



Special City Council Meeting  
Friday, January 24, 2025, at 11:30 AM  
3rd Floor Executive Conference Room, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW)  
Any person needing special accommodation for the meeting is requested to notify the  
City Clerk's office at 857-4752.

**1. LEGISLATIVE TOPICS DISCUSSION**

A quorum of the City Council may be in attendance at a meeting discussing legislative topics.

**1.1. LEGISLATIVE TOPICS DISCUSSION**

| Key                          | Bill Link              | Name                                                                                                                                                           | Last Action             |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hearing Scheduled            | <a href="#">SB2180</a> | The opportunity to provide public comment at a meeting of a public entity.                                                                                     | Committee Hearing 09:00 |
| Hearing Not Scheduled        | <a href="#">SB2201</a> | The primary residence credit; to provide for application; to provide a retroactive effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency. | Committee Hearing 10:45 |
| Hearing Held/ Action Pending | <a href="#">HB1141</a> | Using public services or property for a political purpose.                                                                                                     | Committee Hearing 10:00 |

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| <p><b>Passed as Ammended</b></p>            | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1289</u></a></p> <p>A partial property tax exemption for residential property used for in-home care services for a qualifying individual; and to provide an effective date.</p>  | <p>Committee Hearing 09:30</p> |
| <p><b>Signed by Gov. Filed with SOS</b></p> | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1353</u></a></p> <p>Limitations on property tax levies by taxing districts without voter approval; and to provide an effective date.</p>                                         | <p>Committee Hearing 09:00</p> |
| <p><b>Failed or Withdrawn</b></p>           | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1474</u></a></p> <p>A property tax exemption for new single-family, condominium, and townhouse residential property; to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.</p> | <p>Committee Hearing 10:00</p> |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1482</u></a> | The requirements of a municipal bond election.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Committee<br>Hearing 10:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1586</u></a> | The primary residence credit, setoff of income tax refunds for payment of delinquent real property and special assessment taxes, and eliminating foreclosure of tax liens for primary residential property; to provide an effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency. | Committee<br>Hearing 11:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2218</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the insurance commissioner for a North Dakota firefighter's association grant; and to declare an emergency.                                                                                                                                          | Committee<br>Hearing 03:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2220</u></a> | The implementation of operational guidelines and training for law enforcement officers and state's attorneys addressing the crimes of human trafficking, prostitution, and the commercial exploitation of children.        | Committee Hearing 10:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2225</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for a housing for opportunity, mobility, and empowerment program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to declare an emergency. | Committee Hearing 02:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2240</u></a> | Theft of property; and to provide a penalty.                                                                                                                                                                               | Committee Hearing 02:30 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2310</u></a> | Garnishments.                                                                                                                                                              | Committee<br>Hearing 10:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1239</u></a> | Blockchain technology, protection for digital asset mining, and an exemption from a money transmitter license.                                                             | Committee<br>Hearing 02:15 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1329</u></a> | Duties of the superintendent of public instruction and the establishment of a government spending database; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date. | Committee<br>Hearing 10:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1534</u></a> | Limitations on true and full valuation increases without voter approval; and to provide an effective date. | Committee Hearing 10:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1559</u></a> | Limitations on taxable valuation of residential property; and to provide an effective date.                | Committee Hearing 09:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1560</u></a> | A primary residence long-term homeowner property valuation reduction; and to provide an effective date.    | Committee Hearing 09:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1575</u></a> | The primary residence credit; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date.                                                                             | Committee<br>Hearing 10:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2009</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state fair association.                                                                    | Committee<br>Hearing 03:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2224</u></a> | The abolition of the gaming commission and the authorization of the attorney general to administer and regulate gaming.                                                    | Committee<br>Hearing 09:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2298</u></a> | The homestead credit certification and disabled veterans' credit; to provide for retroactive application; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date. | Committee<br>Hearing 09:30 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2301</u></a> | The homestead tax credit; and to provide an effective date.                                                                                                                                        | Committee<br>Hearing 09:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2323</u></a> | Oil and gas gross production tax allocations and the state share of oil and gas tax allocations; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an exemption; and to provide an effective date. | Committee<br>Hearing 02:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1309</u></a> | State contracts with certain companies that boycott energy, mining, and production agriculture; and to provide for application.                                                                    | Committee<br>Hearing 09:30 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1389</u></a> | The exemption of infrastructure fees from levy limitations.                                                | Committee Hearing 09:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1454</u></a> | The medical liability of a government entity.                                                              | Committee Hearing 10:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1478</u></a> | Contraceptive health care rights; and to provide a penalty.                                                | Committee Hearing 09:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1552</u></a> | Limitation of the rate of home rule sales, use, or gross receipts taxes; and to provide an effective date. | Committee Hearing 10:30 |

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|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1572</u></a></p> <p>Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy authority; to provide for a legislative management study; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.</p> | <p>Committee Hearing 09:00</p> |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1020</u></a></p> <p>A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of water resources.</p>                                                                                                        | <p>Committee Hearing 10:00</p> |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1028</u></a></p> <p>The selection process for construction management at-risk planning and design phase services and the procurement of architect, engineer, construction management, and land surveying services.</p>                        | <p>Committee Hearing 11:00</p> |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1218</u></a> | Comprehensive water development plans.                                                                                                             | Committee<br>Hearing 09:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1273</u></a> | The prohibition of a policy, order, or ordinance that limits free speech.                                                                          | Committee<br>Hearing 04:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1297</u></a> | Home rule powers in counties and cities.                                                                                                           | Committee<br>Hearing 04:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1346</u></a> | The regulation of the operation of off-highway vehicles and political subdivision rules regulating off-highway vehicles; and to provide a penalty. | Committee<br>Hearing 03:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1411</u></a> | State prohibition on extreme risk protection provisions; and to provide a penalty.                                                    | Committee Hearing 02:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1522</u></a> | Golf carts on city streets.                                                                                                           | Committee Hearing 02:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1577</u></a> | A wastewater infrastructure grant program and the duties of the department of environmental quality; and to provide an appropriation. | Committee Hearing 09:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2251</u></a> | Audits conducted by the state auditor, charges for audits, and subpoenas issued by the state auditor.                                                                                     | Committee Hearing 10:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2254</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for fixed route city transportation services grants; and to provide for a legislative management study. | Committee Hearing 02:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2296</u></a> | First responders.                                                                                                                                                                         | Committee Hearing 10:30 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2322</u></a> | The exercise of public domain in geological storage of carbon dioxide.                                        | Committee Hearing 09:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2324</u></a> | The amendment or repeal of a county home rule charter.                                                        | Committee Hearing 09:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1371</u></a> | Uniform group insurance program benefits for retired peace officers.                                          | Committee Hearing 09:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1106</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for transit program grants. | Committee Hearing 10:35 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1139</u></a> | A sales tax exemption for fire departments; and to provide an effective date.            | Committee Hearing 10:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2074</u></a> | Municipal infrastructure fund reporting requirements.                                    | Received from Senate    |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1026</u></a> | The administration of the state bonding fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation. | Committee Hearing 09:00 |

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|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1176</u></a></p> <p>Legacy fund definitions, the legacy earnings fund, and estimated property tax and budget hearing notices; to provide an appropriation; to provide a transfer; to provide an effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.</p> | <p>Committee Hearing 09:00</p> |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1152</u></a></p> <p>The definition of residential property; and to provide an effective date.</p>                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Received from House</p>     |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1168</u></a></p> <p>Adjustments to state aid payments; and to provide an effective date.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Committee Hearing 09:00</p> |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2035</u></a> | The definitions of an educational organization and public-spirited organization, and raffles; and to provide for application. | Received from Senate    |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2131</u></a> | Workforce training center funding distribution.                                                                               | Committee Hearing 09:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1027</u></a> | The administration of the state fire and tornado fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.                             | Committee Hearing 03:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1043</u></a> | The vice chairman of the state water commission.                                                                              | Received from House     |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1138</u></a> | Bonding elections.                                                                         | Received from House     |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1158</u></a> | The exempt status of records related to petitions in possession of the secretary of state. | Received from House     |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2166</u></a> | A property tax information portal; to provide a report; and to provide an appropriation.   | Committee Hearing 11:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1032</u></a> | Ordinance violations and municipal judges.                                       | Received from House     |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1149</u></a> | The revised uniform unclaimed property act; and to declare an emergency.         | Committee Hearing 03:20 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1266</u></a> | The property tax credit for disabled veterans; and to provide an effective date. | Committee Hearing 10:30 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1401</u></a> | The transfer of real property by exclusive and nonexclusive listing agreements.                                                                                                                     | Committee Hearing 08:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2030</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the housing finance agency and the department of public instruction; to provide for a transfer; and to provide for a legislative management study. | Committee Hearing 02:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2083</u></a> | The definition of a sensitive image.                                                                                                                                                                | Received from Senate    |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2141</u></a> | A change in the purpose of use of a conditional or perfected water permit.                                                                                                                          | Received from Senate    |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2151</u></a> | The legacy earnings fund; to provide a statement of legislative intent; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date. | Committee Hearing 08:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2160</u></a> | Health insurance benefits coverage provided by the uniform group insurance program; and to provide an effective date.                   | Committee Hearing 03:45 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2165</u></a> | The powers and duties of the peace officer standards and training board and peace officer licensing fees.                               | Received from Senate    |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2321</u></a> | Awarding costs and fees in eminent domain proceedings.                                                      | Rereferred to Judiciary |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1142</u></a> | The statutory caps for liability of political subdivisions and the state; and to provide an effective date. | Received from House     |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1335</u></a> | The homestead tax credit; and to provide an effective date.                                                 | Committee Hearing 10:30 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1343</u></a> | The homestead exemption, declaration of a homestead, and the contents of a tax lien.                        | Committee Hearing 09:30 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2045</u></a> | A bidding exception for water supply funds and contents of advertisement for public improvement projects. | Received from Senate    |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1050</u></a> | Cooperative agreements between the director and law enforcement agencies regarding license plate readers. | Committee Hearing 03:59 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1165</u></a> | Election notices and municipal voter registration.                                                        | Committee Hearing 09:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1171</u></a> | The creation of the law enforcement family scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.                           | Committee Hearing 09:15 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1197</u></a> | Jail improvement grants; and to provide for a transfer.                                                                    | Committee Hearing 10:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1232</u></a> | The definition of residential property; and to provide an effective date.                                                  | Committee Hearing 11:00 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1256</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the parks and recreation department for a walking trail recreation grant. | Committee Hearing 09:00 |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1281</u></a> | Motor vehicle fuel tax, special fuels tax, and aviation fuel tax refunds for fuels purchased by fire departments; and to provide an effective date. | Reported back amended, do pass, amendment placed on calendar 13 0 1 |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1287</u></a> | Registration of voters.                                                                                                                             | Committee Hearing 10:00                                             |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1311</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention.                  | Reported back, do pass, placed on consent calendar 12 0 1           |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2027</u></a> | County, city, and township floodplain management ordinances and to provide definitions.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Committee Hearing 02:40 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2069</u></a> | Publication requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Committee Hearing 03:17 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2097</u></a> | The creation of a rural community endowment fund and a rural community endowment fund committee; to provide an appropriation for the rural community endowment fund; to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce; to provide for a transfer; and to provide for a report. | Committee Hearing 09:15 |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2110</u></a> | The certification and penalization of water distribution and wastewater system operators; and to provide a penalty.                                            | Received from Senate                             |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2132</u></a> | Careless driving and causing injury to the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle or damage to an authorized emergency vehicle; and to provide a penalty. | Received from Senate                             |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1194</u></a> | False information or false reports to law enforcement; and to provide a penalty.                                                                               | Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1226</u></a> | Wearing a mask in a public place.                              | Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary              |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1235</u></a> | The agriculture infrastructure grant program.                  | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1303</u></a> | The prohibition on sanctuary cities; and to provide a penalty. | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1306</u></a> | Fees assessed for open records requests.                                                                                                                                                    | Introduced, first reading, referred to Government and Veterans Affairs           |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1307</u></a> | Supersession of state laws in home rule counties and cities.                                                                                                                                | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions                    |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1362</u></a> | A housing development loan fund; to provide an appropriation; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency. | Introduced, first reading, (emergency), referred to Industry, Business and Labor |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1365</u></a> | Possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a school or school-sponsored event on school property.            | Introduced, first reading, referred to Energy and Natural Resources |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1375</u></a> | The time frame to file a complaint against a licensed retailer of alcoholic beverages; and to provide a penalty. | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions       |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1391</u></a> | Creating a new status related to human rights and antidiscrimination policies.                                   | Introduced, first reading, referred to Human Services               |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1402</u></a> | State surplus motor vehicles.                                                                                                                                                               | Introduced, first reading, referred to Transportation                    |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1435</u></a> | Legacy fund definitions and a legacy earnings fund; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.                                                                              | Introduced, first reading, (emergency), referred to Finance and Taxation |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2208</u></a> | The municipal infrastructure fund and the county and township infrastructure fund.                                                                                                          | Introduced, first reading, referred to Energy and Natural Resources      |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1487</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to authorize the department of transportation to transfer real property to the office of management and budget; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an exemption. | Introduced, first reading, referred to Finance and Taxation              |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1500</u></a> | Nonconforming structures in counties, cities, and townships. | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1513</u></a> | The notice to construct, rebuild, or repair sidewalks.       | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1518</u></a> | Rotary traffic islands.                                      | Introduced, first reading, referred to Transportation         |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1537</u></a> | Water service agreement protection of service during the term of the loan; and to provide for retroactive application.                 | Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1576</u></a> | A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of the oil and gas tax revenue allocation formulas.                    | Introduced, first reading, referred to Transportation         |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1585</u></a> | A requirement for peace officers to report undocumented immigrants to United States immigration and customs; and to provide a penalty. | Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary              |

