City of Minot

Legislative Meeting
Friday, February 7, 2025, at 11:30 AM
City Council Chambers, 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	Action Date	Summary
Hearing Scheduled	HB1365	Possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a school or school-sponsored event on school property.	Committee Hearing 08:30	2/7/2025	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.
Hearing Not Scheduled	HB1500	Nonconforming structures in counties, cities, and townships.	Committee Hearing 09:00	2/7/2025	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.
Hearing Held/ Action Pending	SB2332	The allocation of legacy fund earnings; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Committee Hearing 09:30	2/7/2025	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.
Passed as Ammended	HB1106	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for nonfixed route transit program grants.	House Appropriations Executive Session (16:15:00 2/10/2025 Roughrider)	2/10/2025	This bill provides a $2,000,000 appropriation from the state's general fund to the North Dakota Department of Transportation specifically for grants supporting nonfixed route public transportation providers during the 2025-2027 biennium. Nonfixed route public transportation typically refers to flexible transit services that do not follow a predetermined, fixed route or schedule, such as demand-responsive transit, paratransit, or rural transit services that can adjust their routes based on passenger needs. The bill ensures funding is available to support transportation services in areas or for populations that might not be well-served by traditional fixed-route public transit systems, helping to improve mobility for communities across North Dakota. The appropriation is contingent and will only use up to the full $2,000,000 as necessary during the specified two-year period.
Signed By Gov. Filed with SOS	SB2307	Obscenity control; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 02:30	2/10/2025	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.
Failed or Withdrawn	SB2378	Limitations on taxing district budgets without voter approval; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 09:00	2/10/2025	This bill establishes new limitations on how much North Dakota taxing districts (such as local governments, school districts, and other political subdivisions) can increase their annual budgets without voter approval. Specifically, the bill restricts budget increases to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Midwest region, with several important exceptions and adjustments. Taxing districts can exceed this limit only if approved by at least two-thirds of voters in a ballot measure, and such approval is valid for only one taxable year. The bill allows for budget adjustments based on changes in property tax valuation, such as when previously exempt properties become taxable or taxable properties become exempt. The legislation also explicitly prevents cities and counties from using home rule authority to circumvent these restrictions. Key definitions are provided, including defining CPI as the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers in the Midwest region, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor. The bill will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, meaning it will first apply to budgets developed in 2025.

