may be pooled with other funds. In pooling funds, the SIB may establish whatever asset class pools it deems necessary with specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives appropriate to the prudent investor rule and the objectives of the funds participating in the pool.

The SIB is responsible for establishing criteria, procedures, and making decisions with respect to hiring, retaining, and terminating money managers. The SIB investment responsibility also includes selecting performance measurement services, consultants, report formats, and frequency of meetings with managers.

The SIB shall notify the Advisory Board within 30 days of any substantial or notable changes in money managers; performance measurement services; and consultants, including hiring or terminating a money manager, performance measurement service, or a consultant.

The SIB, after consultation with the board, will implement necessary changes to this policy in an efficient and prudent manner.

The Policies governing the investment of Legacy Fund assets fall into three categories.

- Those applicable to all investment for Legacy Fund assets.
- Those applicable to those assets – referred to here as the Core Legacy Fund (CLF) – that are not invested under the In-State Investment Program.
- Those assets defined under law made within the In-State Investment Program (ISIP)

A. Policies governing the investment of All Legacy Fund assets.

a. Risk Tolerance

The Advisory Board's risk tolerance with respect to the primary aspect of the legacy fund's mission is low. The Advisory Board is unwilling to undertake investment strategies that might jeopardize the ability of the legacy fund to maintain principal value over time. The Advisory Board recognizes that the plan will evolve as the legacy fund matures and economic conditions and opportunities change.

b. Investment Objectives

The Advisory Board's investment objectives are expressed in terms of reward and risk expectations relative to investable, passive benchmarks. The legacy fund's policy benchmark is comprised of policy mix weights of appropriate asset class benchmarks as set by the SIB:

- i. The legacy fund's rate of return, net of fees and expenses, should at least match that of the policy benchmark over a minimum evaluation period of five years.
- ii. The legacy fund's risk, measured by the standard deviation of net returns, should not exceed 115 percent of the policy benchmark over a minimum evaluation period of five years.

c. The Prudent Investor Rule

All investments and the investment strategy in its totality will adhere to the Prudent Investor Rule.

B. Asset Allocation Policy

The SIB and the Advisory Board recognize that the most important determinant of long-term return and risk is the asset allocation decision. The asset allocation decision is intended to reflect the return objective and risk tolerance expressed in this Investment Policy Statement. The table below delineates the following key guidelines for the Total Legacy Fund:

- a. The approved asset classes to be utilized.
- b. The policy target allocations for each.
- c. The application of a rebalancing program.

At its discretion, the SIB advised by the Advisory Board may adjust these targets on an interim or a long-term basis to account for (a) extreme market conditions, (b) the specific composition of Legacy Fund assets deployed via the In-State Investment Program (ISIP), a decision by the North Dakota State Legislature to withdraw and spend an amount above that consistent, with capital preservation of the Legacy Fund assets up to but not exceeding 15% of the Fund and (c) the long-term implementation nature of alternative assets (such as private equity and private real assets).

Asset Class	Policy Target	Policy Target Ranges	Additional Guidelines
Broad US Equity	27.5%	18% - 40%	Rebalanced with the total invested in-state and private markets equity and real assets; apply corridor treatment
Broad International Equity	19%	14% - 24%	Rebalanced with the total invested in-state and private markets equity and real assets; apply corridor treatment
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Asset Class	Policy Target	Policy Target Ranges	Additional Guidelines
Private Equity	7%	0% - 12%	Rebalance with public equity; apply corridor treatment
Fixed Income	28.5%	23% - 34%	Rebalanced with the total invested in-state and private markets fixed income and real assets; apply corridor treatment
<i>Core Fixed Income</i>	13.5%	10% - 17%	
<i>High Yield Fixed Income</i>	5.0%	0% - 7%	
<i>Private Credit</i>	10.0%	0% - 13%	Rebalance with public fixed income; apply corridor treatment
Private Real Assets	10%	5% - 15%	Rebalance half public equity/half public fixed income; apply corridor treatment
In-state Fixed Income			Target of \$700 million; rebalance with public fixed income; apply corridor treatment
<i>In-state Infrastructure Loan</i>	1%	0% - 2%	Up to \$150 million
<i>BND CD Match Program</i>	4%	0% - 6%	Minimum of \$400 million
In-state Equity	3%	0% - 7%	Long-Term Target of \$600 million; rebalance with public equity; apply corridor treatment
TOTAL	100%		

Rebalancing of the fund to these targets will be done in accordance with the SIB's rebalancing policy. Additionally, for rebalancing purposes, portfolio weights of private markets (equity, fixed income and half equity/half fixed income for real assets) can be applied to benchmark weights using the policy target ranges stated in the table above.

C. Policies Specific to the In-State Investment Program

In 2021, House Bill 1425 (HB 1425) was approved by the North Dakota legislature and signed into law. It establishes a program for the investment of a portion of Legacy Fund assets within the state and empowers the State Investment Board advised by the Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board (“Advisory Board”) to execute that program. The in-state investment program (“ISIP”) provides specific direction that grants the SIB and the Advisory Board substantial latitude in the implementation of the program.

In 2023, Senate Bill 2330 amended NDCC 21-10-11 by directing the SIB advised by the Advisory Board to invest in the ISIP program in the following way:

- A target allocation of **seven hundred million dollars** to fixed income investments within the state, including:
 - Up to **one hundred fifty million** dollars for infrastructure loans, with the fixed net return to the legacy fund of 1.5%.
 - A minimum of **four hundred million dollars** million for the Bank of North Dakota’s (“BND”) certificate of deposit match program with an interest rate fixed at the equivalent yield of the United State treasury bonds having the same term, up to a maximum term of 20 years; and
 - Other qualified fixed income investments within the state based on guidelines developed by the legacy and budget stabilization advisory board.
- A target allocation of **six hundred million dollars** to equity investments in the state, including:
 - Investment in one or more equity funds, venture capital funds, or alternative investment funds with a primary strategy of investing in emerging or expanding companies in the state. Equity investments must:
 - Be managed by qualified investment firms, financial institutions, or equity funds.
 - Have a benchmark investment return equal to the 5-year average net return for the

legacy fund, excluding in-state investments.