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|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1588</u></a></p> <p>Dangerous weapons, the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering, and producing a concealed carry license upon request; and to provide a penalty.</p> | <p>Introduced, first reading, referred to Energy and Natural Resources</p> |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1605</u></a></p> <p>The prohibition on water fluoridation; to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.</p>                                                                            | <p>Introduced, first reading, referred to Human Services</p>               |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>SB2269</u></a></p> <p>Recall petitions and recall elections for political subdivision officials.</p>                                                                                                | <p>Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government</p>   |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2306</u></a> | The establishment of a child care workforce recruitment and retention program.                                                         | Introduced, first reading, referred to Workforce Development      |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2307</u></a> | Obscenity control; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide a penalty.                                    | Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary                  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2314</u></a> | The investigation of and penalty for approving a development agreement in the state for a foreign adversary; and to provide a penalty. | Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government |

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| <a href="#"><u>SB2317</u></a> | The revocation of a transfer of township zoning authority.                                                                              | Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2332</u></a> | The allocation of legacy fund earnings; and to provide a continuing appropriation.                                                      | Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1121</u></a> | The threshold for procuring plans, drawings, and specifications from an architect or engineer for construction of a public improvement. | Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 3 nays 90                    |

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| <a href="#"><u>HB1150</u></a> | Sunday closing laws and retail agreements; and to provide a penalty.                                                                                                                | Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 4 nays 89  |
| <a href="#"><u>HB1185</u></a> | An exemption for information contained in personnel records of public employees and records related to internal investigations by the department of corrections and rehabilitation. | Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 10 nays 83 |
| <a href="#"><u>SB2026</u></a> | Required filings for foreign persons investing in agricultural lands; to provide a penalty; and to provide a contingent effective date.                                             | Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 23 nays 24 |

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|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1187</u></a>      A debris removal lien.</p>                                         | <p>Second reading,<br/>failed to pass,<br/>yeas 3 nays 87</p> |
|  | <p><a href="#"><u>HB1033</u></a>      Concurrent federal jurisdiction on military<br/>installations.</p> | <p>Second reading,<br/>passed, yeas 90<br/>nays 0</p>         |

Action Date

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## Summary

This bill amends North Dakota's existing law regarding public meetings to strengthen public participation rights. Specifically, the bill adds a new requirement that all public entity meetings must include an opportunity for individuals to provide public comments. These public comments cannot be subject to approval by the public entity and can only be limited by the amount of time each speaker is allowed to speak. The bill also makes some minor language changes, replacing the word "persons" with "individuals" throughout the existing statute. The bill reinforces existing provisions about public meeting accessibility, including the rights of attendees to photograph, record, or broadcast meetings (except for executive sessions), and ensures that meeting spaces (whether physical or electronic) can accommodate the expected number of attendees. By mandating a public comment period, the bill aims to enhance transparency and citizen engagement in governmental proceedings.

This bill modifies North Dakota's primary residence property tax credit by expanding and clarifying the definition and eligibility requirements for the \$500 tax credit. The bill broadens the definition of "owned" to include various forms of property ownership, such as fee simple ownership, life estates, and beneficial interests in qualifying trusts. It also provides more detailed criteria for what constitutes a "primary residence," including requirements that the dwelling be designed for human residence, used as a residence, and occupied by an owner or someone with a life estate. The bill specifies that an individual can have only one primary residence and introduces the concept of a "qualifying trust" with specific conditions for property ownership and occupancy. Additionally, the bill allows individuals temporarily confined to care facilities to still qualify for the credit, maintains the restriction of one credit per property, and provides a retroactive effective date for the first two taxable years after December 31, 2023. Taxpayers who qualify for the credit for the 2024 tax year may file an abatement claim to receive a refund equal to the credit amount, even if they miss initial application deadlines. The bill is declared an emergency measure, indicating its immediate importance to the state legislature.

This bill amends North Dakota law regarding the use of public services and property for political purposes by establishing more comprehensive guidelines and enforcement mechanisms. The bill prohibits state or political subdivision entities from using public funds to support or endorse private organizations that have previously endorsed candidates or ballot measures within the past ten years. It allows individuals holding public office to be personally liable for violations outside their official duties and provides a mechanism for filing complaints with the state ethics commission. The bill broadly defines "political purpose" as activities supporting or opposing ballot measures, elections, or candidates, and includes specific time-sensitive restrictions around election periods. The legislation also defines "property" and "services" in detail, explaining what constitutes improper use, such as using public resources like vehicles, telephones, or employee time for political activities. If the ethics commission believes a complaint involves potential criminal conduct, they can refer the matter to the county state's attorney or, if that office declines prosecution, to the attorney general, with the supreme court potentially exercising original jurisdiction in such cases. The bill aims to ensure that public resources are not improperly used for political campaigning or advocacy.

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This bill creates a partial property tax exemption for residential property owners in North Dakota who provide in-home care to a qualifying direct relative who is unable to care for themselves. Specifically, the bill allows property owners to receive a 50% reduction in the taxable valuation of their residential property if they are caring for a direct relative (which includes spouses, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, children, siblings, nieces, and nephews) who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care due to incapacity, age, illness, or disability. To qualify for the exemption, the qualifying individual must live in the same residential property with the property owner for more than half of the tax year, and the property owner must provide documentation to the local assessor demonstrating their eligibility using a form prescribed by the tax commissioner. The property tax exemption will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, providing financial relief to family caregivers who are supporting relatives with significant care needs.

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This bill introduces new limitations on property tax levies by local taxing districts in North Dakota without requiring voter approval. Specifically, the bill caps annual property tax increases at the rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), not to exceed 3%, effectively restricting how much local governments can increase their property tax collections each year. The bill provides several exceptions to this limitation, such as when new properties become taxable, when property tax exemptions change, or when temporary mill levy increases expire. Taxing districts can carry forward unused increases for up to three years and can exceed the cap with approval from 60% of voters in a primary or general election. The bill excludes certain types of taxes from the limitation, including those for bonded indebtedness, the state medical center, special improvement projects, and some specific district levies. Importantly, cities and counties cannot use home rule authority to override these restrictions. The bill defines key terms like "Consumer Price Index" and "taxing district" and will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, providing local governments and taxpayers time to prepare for the new property tax levy constraints.

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This bill introduces a significant reform to North Dakota's property tax system by replacing the traditional ad valorem (value-based) property tax with a square footage tax for residential properties starting in 2026. The bill requires assessors to determine the land and structure square footage of residential properties by December 31, 2025, and establishes a new method for calculating property taxes based on the number of square feet rather than the property's assessed value. For the first year (2026), the square footage tax rates will be calculated by dividing the total ad valorem property taxes collected in 2025 by the total square footage of residential properties in each taxing district. In subsequent years, the tax rates will be adjusted based on the taxing district's proposed budget. The bill provides several credits and exemptions, including a 30% credit for new single-family homes, condominiums, and townhouses, and a 5% credit for properties with solar, wind, or geothermal energy devices. The legislation also includes provisions for how existing property tax incentives, exemptions, and assessment procedures will be converted to the new square footage tax system, ensuring that property owners will experience a similar tax burden to the previous ad valorem system. The bill will be implemented in stages, with most provisions taking effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's laws regarding municipal bond elections by making several key changes to the process of issuing municipal bonds. The bill updates the requirements for municipalities to borrow money and issue bonds, clarifying that most bond issuances now require approval at a primary or general election with a 60% vote of qualified voters. The legislation provides several exceptions to this rule, such as allowing bond issuances without an election for specific purposes like highway projects, public building improvements, and emergency conditions. The bill also introduces a protest mechanism where property owners can challenge bond resolutions if protests are signed by property owners representing at least 5% of the municipality's total assessed property value. Additionally, the bill streamlines language around debt limits, specifying that municipalities cannot incur indebtedness exceeding 5% of their assessed property value, with provisions for cities and school districts to increase this limit through voter approval. The changes aim to provide more clarity and flexibility for local governments while maintaining voter oversight of municipal bond issuances.

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This bill provides significant protections for primary residential property owners in North Dakota by fundamentally changing how delinquent property taxes are handled. The bill increases the primary residence property tax credit from \$500 to \$5,000, expands the definition of "primary residence" to include more ownership scenarios like trust-based ownership, and critically, eliminates foreclosure as a remedy for delinquent property taxes on primary residences. Instead, for primary residences with unpaid taxes, the bill requires alternative collection methods such as personal debt collection, garnishment, and potential judgment liens. The bill defines "primary residence" comprehensively, covering properties owned directly, through trusts, or with life estates, and applies to both real estate and mobile homes. The tax credit application process is modified with specific filing deadlines for 2025 and 2026, and the bill ensures that counties can still pursue delinquent taxes through personal debt collection methods rather than property seizure. The changes are designed to protect homeowners from losing their primary residence due to tax delinquency, with most provisions taking effect for taxes becoming delinquent after December 31, 2024, and some sections declared as emergency measures to be implemented quickly.

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I apologize, but the XML content you've provided appears to be incomplete or does not contain the specific details of the bill's provisions. Without the full text of the bill or the detailed legislative language, I cannot generate a comprehensive summary.

From the bill title and government summary, I can only draft a very basic summary: This bill seeks to provide financial funding (an appropriation) to the North Dakota insurance commissioner specifically designated as a grant for the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. The bill also includes an emergency declaration, which likely means the funding or provisions would take effect immediately upon passage.

For a more detailed summary, I would need to see the complete bill text, including the specific language being proposed, the exact amount of the appropriation, and any conditions or requirements associated with the grant.

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This bill creates new operational guidelines and training requirements for law enforcement agencies and officers in North Dakota specifically addressing human trafficking, prostitution, and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The bill requires each law enforcement agency to develop detailed operational procedures for investigating these crimes, which must include specific protocols for criminal investigations, suspect arrests, victim assistance, and victim service connections, with the Attorney General providing assistance in developing these guidelines. Additionally, the bill mandates that the peace officer standards and training board establish a comprehensive training and education program for law enforcement officers and state's attorneys, which must be trauma-informed and victim-centered. The training program will be structured as a ten-hour initial requirement for new officers at the law enforcement academy and a five-hour continuing education requirement throughout an officer's career. The training must cover detecting, responding to, and investigating these specific crimes and include information about community resources available to victims, with input from state's attorneys during the program's development.

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This bill provides a \$50 million appropriation from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund to the North Dakota Department of Commerce for a Housing for Opportunity, Mobility, and Empowerment (HOME) Grant Program aimed at supporting affordable housing infrastructure development. The funding is allocated across different community size categories: \$10 million for communities under 5,000 people, \$20 million for communities between 5,001-20,000 people, \$15 million for communities over 20,000 people, and \$5 million for rural metropolitan areas near larger cities. Communities over 20,000 can receive a maximum grant of \$1.5 million, and the department must ensure matching funds are secured on a dollar-for-dollar basis from political subdivisions, local developers, and private sources. The program allows communities to identify their specific housing needs and develop cooperative solutions, with the department establishing grant guidelines. If funds are not committed by December 31, 2026, the department can award remaining funds to viable projects. The department is required to submit a comprehensive report to the legislative management and governor by June 30, 2026, detailing the program's progress, including expenditures, housing units supported, grant applications, and matching funds raised. The bill is declared an emergency measure, indicating its immediate importance and implementation upon passage.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's theft laws by expanding the definition of theft to include a new provision targeting unauthorized property seizures by public servants and political subdivisions. Specifically, the bill adds a fourth category to the existing theft statute that makes it a crime for a public servant to seize or confiscate private property located on the owner's real property without first providing written notice either in person or via certified mail, or obtaining the owner's signature acknowledging receipt of the notice. Additionally, the bill creates a new section of law that prohibits political subdivisions, including home rule cities and counties, from seizing an individual's personal property from their own land without following the same notice requirements. These changes aim to protect property owners by ensuring they receive proper notification and have an opportunity to respond before their property can be seized, thus adding an extra layer of legal protection against potential arbitrary or unannounced property confiscations by government entities.

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This bill updates North Dakota's laws regarding garnishments by modifying three specific sections of the state's Century Code. The key changes involve increasing the disclosure fee for garnishment proceedings from \$25 to \$40 across multiple sections. In practical terms, this means that when a plaintiff initiates a garnishment against a state agency or entity, they must now pay a \$40 fee to the garnishee (the entity holding the defendant's assets) for preparing an affidavit of disclosure. The bill also clarifies that a judgment cannot be rendered against a garnishee if the original judgment against the defendant is less than \$40, exclusive of costs. Additionally, the bill gives the director of the office of management and budget the option to provide an electronic method of service for garnishments where disclosure fees might not be required. These changes appear to be primarily administrative, updating fee amounts and providing more flexibility in garnishment procedures.

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This bill creates comprehensive protections and regulations for digital assets and blockchain technology in North Dakota across multiple areas of state law. The bill provides protection for digital asset mining operations by preventing local governments (counties, cities, and townships) from unreasonably restricting these businesses in residential and commercial zones, specifically prohibiting overly restrictive noise regulations and zoning changes without proper notice. It establishes an exemption from money transmitter licensing for businesses involved in blockchain-related activities like operating nodes, mining digital assets, or developing blockchain software. The bill also defines key terms such as "digital asset" (which includes cryptocurrencies and digital tokens), "blockchain protocol," and "node," and establishes that governing authorities cannot mandate or participate in central bank digital currency tests. Additionally, the legislation affirms individuals' and businesses' rights to accept digital assets as payment, use self-hosted or hardware wallets, operate blockchain nodes, develop blockchain software, transfer digital assets, and participate in blockchain staking. Notably, the bill defines a digital asset mining business as one drawing more than one megawatt of power, providing a clear threshold for regulatory application.

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This bill introduces new requirements for transparency in government spending and training for school officials in North Dakota. The bill mandates that the superintendent of public instruction contract for training services for school board members, superintendents, principals, and business managers, covering areas such as academic best practices, personnel management, financial operations, facility planning, and regulatory compliance. The bill also requires the state treasurer to establish a comprehensive, publicly accessible online government spending database that will include detailed expenditure data from various government entities, including budget units, political subdivisions, school districts, and higher education institutions. The database must be updated monthly and include specific details for each expenditure, such as payment amount, date, recipient, paying entity, and employee position. For school districts, the database must also include curriculum and educational material details. The database will provide search capabilities, data aggregation tools, download options, and anonymous salary information. The office of management and budget will work with the state treasurer to establish data submission standards and ensure compliance. The bill appropriates \$350,000 for establishing and maintaining the database, with sections 1 and 2 becoming effective on July 1, 2026.