SB2069	Publication requirements; and to provide an appropriation.	Committee Hearing 08:30 (Approps Hearing)	2/11/2025	This bill modifies publication requirements for government units in North Dakota by allowing them to file notices with the secretary of state's office as an alternative to newspaper publication when legally required to publish a notice. Specifically, if a newspaper fails to publish a legally mandated notice, the notice filed and posted by the secretary of state will be considered to have met the publication requirement. The bill also includes a one-time appropriation of $150,000 to the secretary of state's office to establish a public-facing website where all required public notices will be posted and archived, with the website to be operational during the 2025-2027 biennium. This change provides government units with more flexibility in meeting public notice requirements and creates a centralized, accessible digital platform for public notices, potentially reducing reliance on traditional print newspaper publications.
SB2351	Providing notice to affected property owners of a petition for the annexation of property to a school district.	Committee Hearing 10:00	2/11/2025	This bill amends North Dakota Century Code by modifying the requirements for handling school district annexation petitions. Specifically, it expands the county superintendent's responsibilities when receiving an annexation petition. Previously, the superintendent was only required to schedule a public hearing about the proposed annexation. Now, in addition to scheduling the public hearing, the superintendent must also send certified mail notices directly to each property owner whose real property would be impacted by the annexation petition. This change ensures that affected property owners receive personal, official notification about potential changes to their school district boundaries, giving them an opportunity to be informed and potentially participate in the process. The bill aims to improve transparency and communication with property owners during school district boundary change proceedings.
SB2372	Legacy fund definitions and a legacy earnings fund; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.	Committee Hearing 02:00 (Approps hearing)	2/11/2025	This bill creates a new legacy earnings fund in North Dakota that will receive distributions from the state's legacy fund, calculated as eight percent of the five-year average legacy fund balance. The state treasurer will allocate these funds in a specific order: first, up to $102.624 million will go to the legacy sinking and interest fund for debt service payments; next, $225 million will be directed to the general fund for tax relief; then, $100 million will go to the legacy earnings highway distribution fund; and the remaining amount will be split, with 50% going to the general fund and the rest to the strategic investment and improvements fund. An additional one-eighth of the distribution will be allocated to the highway distribution fund, which will then distribute money to various transportation-related entities: 60% to the state highway fund, 10% to a township highway aid fund, 1.5% to public transportation, and 28.5% to cities and counties for roadway purposes. The bill also removes previous legacy fund definitions, amends investment board fund listings, and includes provisions for the fund to take effect on July 1, 2025, with an emergency clause. The goal appears to be creating a more structured approach to managing and distributing legacy fund earnings across different state needs.
SB2382	Vexatious litigation; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 10:00	2/11/2025	This bill creates a new legal framework in North Dakota for addressing vexatious litigation, which is defined as legal action that is primarily intended to harass, cause unnecessary burden, or impede the judicial process. The bill establishes a comprehensive procedure for identifying and managing vexatious litigants, who are individuals who repeatedly file frivolous lawsuits or attempt to relitigate previously resolved cases. Under this legislation, a judge can designate someone as a vexatious litigant after they have initiated at least two litigations involving vexatious conduct that were determined adversely to them. Once designated, the litigant would be subject to a prefiling order that requires them to obtain judicial permission before filing any new legal actions or documents. The order can prohibit filing without court approval, require the litigant to provide financial security, and may result in summary dismissal of unauthorized filings. The bill also mandates that vexatious litigants cannot file documents electronically and must submit all materials in paper format. The state court administrator will maintain a roster of vexatious litigants, and prefiling orders can be appealed to the state Supreme Court. The overall aim of the bill is to prevent abuse of the legal system and protect judicial resources from unnecessary and harassing litigation.
SB2321	Awarding costs and fees in eminent domain proceedings.	Committee Hearing 02:30	2/12/2025	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.
HB1375	The time frame to file a complaint against a licensed retailer of alcoholic beverages; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 09:00	2/13/2025	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.
HB1576	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of the oil and gas tax revenue allocation formulas.	Committee Hearing 09:00	2/13/2025	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.
HCR3022	A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying political subdivisions making investments in stablecoins.	Committee Hearing 03:30	2/13/2025	