- Other eligible investments under this subdivision based on guidelines developed by the legacy and budget stabilization fund advisory board.

In addition to the policies covering all Legacy Fund assets noted above in Section 3.A. – risk tolerance, return objectives, and the Prudent Investor Rule – policies specific to the investments made within the ISIP include:

- a. Specific to the assessment of acceptable risk and return targets for the ISIP in total and all ISIB investments, in-state investments should offer credible evidence that they will meet or exceed the forward expected returns of similar investments with similar levels of risk and liquidity present in the Core Legacy Fund.
- b. All proposed investments will be made using third party asset managers. Direct investments by the SIB advised by the Advisory Board are not contemplated.
- c. All investments must be subject to the same level of due diligence that similar investments considered for funding using Core Legacy Fund assets.
- d. The Board at its discretion may choose to direct asset managers retained in the ISIP to utilize either equity, fixed income, convertible debt, debt with warrants or a combination of any of these securities to best meet the risk, return and prudence in the ISIP investments.
- e. The Board will create and maintain an annual investment pacing schedule that – subject to the successful sourcing, due diligence and deal structuring that meets the Board's policy requirements for the ISIP, fluctuations in market values and distributions back to the Legacy Fund – will create the opportunity to commit funds at a rate such that the full amount of the equity capital limit for the ISIP set in statute is reached within ten years.
- f. The Board will direct asset managers retained in the ISIP to:
 - i. require in the structuring of transactions that the State never becomes a majority equity owner of a business,
 - ii. require that private capital provided by independent third parties always be invested alongside capital provided from Legacy Fund assets,
 - iii. give strong preference for investments that provide the Board the ability to exit from the investment to recycle capital into new ISIP opportunities. The Board, to the extent prudent, will give special consideration to qualified and experienced institutional asset managers domiciled or having operating offices within the state for participation in implementation of the ISIP,
 - iv. limit capital provided to any one direct investment by an in-state portfolio fund manager should not exceed \$10 million, with two exceptions per fund commitment of up to \$25 million.

4. RESTRICTIONS

While the SIB is responsible for establishing specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives for the investment vehicles in which the legacy fund's assets will be invested, it is understood that:

- a. Futures and options may be used to manage underlying systematic exposures for fund rebalancing and risk management.
- b. Derivatives use will be monitored to ensure that undue risks are not taken by the money managers.
- c. No transaction may be made that would threaten the tax-exempt status of the legacy fund.
- d. All assets will be held in custody by the SIB's master custodian, or such other custodians as are acceptable to the SIB.
- e. No unhedged short sales or speculative margin purchases may be made.

- f. Social investing is prohibited unless it meets the exclusive benefit rule, and it can be substantiated that the investment provides an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk. For the purpose of this document, social investing is defined as the consideration of socially responsible criteria in the investment or commitment of public fund money for the purpose of obtaining an effect other than a maximized return to the Fund.
- g. Economically targeted investing is prohibited unless the investment meets the exclusive benefit rule.

For the purpose of this document, economically targeted investment is defined as an investment designed to produce a competitive rate of return commensurate with risk involved as well as to create collateral economic benefits for a targeted geographic area, group of people, or sector of the economy. Also, for the purpose of this document, the exclusive benefit rule is met if the following four conditions are satisfied:

- The cost does not exceed the fair market value at the time of investment.
- The investment provides the legacy fund with an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.
- Sufficient liquidity is maintained in the legacy fund to permit distributions in accordance with the terms of the plan.
- The safeguards and diversity that a prudent investor would adhere to are present.
- Where investment characteristics, including yield, risk, and liquidity, are equivalent, the Advisory Board's policy favors investments which will have a positive impact on the economy of North Dakota.

5. INTERNAL CONTROLS

A system of internal controls must be in place by the SIB to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud or employee error. Such controls deemed most important are the separation of responsibilities for investment purchases from the recording of investment activity, custodial safekeeping, written confirmation of investment transactions, and established criteria for investment manager selection and monitoring. The annual financial audit must include a comprehensive review of the portfolio, accounting procedures for security transactions, and compliance with the investment policy.

6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Investment management of the legacy fund will be evaluated against the fund's investment objectives and investment performance standards. Emphasis will be placed on 5-year and 10-year results. Evaluation should include an assessment of the continued feasibility of achieving the investment objectives and the appropriateness of the investment policy statement for achieving those objectives.

Performance reports will be provided to the Advisory Board periodically, but not less than quarterly. Such reports will include asset returns and allocation data. Additionally, not less than annually, reports will include information regarding all significant and/or material matters and changes pertaining to the investment of the legacy fund, including:

- Changes in asset class portfolio structures, tactical approaches, and market values.
- Loss of principal, if any.
- Management costs associated with various types of investments.
- All material legal or legislative proceedings affecting the SIB. Compliance with this investment policy statement.
- An evaluation of the national economic climate.
- A forecast of the expected economic opportunities and dangers.
- Management of risk by the SIB.

In addition to the quarterly and annual evaluation and review process, the SIB shall notify the Advisory Board within 30 days of any substantial or notable deviation from the normal management of the legacy fund, including any anomalies, notable losses, gains, or liquidation of assets affecting the fund.

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