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This bill proposes a new limitation on property tax assessments in North Dakota that restricts the annual increase in a property's true and full valuation (the official assessed value of a property for tax purposes) to no more than 3% per year, with exceptions for property improvements. Property valuations that would exceed this 3% cap can only be implemented if approved by a majority of qualified voters in the taxing district through a ballot measure at a statewide general or primary election. Such voter-approved valuation increases would be valid for up to four taxable years. Importantly, the bill explicitly prevents cities or counties from circumventing this limitation through home rule authority. The proposed legislation would take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, meaning it would first apply to property tax assessments in 2025. The primary intent of the bill appears to be controlling property tax assessment increases and giving voters more direct control over potential valuation hikes.

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This bill introduces new limitations on how the taxable value of residential property can be assessed in North Dakota. Specifically, the bill caps the taxable valuation of residential property at its "base year valuation" (defined as the average taxable value over the previous three years), with exceptions for certain circumstances. These exceptions include when a property was not previously taxable, when the property is sold or changes ownership, or when significant improvements are made to the property. An "improvement" is carefully defined to exclude routine maintenance and like-for-like replacements of damaged structures, ensuring that minor changes or rebuilding to the same specifications do not trigger a full reassessment. The bill prevents cities and counties from overriding these provisions through home rule authority and is set to take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. The primary intent appears to be protecting homeowners from rapid increases in property tax assessments by limiting how and when a property's taxable value can be raised, which could help provide more predictability and stability for residential property owners.

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This bill creates a property tax reduction program for long-term homeowners in North Dakota, specifically providing a 100% taxable valuation reduction up to \$18,000 for homeowners who have owned their primary residence for 30 years or more. To qualify, homeowners must apply by specific deadlines (August 1, 2025, for initial applications, and August 1st in subsequent years), and the reduction applies to both real estate and mobile homes. The bill defines a "long-term homeowner" as someone who has owned their primary residence for 30 years or more, with detailed provisions for how ownership is defined, including situations involving trusts, co-ownership, and residency exceptions like temporary nursing home confinement. The reduction is valid for the entire tax year regardless of ownership changes after approval, and the state will reimburse counties for the lost tax revenue by calculating the reduction based on local mill rates. The bill also includes safeguards against fraudulent claims, allows for appeals through the equalization process, and specifies that the program becomes effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. Additionally, a small portion of the reduction will be deposited into the state medical center fund, and the tax commissioner will oversee the application and certification process.

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This bill establishes a new system for property tax classification and reduction for primary residential, agricultural, and commercial properties in North Dakota. The legislation creates a detailed certification process for primary residential properties, allowing homeowners to apply for a special classification that provides a 3% reduction in taxable valuation. Similarly, agricultural and commercial properties owned by state residents or entities will be eligible for 2% and 1% valuation reductions, respectively. Property owners must submit applications to the tax commissioner, who will review and validate eligibility. The bill modifies existing property tax definitions, introduces new categories like "primary residential property" and "nonprimary residential property," and establishes a state reimbursement mechanism for local taxing districts to offset the reduced valuations. The changes are designed to provide tax relief for property owners while maintaining a structured approach to property tax assessment. The bill will be effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, and includes provisions for initial implementation in 2025 and subsequent years, with specific timelines for application, review, and certification processes.

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This bill provides a state appropriation of \$642,833 from the general fund to the North Dakota state fair association for the upcoming two-year budget period (biennium) starting July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funds are specifically designated to help cover the operating expenses of the state fair association. The bill appears to maintain the base level of funding without any additional enhancements, which is reflected in the \$0 listed for "Base Level Enhancements" in the appropriation table. This type of legislative appropriation bill is common for ensuring that state-supported organizations like the state fair association receive the necessary funding to continue their operations during the next fiscal period.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's gaming regulations by replacing the state gaming commission with the attorney general as the primary regulatory body for gaming activities. The bill eliminates the existing five-member gaming commission appointed by the governor and instead transfers the rulemaking and regulatory responsibilities directly to the attorney general. The attorney general will continue to adopt rules for administering and regulating the gaming industry, including establishing methods for game conduct, setting recordkeeping standards, requiring tax returns from gaming organizations, defining business practices for distributors and manufacturers, setting equipment and quality standards for gaming devices, and ensuring that gaming proceeds are used for appropriate purposes such as educational, charitable, and public-spirited uses. The bill also maintains the core regulatory objectives of protecting public interest, ensuring fair and honest games, collecting appropriate fees and taxes, and preventing unlawful gambling activities. This change represents a streamlining of the gaming oversight process by centralizing regulatory authority with the attorney general's office.

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This bill proposes comprehensive changes to property tax credits, exemptions, and valuation reductions for primary residences in North Dakota. The bill eliminates the existing homestead credit and replaces it with a new primary residence valuation reduction program for 2025 and 2026. Under the new program, individuals are entitled to a 100% reduction of taxable valuation up to \$9,000 for their primary residence, which applies to both real estate and mobile homes. The bill modifies eligibility criteria, defining "primary residence" more precisely and including provisions for individuals who may be temporarily residing in care facilities. The bill also updates language related to disabled veterans, homestead credits, and various property tax exemptions, and removes some existing sections of code related to previous homestead credit programs. Additionally, the bill provides for retroactive application of some provisions, particularly for the primary residence credit, and sets specific effective dates for different sections of the legislation. The changes aim to streamline property tax relief programs and provide more consistent support for primary homeowners across different types of residential properties.

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This bill modifies the homestead tax credit for seniors and permanently disabled individuals in North Dakota by updating income thresholds and exemption amounts. Specifically, the bill replaces the current fixed income limits of \$40,000 and \$70,000 with more flexible thresholds based on federal poverty guidelines. For individuals with income at or below 325% of the federal poverty guidelines, the bill increases the full tax valuation reduction from \$9,000 to \$13,500. For those with income between 325% and 600% of federal poverty guidelines, the partial tax valuation reduction increases from \$4,500 to \$6,750. The bill clarifies that "federal poverty guidelines" refers to guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the person's household size, capped at two people. The existing provisions remain largely unchanged, including continued eligibility for those in care facilities and rules about shared property ownership. The tax credit modification will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, providing a clear implementation timeline for taxpayers and local assessors.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's oil and gas gross production tax allocation system by creating a new energy impact grant fund and adjusting how tax revenues are distributed. The bill establishes that up to \$20 million per fiscal year will be allocated to the new energy impact grant fund, which will provide grants to three hub cities - Williston (73.88%), Dickinson (15.66%), and Minot (10.46%) - to help them address impacts from oil and gas development, such as debt repayments related to infrastructure and services. Additionally, the bill adjusts the state's tax revenue allocation process, increasing the initial deposits into the state general fund from \$230 million to \$250 million and modifying the distribution of subsequent revenues to various state funds. The bill also includes provisions for reduced allocations to the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund and oil and gas research fund during a specific time period. These changes aim to provide more targeted financial support to cities most affected by oil and gas development while maintaining the state's complex tax revenue distribution system. The modifications will take effect for tax allocations occurring after August 31, 2025.

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This bill creates a new section in North Dakota law that prohibits state government agencies and political subdivisions from entering into contracts with companies that engage in boycotts of certain critical state economic sectors. The bill defines a "boycott" as refusing to do business with companies involved in fossil fuel energy, mining, production agriculture, or firearms manufacturing without a legitimate business purpose. To be subject to the law, a company must have at least ten full-time employees and be valued at \$100,000 or more. Governmental entities must now require potential contractors to provide a written verification that they are not engaging in such boycotts and are not on a state investment board's ineligible list. The law includes exceptions if the goods or services are not otherwise available on commercially reasonable terms or if the requirement would conflict with the entity's constitutional or statutory duties. The bill applies to new contracts entered after its effective date, and existing contracts that violate the law cannot be renewed without obtaining the required verification. This legislation appears to be designed to prevent companies from discriminating against businesses in key North Dakota economic industries based on ideological grounds.

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This bill amends Section 57-15-41 of the North Dakota Century Code to modify how tax levy limitations apply to political subdivisions' special assessment and infrastructure fee levies. Specifically, the bill removes language that previously prohibited tax levies for special assessments and instead clarifies that tax levy limitations will not apply to levies by counties, cities, school districts, park districts, or townships for paying special assessments and certain infrastructure fees defined in specific state code sections. The bill allows these political subdivisions to levy taxes beyond normal limitations to cover special assessments and infrastructure fees, while maintaining the existing provision that any surplus in the special assessment fund after all assessments are paid must be transferred to the political subdivision's general fund. This change provides more flexibility for local government entities to fund infrastructure and special assessment projects without being constrained by standard tax levy restrictions.

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This bill adds a new section to North Dakota law that restricts government entities' ability to mandate medical products. Specifically, the bill defines a "medical product" as any product used to diagnose or manage a disease, including medical devices, drugs, and biologics. Under this proposed legislation, state agencies, political subdivisions, and other government entities would be prohibited from requiring individuals to take, receive, or disclose their status regarding a medical product, unless the manufacturer of that product is willing to accept full legal liability for any deaths or serious injuries that might result from its use. The bill appears to be designed to provide individuals with more choice and protection regarding medical treatments, particularly in situations where product manufacturers may not be willing to assume complete legal responsibility for potential adverse outcomes.

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This bill creates a new chapter in North Dakota law that comprehensively defines and protects contraceptive health care rights. The bill provides a detailed definition of "contraceptive" that includes various methods like oral contraceptives, intrauterine devices, emergency contraceptives, condoms, patches, and more, while explicitly excluding abortion-causing drugs. It establishes fundamental rights for individuals, health care providers, health carriers, and manufacturers related to contraception, including the right to receive, purchase, provide, or manufacture contraceptives. The bill prohibits state or local government entities from implementing policies that restrict these contraceptive rights and allows for civil action against any agency or individual who attempts to limit these rights. If a court finds a violation, it can set aside restrictive policies, award equitable relief, and provide court costs and attorney's fees to the plaintiff. The bill also includes a nuanced exception that allows for health and safety regulations of medical facilities, provided such regulations align with widely accepted medical standards and cannot be achieved through less restrictive means. Importantly, the bill emphasizes that contraceptive rights extend beyond pregnancy prevention, including treatment for various health conditions like endometriosis, ovarian cysts, and premenstrual disorders.

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This bill limits the sales, use, and gross receipts tax rates that home rule counties and cities in North Dakota can impose. Specifically, after June 30, 2025, home rule counties and cities will not be allowed to create new taxes or increase existing taxes beyond a 3% rate. For any existing taxes that currently exceed 3%, those higher rates can continue to be collected until their current approval period expires, but cannot be renewed at rates higher than 3% afterward. Home rule jurisdictions are local governments with the authority to create and modify certain local taxes and regulations within their own boundaries. The bill's effective date is set for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025, which means the tax rate restrictions will apply to transactions starting on July 1, 2025. This legislation appears aimed at providing consistency and potentially reducing tax burdens at the local government level by capping tax rates across North Dakota's home rule counties and cities.

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This bill proposes several changes to North Dakota's tax and levy regulations, with significant modifications to county and local government funding mechanisms. The bill eliminates levy authority for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and county extension services, but provides state reimbursement of \$19.8 million to counties to offset the lost revenue (\$9.5 million for Garrison Diversion and \$10.3 million for extension services). It creates a new uniform reporting system for taxing district financial and property tax data, requiring the tax commissioner to develop a comprehensive framework for tracking and reporting local government financial information. The bill also makes technical adjustments to various levy limitations for counties, including modifications to levies for historical works, emergency services, veterans' services, and senior citizen programs. Additionally, the bill mandates more detailed and visually informative property tax statements, requiring color-coded pie charts and multi-year comparisons of tax information. A legislative tax reform and relief advisory committee will be established during the 2025-26 interim to study income and property tax relief, with a requirement to report findings to the 70th legislative assembly. The changes are designed to improve transparency, standardize financial reporting, and provide transitional funding for local governments affected by levy authority changes.

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This bill provides a comprehensive appropriation for the North Dakota Department of Water Resources for the 2025-2027 biennium, allocating a total of \$699,660,783 from special and federal funds across several key spending categories. The appropriation covers salaries and wages of \$22,998,148, operating expenses of \$56,625,923, and capital assets of \$124,136,712. Additionally, the bill includes significant funding for various grant programs: \$316,200,000 for water supply grants, \$52,000,000 for rural water supply grants, \$115,700,000 for flood control grants, and a newly added \$12,000,000 for general water grants. The bill maintains the department's current staffing level at 93 full-time equivalent positions and ensures that the department has the necessary financial resources to carry out its water resource management, infrastructure development, and community support responsibilities during the specified two-year period.

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This bill amends several sections of North Dakota law related to the selection process for construction management and professional services procurement. The bill modifies the composition of selection committees for construction management projects by specifying that architects and engineers on the committee cannot be those already contracted for the specific project. It requires that fees and expenses be identified on a standard bid form approved by the Office of Management and Budget. The bill also establishes more specific guidelines for scoring qualification criteria, mandating that fees and expenses must be weighted at least 20%, with no single criteria weighted more than 20% or less than 5%, and ensuring that all committee members use the same weighting method. Additionally, the bill clarifies subcontractor bidding processes for agency construction managers and construction managers at-risk, requiring public advertisement of bids, public bid openings, and selection of the lowest responsible bidder. For agency selection committees, the bill updates the evaluation criteria for professional services and requires that fees and expenses be included on a standard information submission form, with the committee selecting and ranking the top three most qualified firms based on specific criteria such as past performance, personnel ability, and project experience.

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This bill amends North Dakota's existing water development planning law by requiring the state water commission to develop and maintain a comprehensive water development plan on a river basin basis every two years. The key change increases the cost threshold for detailed project analysis from projects over \$1 million to projects over \$5 million. The bill mandates that the commission establish procedures for hosting meetings in specific river basin areas, including the Missouri, James, Red, Mouse, Devils Lake, Little Missouri, Heart, and Cannonball River basins. These meetings are intended to facilitate local project sponsor participation, help prioritize projects, and provide education about economic and life cycle analyses for municipal water supply, flood control, and water conveyance projects that exceed the \$5 million threshold. This approach aims to improve water resource planning by ensuring more localized input and systematic evaluation of potential water development initiatives across North Dakota's major river drainage areas.