SB2201	The primary residence credit; to provide for application; to provide a retroactive effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.	House Appropriations Executive Session (08:30:00 2/13/2025 Roughrider)	2/13/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's primary residence tax credit law to clarify and expand eligibility for the $500 property tax credit. The bill broadens the definition of "primary residence" to include properties owned directly or through a qualifying trust, and introduces new terms like "owned" and "qualifying trust" to provide more precise guidelines. Specifically, the credit applies to dwellings in North Dakota that are designed for human residence, used and occupied as a primary home by the owner or someone with a life estate. The bill allows individuals who are temporarily confined to a care facility to still claim the credit, ensures only one credit can be claimed per residence, and requires taxpayers to file an application with the tax commissioner by April 1st each year. Importantly, the bill is retroactively effective for the first two taxable years after December 31, 2023, and provides a mechanism for taxpayers who own property through a qualifying trust to file an abatement claim by May 1, 2025, to receive a refund if they qualify. The bill is declared an emergency measure, signaling its immediate importance to the state's tax policy.
SB2208	The municipal infrastructure fund and the county and township infrastructure fund.	Committee Hearing 02:30	2/13/2025	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.
SB2350	An exemption from open records for employee performance and discipline records contained in personnel records.	Committee Hearing 10:15	2/13/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's open records law to modify the confidentiality of employee performance and discipline records. Specifically, the bill exempts performance and discipline records from public disclosure for three years or until the employee's termination, whichever comes first. There are two notable exceptions to this exemption: records that are part of an internal investigation or those requested by a law enforcement agency as part of a hiring process. The bill also extends the timeframe for internal investigation records from 75 to 180 calendar days, meaning such records can remain confidential during the investigation period. The amendment continues to protect various types of personal employee information, including medical records, contact information, and other sensitive details. The goal appears to be protecting employee privacy while still maintaining a degree of transparency for public employees, with specific carve-outs for certain investigative and employment verification purposes.
SB2379	The surveying process during eminent domain proceedings; and to declare an emergency.	Committee Hearing 10:30	2/13/2025	This bill amends Section 32-15-06 of the North Dakota Century Code to modify the rules for surveying land during eminent domain proceedings, which is a legal process where the government can acquire private property for public use. The key changes include requiring written consent from the landowner or a court order before entering the property to conduct surveys, and clarifying that the survey must be done in a way that provides the greatest public benefit while causing the least private injury. The bill also updates language to make it more precise, such as changing "when" to "in which" and removing references to "corporation" to focus on the individual or entity conducting the survey. Additionally, the bill maintains the existing provision that entry onto the land for surveys does not constitute a claim for relief by the landowner, except in cases of negligence, wantonness, or malice. The bill is declared an emergency measure, which means it would take effect immediately upon passage.
SB2389	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding child care infrastructure.	Committee Hearing 02:15	2/13/2025	This bill directs the North Dakota Legislative Management to conduct a comprehensive study of the state's child care infrastructure during the 2025-26 interim period. The study aims to assess the current state of child care services by examining key aspects such as the availability and affordability of child care across all counties. Specifically, the study will review data on child care accessibility, analyze public funding mechanisms supporting child care facilities, and investigate current licensing and registration policies. The research will focus on identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improving public policy, accountability, and investment in child care. The study will include a detailed review of child care assistance reimbursement levels, examining how these vary by county and facility, and will explore potential enhancements such as specialized training for employees. By the end of the interim period, the Legislative Management will prepare a report with its findings and recommendations, along with draft legislation to help implement potential improvements to the state's child care infrastructure, which will be presented to the 70th Legislative Assembly.
SB2110	The certification and penalization of water distribution and wastewater system operators; and to provide a penalty.	Senate Workforce Development Executive Session (09:00:00 2/14/2025 Fort Lincoln)	2/14/2025	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.
SB2131	Workforce training center funding distribution.	Senate Workforce Development Executive Session (10:30:00 2/14/2025 Fort Lincoln)	2/14/2025	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.

SB2269	Recall petitions and recall elections for political subdivision officials.	Committee Hearing 10:15	2/13/2025	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.
SB2074	Municipal infrastructure fund reporting requirements.	Received from Senate	1/13/2025	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.
HB1152	The definition of residential property; and to provide an effective date.	Received from House	1/15/2025	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.
HB1168	Adjustments to state aid payments; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 09:00	1/15/2025	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.
SB2035	The definitions of an educational organization and public-spirited organization, and raffles; and to provide for application.	Received from Senate	1/17/2025	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.
HB1138	Bonding elections.	Received from House	1/20/2025	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.
HB1158	The exempt status of records related to petitions in possession of the secretary of state.	Received from House	1/20/2025	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.

SB2030	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	1/21/2025	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.
SB2083	The definition of a sensitive image.	Received from Senate	1/21/2025	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.
SB2141	A change in the purpose of use of a conditional or perfected water permit.	Received from Senate	1/21/2025	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.
SB2165	The powers and duties of the peace officer standards and training board and peace officer licensing fees.	Received from Senate	1/21/2025	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.
HB1139	A sales tax exemption for fire departments; and to provide an effective date.	House Finance and Taxation Executive Session (09:16:00 1/22/2025 327E)	1/22/2025	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.
HB1142	The statutory caps for liability of political subdivisions and the state; and to provide an effective date.	Received from House	1/22/2025	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.
HB1335	The homestead tax credit; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 10:30	1/22/2025	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.