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This bill creates a new section in North Dakota state law that broadly prohibits any state or local government (political subdivision) from creating policies, orders, or ordinances that limit an individual's speech, specifically including a prohibition on hate crime ordinances. The bill ensures that no city or county home rule charter or ordinance can override this provision, and it explicitly states that any policy attempting to restrict speech would be considered legally void. By preventing local governments from implementing speech restrictions, the bill aims to protect what it views as free speech rights, though it does not provide specific exceptions or define the boundaries of protected speech. The legislation appears designed to prevent local governments from enacting regulations that might penalize or restrict certain forms of expression, including potentially inflammatory or offensive speech that could be considered hate speech.

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This bill amends North Dakota state law to prohibit two specific voting methods - approval voting and ranked-choice voting - in all local, state, and federal elections. Approval voting is defined as a method where voters can vote for all candidates they approve of in a race, with winners determined by the most votes, while ranked-choice voting allows voters to rank candidates by preference, with candidates eliminated in rounds until one candidate achieves a majority. The bill explicitly states that any ordinance, including those created under home rule charters by counties or cities, that conflicts with this prohibition will be considered void. Specifically, the bill modifies existing sections of the North Dakota Century Code related to county and city election provisions to incorporate this new restriction, ensuring that traditional voting methods remain the standard for elections across the state. The goal appears to be maintaining a conventional voting system and preventing alternative voting methodologies from being implemented at any level of government in North Dakota.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's laws regarding off-highway vehicles (OHVs), which are motorized vehicles designed for cross-country travel on various terrains. The bill expands the definition of peace officers, allows counties (in addition to cities) to regulate OHV use within their jurisdiction, and introduces new provisions for minors operating OHVs. Specifically, individuals under 16 must now be supervised by a parent or legal guardian when operating an OHV, and those at least 12 years old can operate such vehicles only after completing a safety training course and obtaining a safety certificate. The bill also increases penalty fees for various OHV-related infractions, raising the standard violation fee from \$10 to \$50 and increasing another specific violation fee from \$20 to \$100. These changes aim to enhance safety, clarify regulatory authority for local governments, and establish more structured guidelines for youth OHV operation. The amendments apply to different classes of off-highway vehicles, including those with two, three, or four wheels, and those used for various recreational and utility purposes.

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This bill creates a new section in the North Dakota Century Code that prohibits "extreme risk protection provisions" (ERPOs), which are rules or orders that restrict an individual's access to firearms based on perceived personal risk. The bill defines an ERPO as any rule, statute, ordinance, or judicial order that prevents an individual from owning, possessing, using, purchasing, or manufacturing firearms, or requires surrendering firearms or firearm-related permits. The legislation explicitly excludes domestic violence protection orders and involuntary commitment orders from this definition. The bill makes it illegal for any state agency, political subdivision, or person to adopt, implement, or enforce such extreme risk protection provisions. Furthermore, state agencies are prohibited from using personnel or funds to enforce these types of restrictions, with an exception for the department of health and human services. Violations of this prohibition would be considered a class B felony, which in North Dakota typically carries a potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to \$20,000, or both. The bill appears aimed at preventing local or state entities from implementing "red flag" laws that might temporarily remove firearms from individuals deemed to be a potential threat to themselves or others.

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This bill amends North Dakota state law to modify regulations around golf cart usage on city streets. Currently, cities can pass ordinances allowing golf carts on their streets, but the existing law restricted golf cart travel to daytime trips between a residence and a golf course. The proposed amendment removes this specific daytime residence-to-golf course limitation and instead prohibits golf cart operation at night. The bill maintains existing provisions that allow cities to permit golf cart street travel, with the continued restriction that golf carts cannot use federal, state, or county highways except to cross them perpendicularly. Additionally, the bill preserves the exemption for these golf carts from vehicle title, registration, and equipment requirements under state law. This change gives cities more flexibility in determining when and how golf carts can be used on municipal streets while maintaining safety considerations by preventing nighttime operation.

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This bill establishes a new wastewater infrastructure grant program administered by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, which will award grants to local government entities like cities, counties, townships, and water districts to help upgrade, replace, or construct wastewater collection, disposal, and treatment systems. The program will provide grants covering up to 60% of a project's total cost, with a maximum grant amount of \$12,500,000 per project. From a total appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium, at least \$12,500,000 is specifically reserved for cities with populations under 5,000, as determined by the most recent federal census. To be eligible for a grant, wastewater systems must either be currently compliant with regulations or the proposed project must return the system to compliance, and grants cannot be used for ongoing operations and maintenance costs. If by April 1, 2027, the full \$12,500,000 allocated for smaller cities has not been awarded, the remaining funds can be redistributed to other eligible projects.

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This bill proposes several changes to the state auditor's responsibilities and powers in North Dakota. It modifies the existing law to remove the requirement that the state auditor charge agencies for audit services from non-general fund sources, instead allowing more flexibility in audit billing. The bill expands the state auditor's ability to charge for federal government work by explicitly stating they can bill federal agencies for audit costs. It reduces the percentage of progress payments retained by political subdivisions from 20% to 5% when paying for audits. The bill also grants the state auditor new subpoena power to request records, documents, or testimony directly related to authorized audits. Additionally, the legislation changes the audit threshold for occupational and professional boards, raising the annual receipt limit from \$200,000 to \$2 million before requiring a mandatory audit. The bill maintains the state auditor's core responsibilities of conducting financial and performance audits of state agencies, reporting to legislative committees, and ensuring financial accountability, while providing the office with more operational flexibility and investigative tools.

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This bill provides a \$15 million appropriation from the state's general fund to the North Dakota Department of Transportation specifically for grants to fixed route city transportation providers during the 2025-2027 biennium, with the funding designated as a one-time allocation. Additionally, the bill mandates that the legislative management conduct a comprehensive study during the 2025-26 interim period to examine the funding needs of fixed route city transportation networks. The study will focus on how these transportation systems can address various critical community needs, including population growth, economic development, workforce requirements, and healthcare access. As part of this study, the legislative management is required to develop a proposed funding formula for fixed route city transportation systems and report their findings and recommendations, along with potential implementing legislation, to the 70th legislative assembly. This bill aims to support local transportation infrastructure and develop a more strategic approach to funding city transportation services.

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This bill amends two sections of the North Dakota Century Code related to emergency medical services and first responders. The first section adds a new definition for "first responder" to include firefighters, law enforcement officers, public safety telecommunicators, and emergency medical services personnel, expanding the previous definition. The bill removes "first responders" from the list of emergency medical services personnel and creates a broader, more inclusive definition of who can be considered a first responder. The second section modifies an existing law to explicitly allow the department to regulate communication methods and protocols for both emergency medical services operations and first responders, ensuring that their communication protocols align with those established by the department of emergency services. By broadening the definition of first responders and clarifying regulatory oversight, the bill aims to provide a more comprehensive framework for emergency response personnel in North Dakota.

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This bill amends several sections of North Dakota law to remove references to carbon dioxide pipelines and, more significantly, to prohibit the use of eminent domain (the government's power to take private property for public use) for certain types of energy infrastructure projects. Specifically, the bill prevents state or local governments, public utilities, corporations, or other entities from using eminent domain to construct infrastructure related to carbon capture, solar energy, wind energy, hydrogen energy, carbon dioxide transport for geological storage or sequestration, or projects qualifying for federal 45Q tax credits. The bill removes carbon dioxide from the list of substances that can be transported by common carrier pipelines and eliminates previous provisions related to carbon dioxide pipeline regulations. By repealing Section 38-22-10, the bill also appears to be removing existing language about geological storage of carbon dioxide. The changes effectively restrict the ability of energy companies to use government powers to acquire land for certain emerging energy technologies, particularly those involving carbon capture and transportation, which could have significant implications for renewable and carbon mitigation infrastructure development in North Dakota.

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This bill modifies the procedures for amending or repealing a county home rule charter in North Dakota. Under the current law, amendments or repeals require either a proposal by the county governing body or a petition from a specified number of electors, followed by a public vote. The bill introduces a new streamlined process for making minor conforming changes to a home rule charter. Specifically, if a portion of the charter or an ordinance does not align with statutory requirements, the county governing body can now pass a resolution to amend those portions without requiring a public petition or vote. The resolution must be published in the official county newspaper within 30 days of adoption. However, this simplified amendment process cannot be used to add new powers to the charter that were not originally included; such additions would still require the traditional amendment process with public voting. The bill aims to provide counties with a more efficient mechanism for making technical corrections to their home rule charters while preserving the public's right to vote on substantive changes.

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This bill amends North Dakota's uniform group insurance program to provide special insurance benefits for retired peace officers. Specifically, the bill creates a new subgroup within the state's existing group insurance program exclusively for retired peace officers who are not Medicare-eligible. The bill defines a "peace officer" as a retiree who worked in a permanent law enforcement position for at least 32 hours per week, for at least 20 weeks each year, and for a total of at least 20 years of employment. Under the new provision, the state's insurance board will pay the full premium for these retired peace officers' medical and hospital insurance coverage, with no cost to the retired officer. This change aims to provide additional benefits and support for long-serving law enforcement professionals after they retire, recognizing their years of public service by ensuring they have comprehensive health insurance coverage without personal financial burden. The bill modifies existing language in the North Dakota Century Code to incorporate these new provisions for retired peace officers within the state's uniform group insurance program.

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This bill provides a \$2,000,000 appropriation from the state's general fund to North Dakota's Department of Transportation (DOT) specifically for transit program grants. The funding is designated for public transportation providers and is allocated for the two-year budget period starting July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The bill allows flexibility in the appropriation, noting that the full \$2 million may not need to be used, and only the amount necessary will be allocated. This type of legislative appropriation is a standard mechanism for providing state funding to support public transportation infrastructure and services, ensuring that local transit providers have financial resources to maintain and potentially expand their operations during the specified biennium.

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This bill creates a new sales tax exemption for fire departments in North Dakota by adding a provision to the state's tax code that eliminates sales tax on purchases made by fire departments that have filed a certificate of existence under section 18-04-02 and had that certificate approved. Specifically, the bill ensures that gross receipts from sales to such fire departments—which are defined as fire departments or fire districts that have completed the required official registration—will be exempt from sales tax when those purchases are directly related to providing fire protection services. The tax exemption will become effective for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025, meaning fire departments can start benefiting from this sales tax exemption beginning in the fiscal year 2026. This legislation aims to reduce the financial burden on local fire departments by allowing them to purchase equipment, supplies, and services without incurring additional sales tax costs.

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This bill amends North Dakota's municipal infrastructure fund reporting requirements by adding a population threshold and clarifying reporting procedures. Specifically, the bill now requires only cities with at least 1,000 residents to submit biennial reports to the state treasurer by November 30th of each even-numbered year, starting in 2022. These reports must detail the amount of grant funding received and spent, and provide a description of infrastructure projects completed using the funds. The state treasurer will notify cities of this requirement by November 1st and can grant up to a 15-day extension upon request. The reports will be made publicly available on the state treasurer's website. Cities that fail to submit timely or correctly formatted reports will be ineligible for grants from the fund for two years. Additionally, if a financial audit reveals that a city has used grant funds inconsistently with the requirements, the state treasurer can reduce that city's future grants by the amount improperly spent. This bill aims to increase transparency and accountability in the use of municipal infrastructure grants.

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This bill transfers the administration of the state bonding fund from the insurance commissioner to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), making several key changes to how public employee and official bonds are managed. The bill creates a continuing appropriation for the state bonding fund, allowing OMB to pay claims, contract for administrative services, and cover investigation and reinsurance costs. It establishes new procedures for bond coverage, including requiring state agencies and political subdivisions to apply for bonding at least once per biennium, with a minimum bond assessment of \$2.50 per public employee per year. The bill adjusts the fund's financial management, specifying that assessments will be collected when the fund balance falls below \$3 million and waived when it exceeds that amount. The legislation also modifies claim filing processes, investigation procedures, and the options for additional bond coverage. Additionally, the bill repeals several existing sections of law related to the state bonding fund, streamlining the administrative framework and shifting primary management responsibilities to the Office of Management and Budget.

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This bill establishes comprehensive changes to North Dakota's property tax and legacy fund systems. It creates a new legacy earnings fund that will distribute approximately 7% of the legacy fund's five-year average balance every two years, with specific allocations including \$102.6 million for debt service, \$225 million to the general fund for tax relief initiatives, \$100 million to a highway distribution fund, and the remaining funds to a new legacy property tax relief fund. The bill significantly enhances the primary residence property tax credit, increasing its maximum value and providing a more detailed framework for certification and application. Additionally, it introduces new limitations on property tax levies by local taxing districts, generally capping annual increases at 3% without voter approval. The legislation also modifies various property tax definitions, assessment procedures, and tax statement requirements, with the goal of providing more transparency and property tax relief to North Dakota residents. The changes are to be implemented in stages, with most provisions taking effect for tax years beginning in 2025 or 2026, and an appropriation of \$310 million from the general fund to support the primary residence credit. The bill represents a comprehensive effort to provide property tax relief and establish more structured management of the state's legacy fund earnings.

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This bill amends the definition of "residential property" in North Dakota law to expand the types of structures and land that can be considered residential. The updated definition now explicitly includes garages, barns, and storage buildings that are used in connection with residential use, are not located on the same parcel as a dwelling, and are not used for commercial or agricultural purposes. The bill removes previous language that excluded structures with four or more separate family units and mobile home parks with four or more mobile homes from the definition of residential property. The changes to the definition will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, which means the new definition will first apply to property tax assessments in 2025. This modification could potentially impact how certain types of property are classified and taxed in North Dakota, potentially providing more flexibility in defining residential property for tax purposes.

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This bill proposes significant changes to North Dakota's school funding and property tax systems, focusing on adjustments to state aid payments and levy limitations. The bill modifies how school districts calculate their baseline funding, state aid, and property tax levies, with key changes including reducing the maximum general fund levy from 70 to 10 mills for residential property and introducing a 60-mill levy for agricultural, commercial, and centrally assessed properties. It also creates a new section that limits property tax increases for most taxing districts to 3% per year without voter approval, requiring a 60% voter approval for increases beyond that threshold. The bill changes how tuition revenues are calculated in state aid formulas, adjusts mill levy reduction calculations, and requires more detailed reporting of mill levies by property classification. Additionally, the bill repeals several existing sections of law related to state aid payments and introduces new provisions for tracking and limiting property tax increases. Most of these changes will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, giving local governments and school districts time to prepare for the new regulations.

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This bill amends several sections of North Dakota law related to gaming and nonprofit organizations, primarily focusing on redefining educational and public-spirited organizations. The bill expands the definition of an "educational organization" to include collegiate athletic organizations and educational public service organizations when providing educational activities. It also significantly revises the definition of a "public-spirited organization" by clarifying that such organizations must be primarily focused on improving public concerns or conferring community benefits, and explicitly excludes organizations primarily benefiting their own officers or members. The bill modifies provisions related to gaming permits, allowing public-spirited organizations or groups recognized by local governing bodies to apply for permits to conduct raffles, bingo, and other games, with specific restrictions on prize amounts. Additionally, the bill removes references to amateur sports and athletic activities in several sections, streamlining the language around nonprofit organizations and their permitted activities. The changes will apply to eligible organizations applying for or renewing licenses after the bill's effective date, potentially impacting how local organizations can conduct fundraising and gaming activities in North Dakota.

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This bill establishes a new method for distributing workforce training center funding in North Dakota for each biennial budget cycle. The state board for career and technical education will allocate the total appropriated workforce training funds using a three-part formula: 60% of the funds will be divided equally among all workforce training centers, ensuring a base level of support for each center. An additional 20% will be distributed based on each center's average number of training hours provided during the most recent three-year period within the previous four fiscal years. The final 20% will be allocated based on each center's average number of unique participants (unduplicated participants) reported during the same time frame. This approach aims to provide funding that reflects both the equal baseline needs of training centers and their individual performance in terms of training hours and participant engagement.

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This bill proposes to transfer the administration of the state fire and tornado fund from the insurance commissioner to the office of management and budget (OMB). The bill makes comprehensive changes to how the state fire and tornado fund is managed, including establishing a continuing appropriation for the fund, creating new guidelines for insurance coverage, and modifying assessment and loss reporting procedures. Specifically, the bill outlines that the OMB will now manage the fund, which provides insurance for state agencies, political subdivisions, and winter shows against direct and indirect losses from various risks like fire, windstorm, and tornado. The legislation introduces new requirements for reporting insurable values, obtaining replacement cost appraisals, and determining assessments. The bill also establishes procedures for handling disputes over property values or losses, sets guidelines for insurance cancellation, and provides mechanisms for maintaining the fund's financial stability, such as levying assessments and potentially issuing anticipation bonds if the fund balance falls below a certain threshold. Additionally, the bill repeals several existing sections of law related to the fund's previous administration and makes conforming amendments to other sections of North Dakota law.

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This bill amends a section of North Dakota law related to the state water commission's meetings and leadership structure. Specifically, the bill removes the current language that requires the governor to serve as chairman and allows the commission to select a member as vice chairman. The revised text maintains provisions about meeting frequency (at least one meeting every two months), and preserves the existing rules about meeting locations and who can call a meeting. The bill clarifies the presiding officer protocol, ensuring that the governor or the governor's appointed representative will preside at commission meetings, and in their absence, the vice chairman will take the lead. This change appears to provide more flexibility in the commission's leadership arrangement while maintaining a clear chain of command for meeting management.

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This bill amends North Dakota's laws regarding bonding elections by making several key changes to the election process. The bill increases the minimum time between the passage of an initial resolution and the election from 20 to 64 days, giving voters and election officials more preparation time. It clarifies the process for setting election dates, specifying that the governing body will designate the election date, polling hours, and polling place, which must align with existing municipal election procedures. The bill also standardizes language around election official appointments, requiring the governing body to appoint an inspector, two judges, and two clerks for each polling place. In cases where an election official is absent or unable to serve, the remaining officials can appoint a qualified elector to fill the vacancy. Additionally, the bill ensures that bonding elections will be conducted and have their returns processed in the same manner as regular municipal governing body elections. These modifications aim to provide more clarity and consistency in the bonding election process for North Dakota municipalities.

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This bill creates a new provision in North Dakota law that establishes a temporary exemption for certain petition-related records held by the secretary of state. Specifically, when the secretary of state receives records related to a petition to initiate or refer a measure (which is a process allowing citizens to propose new laws or challenge existing laws), those records will be considered exempt from public disclosure. The exemption remains in effect until either the secretary of state completes their review of the petition's sufficiency (as outlined in section 16.1-01-10) or 35 days have passed since the record was received, whichever happens first. This provision appears designed to provide a temporary level of confidentiality during the initial stages of the petition review process, potentially protecting the privacy of petition sponsors or preventing premature public disclosure of pending petition efforts before they are formally evaluated.

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This bill creates a new property tax information portal on the North Dakota Tax Commissioner's website designed to provide citizens with comprehensive and transparent information about property taxes. The portal will include interactive data about property tax collections for each parcel, updated at least annually, along with historical collection information and contact details for elected officials in each taxing district. The portal will also offer educational resources like property tax terminology and tools to help citizens estimate potential tax changes. County auditors will be required to submit timely and detailed property tax data to the commissioner at least annually, and the commissioner must protect personally identifiable information from unauthorized access. The bill appropriates \$5,000,000 from the general fund to develop the portal during the 2025-2027 biennium, and the commissioner will be required to provide a report to the legislative management at least once per biennium detailing the portal's implementation progress, costs, and usage statistics. The goal appears to be increasing transparency and helping citizens better understand property tax information in North Dakota.

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This bill introduces comprehensive reforms to municipal courts in North Dakota, establishing a new legal framework for their operation, jurisdiction, and procedures. The bill creates a detailed chapter of law governing municipal courts, specifying that cities can establish these courts as part of the state's unified judicial system, with oversight from the state Supreme Court. The legislation outlines specific requirements for municipal judges, including qualifications based on city population size (with judges in cities over 5,000 required to be licensed attorneys), and provides clear guidelines for court administration, including provisions for joint municipal courts, court facilities, and staffing. The bill also defines the jurisdiction of municipal courts, limiting their ability to hear certain types of cases such as serious traffic offenses, domestic violence cases, and criminal offenses involving juveniles. Additionally, the bill establishes procedures for transferring cases to district court, handling appeals, and managing indigent defense services. Key changes include standardizing court processes, clarifying judicial responsibilities, and creating more consistent rules for municipal court operations across North Dakota. The bill also repeals existing sections of law related to ordinance violations and municipal judges, effectively replacing the old legal framework with this new, more comprehensive set of regulations.

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This bill amends North Dakota's Unclaimed Property Act with several key modifications. It updates the definition of when property is considered abandoned, now explicitly including virtual currency as a type of property that becomes abandoned after three years of inactivity. The bill introduces provisions for handling virtual currency, specifically requiring holders to liquidate virtual currency and remit proceeds to the state administrator within 30 days before filing a report, with owners losing the right to claim any value increase after liquidation. The legislation expands the administrator's capabilities by allowing voluntary disclosure programs and adding new circumstances where unclaimed property can be claimed, such as civil monetary judgments. The bill also modifies record retention requirements for holders, extends the administrator's ability to examine and seek property, and simplifies interstate and international information sharing about abandoned property. Additionally, the bill removes some previous restrictions on information exchange, making it easier for the state to collaborate with other jurisdictions in tracking and managing unclaimed property. The bill is declared an emergency measure, which means it would take effect immediately upon passage.

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This bill amends the North Dakota property tax credit for disabled veterans to clarify and expand the existing law. The bill allows disabled veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher, or those with an extra-schedular rating that brings their total disability to 100%, to receive a property tax credit on their homestead. The credit amount is proportional to the veteran's disability percentage, and surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation can also qualify for a 100% credit. The bill adds new definitions for "child" and "parent" and modifies provisions for co-owned properties, specifying that if a disabled veteran co-owns a homestead with someone other than a spouse, parent, or child, the credit is limited to the veteran's ownership percentage. The legislation also maintains the existing process for certification and reimbursement by county and state officials, and includes a provision that the credit terminates upon the death of the applicant. The bill will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, providing clarity and potentially expanded benefits for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses in North Dakota.

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This bill amends North Dakota state law regarding how cities can sell real property through real estate listing agreements. Specifically, the bill expands the existing law to allow cities to sell property not only through nonexclusive listing agreements (where multiple real estate brokers can try to sell the property), but also through exclusive listing agreements, but only if the exclusive broker is selected through a competitive process. The bill requires city governing bodies to first pass a resolution that describes the property being sold, sets a maximum fee or commission rate, and reserves the city's right to reject offers deemed insufficient. The changes provide cities with more flexibility in how they can market and sell municipal real estate while maintaining protections to ensure transparency and potentially get the best possible sale price. The amendment maintains existing procedural safeguards while offering an additional option for cities to potentially streamline their property sales process.

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This bill appropriates funds to address homelessness in North Dakota through several key provisions. The housing finance agency will receive \$10 million for homeless grants and \$50,000 for a homelessness study during the 2025-2027 biennium. The department of public instruction will be allocated \$1 million to provide grants to the ten school districts with the largest student enrollments for homelessness liaison services, with each district eligible for up to \$50,000 per fiscal year and required to provide matching funds. Additionally, the bill includes a \$200 million transfer to the housing incentive fund, which is intended to be distributed over a four-year period from 2025 to 2029. The bill also mandates a legislative management study on homelessness during the 2025-26 interim, which will review available data and funding, analyze fund usage, and seek input from a consultant. The study aims to identify gaps and potential solutions, with findings and recommendations to be reported to the seventieth legislative assembly, potentially including proposed legislation to address homelessness in the state.

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This bill modifies North Dakota law to expand exemptions for certain sensitive records, specifically images from body cameras, crash scenes, and other official investigations. The bill creates new provisions that make images containing nude or partially nude human figures, images of individuals with serious bodily injuries, images of deceased individuals, and images of minors exempt from public disclosure. These exempted images would include those taken by body cameras, at crash scenes, or during other investigations. The bill also adds a new definition of "sensitive image" to the state's legal code, which encompasses images depicting exposed intimate parts, gruesome injuries, deceased individuals, or minors. By classifying these types of images as "exempt records," the legislation aims to protect the privacy and dignity of individuals involved in sensitive situations, preventing such potentially traumatic or invasive images from being freely accessible to the public. These changes reflect a careful balance between transparency in government records and protecting individual privacy, particularly in contexts involving personal vulnerability or tragedy.

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This bill amends North Dakota water permit regulations by modifying the process for changing the purpose of a water permit. Under the revised law, a water permit holder can change their permit's purpose of use without losing the original priority date, provided the change is approved by the Department of Water Resources. The bill specifies two scenarios where such a change may be approved: first, when the new use is considered a "superior use" according to the state's existing priority order, and second, when the change is to livestock use or to fish, wildlife, and recreation use for a reservoir that does not involve withdrawing water. Additionally, the bill requires that any proposed change must not negatively impact the water rights of other users. The application for such a change will be processed similarly to a conditional water permit application, ensuring a consistent review process. This modification provides water permit holders more flexibility in how they can use their allocated water resources while maintaining protections for other water users.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's Legacy Earnings Fund provisions to redirect and create new funding streams from legacy fund earnings. Specifically, the bill establishes two new funds: a County and Township Bridge Fund and a Legacy Earnings Tax Relief Fund. Under the revised law, after transferring \$102.6 million to the legacy sinking and interest fund and \$100 million to the highway distribution fund, the next \$100 million will now go to the county and township bridge fund for grants to repair or replace county and township bridges. Any remaining legacy fund earnings will be deposited into the new legacy earnings tax relief fund for potential tax relief programs. The bill includes an \$80 million appropriation to the state treasurer for bridge repair grants, distributed based on each county's share of bridge repair needs, and a \$20 million appropriation to the Department of Transportation for bridge projects in counties with smaller infrastructure needs. The legislative intent is to continue funding county and township bridge projects through June 30, 2035, and the changes to the legacy earnings fund will be effective until that date. This approach represents a strategic reallocation of North Dakota's oil wealth to support critical infrastructure and potential future tax relief.

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This bill amends North Dakota's uniform group insurance program by updating definitions and participation rules for state employees and political subdivisions. The bill modifies key definitions related to health insurance benefits coverage, specifically clarifying that the program now includes nongrandfathered health plans sponsored by large employers that meet certain federal requirements. It expands the definition of "carrier" to include health and medical insurance providers and broadens the understanding of what constitutes health insurance benefits coverage. The bill allows political subdivisions to join the uniform group insurance program under specific conditions, such as maintaining a minimum 60-month participation period and meeting board-established requirements. Additionally, the bill provides more flexibility for retirees from participating political subdivisions to join the insurance program, allowing them to elect participation under certain circumstances like reaching age 65 or when their spouse reaches that age. The changes aim to provide more comprehensive and adaptable health insurance coverage for state and local government employees, with the amendments set to take effect on January 1, 2026.

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This bill modifies the powers and duties of the North Dakota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board by expanding their authority and licensing procedures. The bill allows the board to require licensed peace officers to undergo physical or psychological examinations with cause, if deemed necessary for public safety, and grants the board legal authorization to examine and review medical and psychological records related to an officer's competency. The bill also expands the types of licensing fees the board can collect, including fees for license suspension, reinstatement, duplicate licenses, and late qualifications. Additionally, the bill broadens the grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking a peace officer's license, including new provisions related to psychological or physical conditions that might impair an officer's ability to safely perform duties. The board is now empowered to require medical and psychological examinations before reinstating a license and can deny licensure if an applicant refuses to release requested medical information. These changes aim to enhance public safety by providing the board with more comprehensive oversight of peace officer licensing and professional standards.

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This bill amends North Dakota's eminent domain laws to provide more comprehensive protections for property owners when their land is being condemned. The amendments clarify and expand the circumstances under which defendants can recover costs and fees in eminent domain proceedings. Specifically, the bill allows property owners to be reimbursed for reasonable attorney's fees and expert witness costs if a public entity (such as a state agency, municipality, or public utility) withdraws or dismisses condemnation proceedings without the defendant's agreement. The bill also provides that courts may award costs, including interest and attorney's fees, to defendants in condemnation cases. Additionally, the language updates terminology and streamlines the legal text, replacing outdated phrases like "such" with more modern language. The key goal appears to be ensuring that property owners are not financially burdened when facing potential land seizure, by making it easier for them to recover legal expenses if the condemning entity does not follow through with the proceedings.

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This bill modifies the liability limits for political subdivisions and the state in North Dakota, specifically adjusting the maximum financial compensation that can be awarded in legal claims. For political subdivisions, the bill changes the liability cap from \$375,000 to \$468,750 per person, with a total occurrence limit increasing from \$1 million to \$1,875,000, effective through June 30, 2026. After that date, the liability limits will further increase to \$500,000 per person and \$2 million per occurrence. Similarly, for state liability, the bill raises the per-person limit from \$250,000 to \$500,000, with the total occurrence limit increasing from \$1 million to \$2 million. The bill maintains existing provisions that protect political subdivisions and the state from liability in numerous scenarios, such as discretionary functions, public duty performances, and claims arising from specific circumstances like environmental contamination or natural disasters. These changes aim to update the financial thresholds for potential legal claims against governmental entities, reflecting adjustments for inflation and changing legal landscapes while preserving broad protections for governmental bodies.

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This bill modifies the North Dakota homestead tax credit by lowering the age qualification from 65 to 62 years old and adjusting income thresholds for tax assessment reductions. The bill increases the income limits for receiving a full or partial tax exemption on a homestead, raising the income threshold for a 100% reduction from \$40,000 to \$70,000 and the threshold for a 50% reduction from \$70,000 to \$100,000. These changes mean that more seniors and permanently disabled individuals will be eligible for a tax reduction on their property. The existing rules remain in place, such as the exemption continuing if the homeowner is temporarily in a care facility and the provision that only one exemption is allowed for spouses or dependents living together. The bill will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, meaning homeowners can first apply these new provisions on their 2025 tax returns.

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This bill updates several sections of North Dakota law related to homestead exemptions and tax liens, making several key changes. The bill modifies the definition of a homestead, clarifying that it can be claimed by married or unmarried individuals and is limited to \$150,000 in value, with an important exception that property taxes and special assessments do not count toward this valuation limit. The bill also adjusts when a homestead can be subject to execution or forced sale, specifically excluding property taxes and special assessments from the list of debts that can force a sale. Additionally, the bill establishes new requirements for declaring a homestead, including that such a declaration must be executed under penalty of perjury and can be accomplished through filing a bankruptcy discharge. A new provision is added to specify that tax liens have priority over most other liens, except for certain specific liens, with property tax liens taking precedence over special assessment liens. The bill also requires that notices of tax lien foreclosure must now include information about the homestead exemption and how to claim it, providing more transparency in the tax foreclosure process.

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This bill amends North Dakota state law regarding the requirements for advertisements and bids for public improvement projects. The bill updates Section 48-01.2-05 to streamline and simplify the bidding process by removing specific language about municipal, rural, and industrial water supply projects and creating a more uniform set of requirements for all public project advertisements. Key provisions include mandating that bid advertisements must specify the nature of the work, project location, bid opening details, and licensing requirements. Contractors must include their license in a separate envelope with their bid and provide bid security equal to five percent of their total bid amount. The bill requires that bidders be licensed for the full amount of their bid before being considered, and if a successful bidder fails to execute a contract within ten days, their bid bond will be forfeited and the project awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder. The changes aim to create a more standardized and clear process for public project bidding, removing previously specific exemptions and creating a more consistent approach to contractor licensing and bid submissions.

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This bill amends an existing North Dakota law regarding cooperative agreements between the state highway director and law enforcement agencies, specifically expanding the director's ability to place license plate readers on department-owned equipment. The bill removes language limiting cooperative agreements only to counties or cities and instead allows the director to enter agreements with state agencies, counties, or cities to enhance highway system efficiency. Importantly, the bill now mandates that the director must enter into an agreement at the request of a state, county, city law enforcement agency, or federal border control agency to place license plate readers on department equipment or infrastructure. These license plate readers can be used for law enforcement or border control purposes. The terms of such agreements would supersede existing state laws governing the use of highway funds. This change effectively provides law enforcement agencies with more flexibility in using state highway infrastructure for surveillance and border control activities.

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This bill proposes several modifications to North Dakota's election laws and administrative procedures. It updates definitions of "candidate" to include a more comprehensive range of political involvement and introduces a new definition for "complete residential address". The bill prohibits state and local governments from using private funds or entities for election operations, with limited exceptions like using private facilities for polling places or providing food for poll workers. It changes procedures for nominating petitions, election certification, and ballot preparation, including giving county auditors more direct responsibility for certifying election results. The bill extends the filing deadline for write-in candidates from four to twenty-one days before an election and modifies requirements for ballot design, such as specifying language for text boxes and ballot initialization. Additionally, the bill mandates that county auditors mail out ballot applications for various types of elections and use specific envelopes prescribed by the secretary of state. The legislation also repeals two existing sections of the North Dakota Century Code related to election notices and municipal voter registration, streamlining the election process and potentially reducing administrative complexity.

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This bill creates a new law enforcement family scholarship program administered by the state board of higher education. The program provides scholarships to children of law enforcement professionals, including peace officers, correctional officers, emergency services providers, and firefighters who have served full-time in the state for at least three years. To be eligible, the student must have been claimed as a dependent on the law enforcement officer's previous year's tax return and be enrolled in a state-controlled institution of higher education. The scholarship will cover 50% of the student's tuition, minus any other grants or scholarships they receive. The bill appropriates \$5,000,000 from the state's general fund to support the scholarship program during the 2025-2027 biennium. The definitions in the bill are broad, encompassing various types of public safety professionals, and the goal appears to be supporting the families of those who serve in critical public safety roles by helping their children access higher education.

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This bill creates a new jail improvement fund and establishes a jail facilities improvement committee to manage grants for county jail projects in North Dakota. The bill creates a special fund in the state treasury that will receive an initial transfer of \$50 million from the strategic investment and improvements fund. The jail facilities improvement committee will consist of 10 members, including legislative representatives from both the House and Senate (with balanced partisan representation), county representatives, law enforcement association representatives, and the director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation. The committee will review and approve grant applications for jail facility improvements, with each grant limited to \$10 million and requiring the county to contribute at least 25% of project costs. An important provision ensures that at least 25% of funds granted during a biennium will be allocated to counties with populations under 15,000, which helps support smaller, rural counties. Committee members will be reimbursed for travel and expenses, and legislative members will receive standard state compensation rates. The committee will establish its own operational rules and be supported by staff from the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

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This bill amends the definition of residential property in North Dakota's legal code, expanding and clarifying what qualifies as residential property for tax assessment purposes. Specifically, the bill defines residential property as property used as a dwelling, including a tract of land with three or fewer mobile homes and vacant platted lots within city limits that are intended for residential use. The assessor can determine the intended residential use based on zoning regulations or plat documents. The bill explicitly excludes certain types of properties from the residential property definition, such as hotel and motel accommodations that require licensing, structures providing living accommodations for four or more separate family units, and tracts of land with four or more mobile homes. This modification provides more precise guidelines for property classification and assessment. The bill will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, giving local assessors and property owners time to understand and implement the new definition.

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This bill provides a one-time appropriation of \$75,000 from the state's general fund to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, specifically designated for awarding a grant to a rural community that is experiencing significant population growth. The grant will be used to support a walking trail expansion project, and the funding is allocated for the two-year budget period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. The bill highlights that this is a one-time funding allocation, meaning it is not intended to be a recurring annual expense, and the funds will be used to help a rural community develop or extend its walking trail infrastructure in response to population increases.

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This bill amends three sections of North Dakota law to expand tax refund eligibility for fire departments, similar to existing provisions for emergency medical services operations. Currently, emergency medical services can receive refunds for motor vehicle fuel, special fuels, and aviation fuel taxes paid when those fuels are used in their operations. The bill adds fire departments to these refund provisions, specifically defining a fire department as one that has filed and received approval for a certificate of existence under state law. The bill clarifies that these tax refunds are not subject to reduction for deposit in agricultural funds and will apply to all taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025. By extending these tax refund rights to fire departments, the legislation provides financial relief to local fire services by allowing them to recoup fuel tax expenses, which could help support the operational costs of these critical public safety organizations.

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This bill creates new rules for voter registration in North Dakota, establishing comprehensive guidelines for how and when qualified electors (voters) can register to vote. The bill allows voters to register through multiple methods, including by mail, when applying for or renewing a driver's license, when receiving public assistance, or in person at the county auditor's office. Notably, voters can register up to the day before an election and can even register on election day at their polling place. The bill requires the county auditor to register individuals upon receiving a properly completed registration form and mandates that the secretary of state develop standardized registration forms that include essential personal information like name, address, date of birth, and previous registration details. The bill explicitly prohibits noting political party affiliation on registration forms and requires cooperation between the secretary of state and department of transportation to develop voter registration forms. The registration is designed to be permanent, subject to rules adopted by the secretary of state, and can only be modified or deleted according to specific protocols. The overall aim appears to be making voter registration more accessible and streamlined for North Dakota residents.

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This bill directs the legislative management of North Dakota to conduct a comprehensive study during the 2025-26 interim period focused on volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention. The study will explore challenges faced by various types of volunteer emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency or disaster volunteers, and community emergency response team members. The legislative management is required to gather input from a diverse range of stakeholders such as disaster emergency organizations, nonprofit associations, law enforcement representatives, emergency medical service providers, and state and local agencies. The goal is to identify effective strategies for encouraging volunteerism in emergency response roles. By the end of the study, the legislative management must prepare a report detailing their findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation necessary to implement those recommendations, which will be presented to the seventieth legislative assembly.

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This bill establishes a comprehensive framework for floodplain management across counties, cities, and townships in North Dakota, providing clear guidelines for how local governments can develop and implement floodplain management ordinances. The legislation allows county commissioners, city governing bodies, and township supervisors to exercise floodplain management authority, with specific provisions for how they can adopt and enforce such ordinances. Importantly, the bill defines key terms like "floodplain management" as a community-based effort to prevent or reduce flooding risks, and establishes a central repository at the department of water resources where all local floodplain management ordinances will be collected and made publicly accessible. The bill also clarifies that local governments can undertake floodplain management without first activating their zoning authority, and provides mechanisms for townships to either take on or relinquish floodplain management responsibilities in coordination with county commissioners. Additionally, the legislation specifies that these ordinances will not apply to areas within Indian country or within a city's existing zoning jurisdiction, and includes provisions for how local governments should certify their floodplain management activities annually to the state.

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This bill creates a new provision in North Dakota law that addresses government publication requirements. Specifically, the bill mandates that when a government unit is legally required to publish a notice in a newspaper, it must also file that notice with the secretary of state. Furthermore, if a newspaper fails to publish a legally required notice, the bill allows the notice to be considered validly published if it has been filed and posted by the secretary of state. This provision provides an alternative mechanism to ensure important government notices are made public, even if a newspaper does not follow through with publication. The bill aims to create a backup system for public notifications and ensure that critical government information reaches the public, even in cases of potential newspaper publication failures.

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This bill establishes a Rural Community Endowment Fund in North Dakota, designed to support small rural communities with populations under 1,000 people. The fund will be a permanent endowment in the state treasury, initially receiving a \$50 million transfer from the general fund. A nine-member Rural Community Endowment Fund Committee, appointed by the Commissioner of Commerce, will oversee grant awards focused on long-term community development. Grants can support local housing, workforce development, business recruitment, infrastructure, and other community needs, but cannot be used for operational expenses. The department will contract with a nonprofit organization to help administer the program and can spend up to 10% of available funds on administrative costs. The committee will determine grant application processes, award amounts, and project evaluation criteria, with a priority on improving rural communities' prosperity, independence, safety, health, and quality of life. The bill also requires the department to provide annual reports to legislative management and appropriations committees about the fund's status, funding use, and program results. Of the fund's initial appropriation, \$5 million is designated for awarding grants and program administration during the 2025-2027 biennium.

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This bill updates the regulations for water distribution and wastewater system operators in North Dakota by making several key changes. The bill modifies the certificate expiration date from July to January and provides the department more flexibility in setting certification fees, allowing them to establish reasonable rates based on the actual costs of processing applications, administering exams, and renewing certificates. The bill expands the department's examination procedures by permitting the use of third-party examination services to prepare, conduct, and grade certification tests. The legislation also strengthens penalty provisions, establishing a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per day for violations, and classifying willful violations as a class A misdemeanor. Additionally, the bill introduces new provisions that make falsifying application documents or monitoring information a class A misdemeanor. The administrative procedures for rule-making and judicial review related to operator certification are also clarified, stipulating that such proceedings must be conducted in accordance with existing state administrative procedure guidelines. These changes aim to improve the oversight, certification, and accountability of water and wastewater system operators in the state.

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This bill amends North Dakota's careless driving law to expand and clarify provisions related to driving safely and the consequences of careless driving. The bill modifies existing language to require individuals to drive at a speed that is reasonable and prudent given existing road conditions, hazards, and potential risks. It specifically strengthens protections for emergency personnel and snow removal workers by establishing more detailed penalties for careless driving that causes injury or damage to these workers and their vehicles. Under the updated law, an individual can be found guilty of an infraction if they violate the basic safe driving requirements and either cause injury to first responders, emergency vehicle operators or occupants, or inflict damage exceeding \$1,000 to snow removal or emergency vehicles. The bill also provides a technical definition of "snow removal equipment" as vehicles operated by individuals employed to perform winter maintenance like plowing, salting, and sanding highways. Additionally, the law maintains the original \$30 fee for careless driving and uses updated, gender-neutral language by replacing "person" with "individual" throughout the text.

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This bill amends North Dakota's existing law regarding false information or false reports to law enforcement by modifying the language and adding new provisions. Specifically, the bill updates terminology from "person" to "individual" and clarifies the circumstances under which providing false information to law enforcement is considered a class A misdemeanor. The bill maintains the original provisions that make it illegal to knowingly give false information that could interfere with or mislead an investigation, or to falsely report a crime of violence or emergency incident. Additionally, the bill introduces a new requirement that law enforcement officers who become aware of or suspect false reporting are now obligated to report such incidents to the county state's attorney. The term "security official" is also slightly modified, now defined as a public servant responsible for handling emergencies involving public safety. These changes aim to strengthen accountability and discourage making false reports to law enforcement agencies.

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This bill amends an existing North Dakota law about wearing masks in public by adding a new provision that makes it illegal to wear a mask or face covering in a public place with the intent to conceal one's identity while congregating with other masked individuals. The bill specifically exempts traditional mask-wearing events like Halloween celebrations and masquerade parties. Under the revised law, individuals who violate this provision can be charged with a class A misdemeanor, which is typically punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine. The existing law already prohibited wearing masks with intent to intimidate, threaten, or during the commission of a crime, and this amendment expands those restrictions to address group gatherings where mask-wearing might be seen as potentially threatening or suspicious. The bill appears to be designed to prevent potential situations of anonymous group gatherings that could pose a public safety risk, while maintaining reasonable exceptions for cultural and celebratory mask-wearing.

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This bill amends a section of North Dakota law concerning the agriculture infrastructure grant program, expanding the potential scope of road and bridge improvement grants. Specifically, the bill adds the word "city" to the list of roadways eligible for corridor improvements, alongside existing county and township roadways. The grants, which are to be awarded by the agriculture commissioner in consultation with the transportation department director, can be used to support road and bridge infrastructure that helps facilitate value-added agriculture businesses. Value-added agriculture typically refers to agricultural products that have been modified or processed to increase their economic value, such as turning wheat into flour or milk into cheese. By broadening the roadway types eligible for improvement grants, the bill aims to support agricultural economic development by potentially improving transportation infrastructure in urban, rural, and township areas that serve agricultural businesses.

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This bill establishes new regulations regarding immigration enforcement in North Dakota, specifically targeting "sanctuary policies" that might limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. The bill defines key terms, including "alien" (non-U.S. citizen), "illegal alien" (individuals illegally present in the U.S.), and "sanctuary policy" (policies that restrict communication with federal immigration officials or limit enforcement of immigration laws). Under the proposed legislation, state agencies and political subdivisions are prohibited from adopting sanctuary policies, and the state treasurer is forbidden from disbursing public funds to support such policies. If a political subdivision or state agency is found to have a sanctuary policy, the Attorney General can issue an official notice detailing the violations. Significant consequences for non-compliance include potential restrictions on appropriations and a ban on public finance authority approval of bonds or other financial instruments for the offending entity. The bill also empowers the Attorney General to investigate potential violations upon receiving complaints from state residents and requires notifications to various state officials if a sanctuary policy is identified. Ultimately, the legislation aims to ensure full cooperation between local and state authorities and federal immigration enforcement agencies.

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This bill amends North Dakota's open records request law to provide more detailed guidelines for public entities when responding to requests for public records. The bill clarifies that initial requests can be made verbally or in writing and that public entities cannot ask requesters about their motives or identity. It establishes specific fee structures for copying records, including charging up to 25 cents per paper copy (defined as documents up to 8.5 by 14 inches), and allows reasonable fees for non-paper copies based on actual production costs. The bill permits entities to charge for postage and can require prepayment before processing requests. Public entities may now impose a fee of up to \$25 per hour (after the first hour) for locating and redacting records. Importantly, the bill includes a provision that each citizen is entitled to one free records request per year that takes less than 40 hours to produce. The law also allows entities to withhold records if a requester has outstanding balances from previous requests and can collaborate with other entities to fulfill complex copying needs. The goal is to balance transparency with the administrative costs of processing public records requests.

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This bill modifies existing North Dakota law regarding home rule counties and cities by clarifying the relationship between local ordinances and state laws. Specifically, the bill changes language that previously allowed home rule counties and cities to supersede state laws with their own ordinances to a more restrictive approach. Under the new provisions, any ordinance enacted by a home rule county or city that conflicts with state law will be considered void, rather than automatically superseding state law. The bill maintains the fundamental process of ratifying home rule charters through majority voter approval and requires that copies of the charter be filed with the secretary of state and local record-keeping officials. The changes aim to create greater legal clarity by establishing that local ordinances cannot override state laws, thus preserving state legislative authority while still allowing counties and cities to develop home rule charters that govern their local affairs within the bounds of state law. The bill applies to both county and city home rule frameworks, ensuring consistent legal treatment across different levels of local government.

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This bill establishes a housing development loan fund administered by the Bank of North Dakota to provide low-interest loans to local banks for housing development programs. The fund will receive a one-time transfer of \$10 million from the general fund and will offer loans up to \$5 million per county (or \$10 million in counties receiving high oil and gas tax revenues), with a fixed 2% interest rate and repayment due by June 30, 2030. Local banks can use these loans to assist housing builders and developers in their specific counties, with the Bank allowed to use a small portion of loan interest (up to 0.5%) to cover administrative costs and audit expenses. All principal and interest payments will be deposited back into the fund, which is appropriated on a continuing basis. The Bank has the authority to establish policies and guidelines for the loan program, and the entire balance of the fund will be transferred to the general fund on June 30, 2030. The bill is considered an emergency measure and will be effective through June 30, 2030, after which it becomes ineffective.

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This bill makes several modifications to North Dakota's laws regarding firearms and dangerous weapons, focusing on liability protections and restrictions for public and school spaces. The bill creates two new sections in state law that provide liability exemptions for public and private entities when individuals with valid concealed carry licenses are present, and establishes specific conditions under which local governments can prohibit firearms in publicly owned buildings (such as requiring weapon detection equipment and armed security). The bill also amends existing law to clarify restrictions on possessing firearms at schools and school-sponsored events, maintaining exceptions for certain groups like law enforcement, armed forces members, and individuals with specific authorizations. The legislation specifies that schools and public buildings can still authorize less-than-lethal weapons as part of security plans, and violations of these provisions will be considered infractions. Notably, the bill removes several previous exemptions, such as those for state or federal parks, rest areas, and certain carry permissions in churches, while preserving core protections for authorized personnel and specific contexts like sporting events or educational weapon training.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's alcohol regulation laws by establishing new provisions for licensed alcohol retailers and law enforcement interactions. First, it limits local governing bodies to conducting only two compliance checks per month at licensed premises, and prohibits random inquiries without reasonable suspicion of a violation. Second, the bill creates a new requirement that allows peace officers to request photo identification from individuals suspected of being under 21 years old in a licensed establishment, with an infraction penalty for failing to provide identification, which can be dismissed if the individual later proves they were of legal age. Third, the bill amends the existing process for filing complaints against licensed alcohol retailers by establishing a 14-day time frame for submitting an affidavit detailing a violation to the attorney general, city attorney, or state's attorney, and clarifies the hearing procedures, including requirements for notifying the licensee and mandating that hearings be recorded. These changes aim to provide more structured oversight of alcohol sales and consumption while protecting the rights of both businesses and individuals.

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This bill amends North Dakota's human rights and anti-discrimination laws to add "health status" as a protected category across multiple sections of the state's legal code. Specifically, the bill defines "health status" as an individual's medical records or preferences relating to the right to refuse medical procedures, treatments, injections, devices, vaccines, or prophylactic measures. The amendments cover a wide range of areas including employment practices, labor organization policies, public accommodations, public services, and credit transactions, ensuring that individuals cannot be discriminated against based on their medical preferences or records. The bill expands existing protections that already cover characteristics like race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability, by explicitly including health status as a category that cannot be used as a basis for unequal treatment in hiring, firing, membership, service provision, or access to credit. This modification aims to protect individuals from adverse treatment related to their medical choices or health information, reflecting a broader effort to safeguard personal medical autonomy and prevent potential discrimination based on health-related decisions.

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This bill amends North Dakota law regarding the transfer of state surplus motor vehicles by modifying the existing process for how these vehicles are distributed. Currently, surplus property can be transferred at fair market value to state agencies, political subdivisions, and eligible nonprofit organizations. The proposed change introduces a new requirement that surplus motor vehicles must first be made available exclusively to political subdivisions (like counties, cities, or townships) for a 14-day period, during which they can purchase these vehicles at a discounted rate of 30% below fair market value. This provision gives local government entities priority access to state surplus motor vehicles before they can be offered to other potential buyers, potentially helping these subdivisions acquire vehicles at a more affordable price. The amendment aims to provide a structured and preferential process for political subdivisions to obtain surplus state-owned motor vehicles.

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This bill establishes a new legacy earnings fund in North Dakota that will receive distributions from the state's legacy fund, which is a sovereign wealth fund created from oil and gas tax revenues. The bill specifies that every odd-numbered year, the state treasurer will distribute an amount equal to seven percent of the legacy fund's five-year average balance, and then allocate those funds in a specific order: first, up to \$102.6 million (or the amount needed) will go to the legacy sinking and interest fund for debt service payments; next, \$225 million will be directed to the general fund to support tax relief initiatives; then, \$100 million will be allocated to the legacy earnings highway distribution fund; and finally, the remaining amount will be split, with 50% going to the general fund and the other 50% going to the strategic investment and improvements fund. The bill also amends existing law by removing references to the legacy earnings fund from the list of funds managed by the state investment board and repeals two sections related to legacy fund definitions. The bill is set to become effective on July 1, 2025, and is declared an emergency measure, which typically allows it to take effect immediately upon passage.

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This bill amends two sections of North Dakota law related to infrastructure funding for municipalities and counties in non-oil-producing areas. The bill modifies the municipal infrastructure fund and county and township infrastructure fund to establish more detailed guidelines for grant distributions, reporting requirements, and fund usage. Key provisions include requiring cities and counties receiving grants to submit detailed reports by November 30th of each even-numbered year, with penalties for non-compliance such as being ineligible for future grants for two years. The bill introduces a new provision that disqualifies cities or counties from receiving grants if they adopt ordinances that interfere with state-approved energy infrastructure projects. Grant distributions will be based on population size for municipalities, with additional allocations for population and property value growth. For counties and townships, funds will be distributed proportionally based on road and bridge infrastructure needs, with priority given to non-oil-producing counties. The bill defines "essential infrastructure projects" for municipalities to include various capital construction projects like water and wastewater treatment plants, roads, bridges, and utility infrastructure. The legislation aims to provide targeted infrastructure support to smaller, less economically diverse communities in North Dakota.

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This bill authorizes the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) to transfer approximately 1.25 acres of land located in Ward County to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The bill specifically exempts this land transfer from certain existing state statutes regarding property transfers. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$4.9 million from the state's general fund to the OMB for constructing a new facility in Minot that will be leased to other state agencies. This appropriation is designated as a one-time funding item for the 2025-2027 biennium and is granted an exemption from standard state budget rules, allowing the funding to be carried over into the 2027-2029 biennium if not fully used. The bill aims to facilitate a specific land transfer and provide funding for a new state office building in Minot.

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This bill creates new sections of North Dakota law that provide uniform guidelines for handling nonconforming residential structures (buildings that were legally constructed but no longer meet current zoning requirements) in counties, cities, and townships. Under these new provisions, a nonconforming residential structure damaged beyond 50% of its value can be repaired, replaced, or rebuilt if specific conditions are met, such as submitting a building permit application within six months of damage, beginning restoration within one year, and ensuring the new structure does not: occupy a different lot area, exceed the original structure's size or height, reduce parking spaces, violate building or health codes, pose safety risks, or encroach on public rights-of-way or neighboring properties. The bill also prohibits expanding nonconforming structures unless they comply with current zoning regulations, and allows zoning authorities to create less restrictive rules. Additionally, the law maintains special regulations for structures in floodplain areas to ensure compliance with national flood insurance program requirements. The key purpose is to provide property owners more flexibility in rebuilding residential structures that do not conform to current zoning standards, while still maintaining basic safety and neighborhood compatibility standards.

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This bill amends North Dakota's existing law regarding municipal sidewalk construction and repair by clarifying and slightly modifying the process by which local governments notify property owners about required sidewalk work. The bill specifies that when a governing body determines a sidewalk needs to be constructed, rebuilt, or repaired, it must notify the property owner or occupant by certified mail or personal delivery, providing details about the required work. The notice must include a description of the specific lot or parcel involved and must give property owners at least two and a half years to complete the work, which must be done to the satisfaction of the street commissioner or city engineer. If the owner does not complete the sidewalk repairs within the specified timeframe, the street commissioner or city engineer can perform the repairs and certify the costs, which will then be paid from the sidewalk special fund. The bill primarily updates language to make the notification and repair process more precise, adding specific requirements about notice delivery and extending the timeframe for property owners to complete required sidewalk work.

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This bill amends North Dakota's traffic law regarding rotary traffic islands (roundabouts) by modifying two key provisions. First, the bill removes the word "not" and "first" from the existing language about exiting a rotary traffic island, which effectively changes the requirement for signaling when leaving a roundabout. Previously, the law seemed to prohibit exiting the roundabout without signaling, but the new language appears to simply require that drivers signal their intention to exit. The change suggests a more precise and potentially clearer instruction to drivers about proper roundabout navigation. By amending Section 39-10-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, the bill maintains the existing rules about one-way roadways and the requirement to drive to the right of a rotary traffic island, while making a subtle but potentially important adjustment to the signaling requirement when drivers are preparing to leave a roundabout.

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This bill amends North Dakota law to clarify protections for water service providers who receive state loans for infrastructure improvements. The bill specifies that a political subdivision providing water service (as defined under chapter 61-28.1) cannot have its service curtailed or limited if it is included within the boundaries of another political subdivision during the term of its loan. The political subdivision will not be required to obtain additional franchises, licenses, or permits to continue serving the area. The bill removes previous language about negotiating agreements between political subdivisions and eliminates requirements for involving the public finance authority in such negotiations. Importantly, the bill now explicitly states that only the public finance authority or other state financing agency can enforce these provisions, and the law does not create a cause of action for political subdivisions. The bill will apply retroactively to July 31, 1997, meaning its provisions will be considered in effect since that date. This legislation aims to protect water service continuity and provider rights during the repayment period of state-funded infrastructure loans.

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This bill directs the Legislative Management (the interim legislative committee in North Dakota) to conduct a comprehensive study of oil and gas tax revenue allocation formulas during the 2025-26 interim period. The study will examine both current and historical methods of distributing tax revenues to political subdivisions (such as counties, cities, and townships), with a specific focus on determining the appropriate level of allocations based on infrastructure needs and impacts related to oil and gas development. The Legislative Management is required to complete the study and provide a report to the 70th Legislative Assembly, which will include their findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation needed to implement those recommendations. This type of interim study is a common legislative approach to thoroughly evaluate complex policy issues and potential reforms in a systematic, detailed manner before potentially introducing substantive legislative changes.

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This bill requires peace officers in North Dakota to report individuals they reasonably believe are undocumented immigrants to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Specifically, if a peace officer employed by a criminal justice agency or local government believes an immigrant is in the United States illegally, they must contact ICE either by phone or through the agency's website tip form as soon as possible. Any peace officer who fails to make this report would be subject to an infraction, which is a minor legal violation. The bill creates a new section in the North Dakota Century Code (chapter 12-63) that mandates this reporting requirement, effectively compelling local law enforcement to actively participate in federal immigration enforcement by identifying and reporting potentially undocumented individuals. The legislation appears designed to increase cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities and to create a legal obligation for peace officers to assist in identifying and reporting immigrants without legal status.

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This bill makes several changes to North Dakota's laws regarding dangerous weapons and firearms. It expands the definition of a "dangerous weapon" by increasing the blade length threshold from five to six inches and modifies regulations around weapon possession in public spaces. The bill creates new liability exemptions for public and private entities, allowing them to avoid legal responsibility for injuries caused by individuals carrying concealed weapons. It also provides specific conditions under which local governments can prohibit firearms in publicly owned buildings, such as requiring weapon detection equipment or armed security. The legislation adjusts existing rules about weapon possession at public gatherings, removing references to publicly owned buildings as restricted spaces and changing penalties for violations from infractions to noncriminal offenses with escalating fines. Additionally, the bill clarifies requirements for individuals carrying concealed weapons, including mandating that they produce a physical or digital license when requested by law enforcement and inform officers about weapon possession during certain interactions. The overall aim appears to be providing more flexibility for concealed carry while establishing clearer guidelines for weapon possession in public spaces.

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This bill proposes to prohibit the intentional addition of fluoride to public water supplies in North Dakota, with specific definitions and penalties. The bill defines "fluoride" as chemical compounds containing the fluoride ion, including sodium fluoride and hydrofluoric acid, and defines "public water supply" as water systems serving at least 15 connections or 25 people for 60 days annually. Under the proposed legislation, no person may deliberately add fluoride to public water systems for the purpose of fluoridation, regardless of the concentration. The bill includes exemptions for naturally occurring fluoride in water sources and fluoride use in industrial or manufacturing processes unrelated to water treatment. Violations would result in a \$500 fine for the first offense and a \$1,000 fine for subsequent violations, with enforcement to be managed by the department of environmental quality. The bill is set to take effect on August 1, 2026, and would effectively end the practice of water fluoridation in the state, which is currently used in many communities to help prevent tooth decay.

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This bill modifies North Dakota's recall petition and election procedures, specifically focusing on recall processes for political subdivision officials and city governing body members. The bill introduces a new section creating a specific recall process for city governing body members, requiring a higher signature threshold of 35% of voters from the most recent election (compared to the previous 25%) and mandating that recall petitions have fifteen qualified city elector sponsors. The bill also establishes detailed procedural requirements, such as including a stated reason for recall, obtaining secretary of state approval for petition form, and submitting the petition within 90 days of approval. For city governing body members, the bill allows a special recall election to be held between 95 and 105 days after petition certification, with provisions that prevent an election if it would occur too close to a scheduled election. The member subject to recall can avoid the election by resigning within ten days of petition certification, and if they are the sole candidate on the ballot, the election will be canceled. The bill also includes restrictions to prevent repeated recall attempts, such as prohibiting a member from being recalled twice during their elected term and preventing recall if a regular election is approaching. These changes aim to provide a more structured and detailed process for recall elections, particularly for city governing body members.

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This bill establishes a child care workforce recruitment and retention program in North Dakota designed to address child care workforce shortages by providing monthly incentive payments to licensed early childhood services providers. The payments are calculated based on the number of children in different age groups: \$50 per infant, \$30 per toddler, and \$15 per school-aged child. Providers must submit quarterly reports on their average enrolled children to receive payments, and payments can be suspended if enrollment drops by 25% or more from the previous reporting period. To be eligible, providers must not have received a corrective action order in the previous three months. Additionally, providers receiving these payments are required to submit an annual report detailing how the incentive payments were used to directly address salary and benefit needs of child care workers. The goal of this program is to support child care providers financially and help address workforce challenges in the early childhood services sector.

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This bill addresses obscenity control in North Dakota, focusing on protecting minors from explicit sexual material in public libraries, school libraries, and digital resources. The bill redefines "obscene material" by introducing a standard of "reasonable adults" instead of "ordinary adults" and creates a clear definition of "public library" as a library supported by tax funds. It establishes new requirements for public libraries and school districts to develop policies for reviewing and relocating materials containing explicit sexual material that may be inappropriate for minors. The bill mandates that libraries and school districts create policies to review their collections, ensure age-appropriate materials, and provide a compliance report to the legislative management by May 1, 2026. Additionally, the legislation requires digital and online library resources to implement safety policies and technology protection measures that prevent access to obscene or explicit sexual material for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The bill also introduces a mechanism for interested persons to request an attorney general's review of potential violations, with potential consequences including withholding of state funds for non-compliance. Violations can result in penalties, and libraries, school districts, and state agencies must submit annual reports about compliance and any related incidents or complaints.

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This bill creates new restrictions and penalties for development agreements involving foreign adversaries in North Dakota, applying to county commissioners, city councils, and state entities. Specifically, these government bodies are prohibited from approving development agreements with individuals or governments identified as foreign adversaries under federal regulations or on the Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions list. However, the prohibition does not apply to foreign adversaries who are duly registered businesses in good standing for at least seven years, have been approved by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and maintain an active national security agreement with the federal government. If a complaint is made alleging a violation, the county sheriff and state's attorney are required to investigate and report the matter to the state and local intelligence center and the FBI. Individuals found in violation of these provisions would be charged with a class C felony and permanently barred from holding state office. The bill updates existing law by changing certain regulatory references and adding explicit investigation and penalty provisions to prevent potential national security risks from foreign adversary development projects.

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This bill amends North Dakota's law regarding the revocation of township zoning authority transfers, providing a new process for townships to reclaim their zoning powers from the county. Specifically, the bill outlines a detailed procedure for townships to reacquire zoning authority, which includes: passing a written resolution by the township board of supervisors supporting a return to township zoning, holding an election where a majority of qualified electors vote in favor of returning to township zoning, adopting a zoning ordinance, and appointing a zoning administrator. Previously, townships and cities could only reacquire zoning authority through mutual agreement with the county board of commissioners. The new law mandates that if a township follows these specific steps, the county must accept the township's return to zoning authority. Additionally, the bill maintains existing provisions about how agreements between political subdivisions can be amended or terminated, such as allowing termination with written notice or through joint action of all parties. This change provides townships with a more structured and definitive path to regain local control over zoning decisions.

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This bill modifies the allocation of North Dakota's legacy fund earnings by creating a new Legacy Earnings Emergency Services and Public Safety Fund and establishing an associated advisory board. Specifically, the bill redirects \$25 million from legacy fund earnings to this new fund, which will provide grants to support emergency services and public safety across the state. The advisory board will consist of representatives from various emergency services, law enforcement, local government, and legislative bodies, appointed by the governor and legislative leadership. The board will review and award grants prioritizing goals such as recruiting and retaining public safety personnel, supporting shared services agreements, expanding emergency response resources, modernizing emergency services, establishing mental health response teams, improving technology and communications infrastructure, and helping entities secure additional funding. The Department of Emergency Services will administer the grant program and provide staff support to the advisory board. The bill maintains existing provisions for distributing legacy fund earnings, including transfers to the general fund, legacy sinking and interest fund, and strategic investment and improvements fund, while adding this new dedicated emergency services funding stream.

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This bill amends North Dakota law by updating definitions and thresholds related to public improvement construction projects. Specifically, the bill introduces a new definition for "pre-engineered structure" as a building with manufactured roof and wall components that must be stamped by a certified architect or engineer and comply with state building code requirements. The bill also modifies the threshold for procuring architectural or engineering plans, establishing two distinct limits: the existing \$200,000 threshold for standard public improvements remains unchanged, while a new \$1 million threshold is created specifically for pre-engineered structures intended as public improvements. This change provides clarity and flexibility for governmental entities when planning construction projects, recognizing that pre-engineered structures may have different design and planning requirements compared to traditional construction methods. The bill aims to streamline the process for procuring design services and ensure appropriate professional oversight for different types of public improvement projects.

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This bill introduces comprehensive Sunday closing laws for North Dakota, establishing detailed restrictions on business operations and retail sales between midnight and noon on Sundays. The legislation creates three new sections of law that comprehensively define which businesses can and cannot operate during those hours, with most commercial retail activities being prohibited. Businesses are categorically exempted or permitted to operate, including essential services like hospitals, transportation, utilities, emergency services, and specific retail operations such as restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and certain entertainment venues. Religious observance is respected, with an exemption for individuals who observe a different Sabbath day and refrain from business activities during their chosen day of rest. The bill classifies violations as class B misdemeanors and allows local government officials like attorneys general and city managers to petition district courts to enjoin violations. Additionally, the bill amends existing law to remove a previous time-limited provision about retail business lease agreements, ensuring that businesses cannot be contractually required to open on Sundays. The extensive list of prohibited sales items includes clothing, furniture, appliances, vehicles, and many other consumer goods, with some specific exceptions for emergency, novelty, or tourist-related items. This legislation represents a comprehensive approach to regulating Sunday commercial activities, balancing business interests with traditional day-of-rest principles.

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This bill amends two sections of the North Dakota Century Code to provide additional protections and exemptions for certain personnel and internal investigation records. The bill expands confidentiality provisions for public employee records, specifying that medical treatment records, employee assistance program information, and certain personal details (such as home address, phone numbers, medical information, and emergency contact details) remain confidential and cannot be disclosed without the employee's written authorization. The bill also clarifies that while some leave information is exempt, the amount and dates of leave taken are public record. Additionally, the bill provides continued exemption for records related to internal investigations by public entities, including those by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which can remain confidential if their disclosure could potentially identify victims, witnesses, or informants, or if disclosure could create a credible threat of violence. These changes aim to protect the privacy and safety of public employees and those involved in internal investigations while maintaining a degree of transparency in government records.

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This bill introduces comprehensive restrictions and reporting requirements for foreign countries of concern and their organizations purchasing agricultural and real property in North Dakota. The legislation defines "foreign country of concern" as entities identified as foreign adversaries under federal regulations and creates new requirements for property transactions and ownership disclosures. Specifically, county commissioners, city councils, and other local government bodies are prohibited from approving development agreements with foreign countries of concern, with exceptions for businesses that have been registered in good standing for seven years, have been approved by the federal Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and maintain an active national security agreement. The bill mandates that county recorders cannot accept property deeds without a certification of the grantee's ownership eligibility, and requires organizations filing with the secretary of state to certify whether they are a "foreign organization of concern." Additionally, the legislation imposes penalties for falsifying ownership statements, including potential class B misdemeanor charges, and requires the agriculture commissioner to provide annual reports to the legislative management about foreign land ownership. Foreign countries of concern or their organizations found in violation will be required to divest their real property holdings within specified timeframes, with potential civil penalties of up to \$25,000 for non-compliance.

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This bill creates a new legal mechanism for cities and counties in North Dakota to place a lien on fire insurance proceeds when a property is deemed a total loss. The lien is designed to help cover the costs of debris removal and property remediation. The lien amount can be either \$5,000 or 10% of the policy limits for real property loss, but cannot exceed the total policy limits for property loss and debris removal. The insurance company must send a certified letter to the property owner and local auditor within ten days of determining a total loss, providing details about the claim and coverage. To perfect the lien, the city or county must file a notice with the county recorder within 30 days of receiving the letter. The notice must include estimated remediation costs and follow specific formatting requirements. The lien can be released if the property is satisfactorily remediated, repair measures are established, or the insurance company pays the lien amount. If the actual remediation costs are less than the lien amount, the difference must be returned to the insurer. The bill also provides a mechanism for the insurance company or policyholder to seek a lien release through court action if the local auditor refuses to do so, with the prevailing party entitled to recover costs and attorney's fees.

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This bill establishes a process for North Dakota to accept concurrent legislative jurisdiction over United States military installations within the state's boundaries. Under this legislation, the state can share legal authority with the federal government on military bases after the governor formally accepts a specific request from the base's principal officer. The request must include detailed information such as the name and position of the requestor, the purpose of the jurisdiction request, and a precise description of the military installation's boundaries. The governor's acceptance must clearly outline the accepted elements of the request and submit relevant documents to the secretary of state. Importantly, the bill stipulates that the state will not assume any liability from this jurisdictional arrangement, and it allows state agencies and political subdivisions to create reciprocal agreements with federal agencies to clarify their respective duties. This bill essentially provides a structured mechanism for North Dakota to formally share legislative control over military installations with the federal government, ensuring clear communication and understanding of jurisdictional responsibilities.

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