HB1343	The homestead exemption, declaration of a homestead, and the contents of a tax lien.	Committee Hearing 09:30	1/22/2025	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.
SB2045	A bidding exception for water supply funds and contents of advertisement for public improvement projects.	Received from Senate	1/22/2025	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.
HB1256	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	1/23/2025	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.
HB1287	Registration of voters.	Committee Hearing 10:00	1/23/2025	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.
SB2097	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.	Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Executive Session (09:15:00 1/23/2025 Fort Union)	1/23/2025	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.
SB2132	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	1/23/2025	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.
HB1141	Using public services or property for a political purpose.	Committee Hearing 10:00	1/27/2025	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.

HB1311	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention.	Received from House	1/27/2025	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.
HB1353	Limitations on property tax levies by taxing districts without voter approval; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 09:00	1/27/2025	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.
HB1474	A property tax exemption for new single-family, condominium, and townhouse residential property; to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 10:00	1/27/2025	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.
HB1586	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 Hearing 11:00	1/27/2025	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.
SB2240	Theft of property; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 02:30	1/27/2025	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.
HB1232	The definition of residential property; and to provide an effective date.	Received from House	1/28/2025	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.
HB1281	Motor vehicle fuel tax, special fuels tax, and aviation fuel tax refunds for fuels purchased by fire departments; and to provide an effective date.	Received from House	1/28/2025	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.

HB1329	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 Hearing 10:00	1/28/2025	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.
HB1534	Limitations on true and full valuation increases without voter approval; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 10:00	1/28/2025	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.
HB1559	Limitations on taxable valuation of residential property; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 09:30	1/28/2025	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.
HB1560	A primary residence long-term homeowner property valuation reduction; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 09:00	1/28/2025	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.
HB1575	The primary residence credit; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date.	Committee Hearing 10:30	1/28/2025	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.
SB2298	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 Hearing 09:30	1/28/2025	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.
SB2301	The homestead tax credit; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 09:00	1/28/2025	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.

HB1149	The revised uniform unclaimed property act; and to declare an emergency.	Received from House	1/29/2025	This bill updates North Dakota's Uniform Unclaimed Property Act with several key provisions that expand and clarify rules around abandoned property. The bill introduces new categories of abandoned property, including virtual currency, which must be liquidated and remitted to the state after three years of inactivity, and adds provisions for excess proceeds from vehicle and property sales. The legislation modifies record retention requirements for holders, allowing them to satisfy record-keeping through an agent and specifying that records must be kept for ten years after reporting or the last due date. The bill also enhances the administrator's ability to examine records, issue subpoenas, and authorize voluntary disclosure of property, and expands the types of debts that can be recovered from unclaimed property, including adding civil monetary judgments to the existing list of child support, fines, penalties, and tax obligations. Additionally, the bill adjusts limitations on administrative actions, preventing the administrator from pursuing enforcement actions more than seven years after a nonfraudulent report or ten years after a holder's duty arises. The bill also streamlines processes for interstate and international information sharing about abandoned property, making it easier for states and foreign countries to cooperate in tracking and recovering unclaimed assets. The legislation is declared an emergency measure, meaning it would take effect immediately upon passage.
HB1165	Election notices and municipal voter registration.	Received from House	1/29/2025	This bill modifies several sections of North Dakota election law to update various administrative procedures and definitions related to elections. It introduces a new definition for "complete residential address" and expands the definition of "candidate" to include anyone who has publicly declared candidacy, formed a campaign committee, circulated a nominating petition, or solicited campaign contributions. The bill prohibits the use of private funds or entities for election operations, with limited exceptions for facilities, food for poll workers, and non-monetary donations. It changes procedures for nominating petitions, election certificates, ballot preparation, and write-in candidacy filings, including extending the deadline for write-in candidates from four to twenty-one days before an election. The bill also requires county auditors to mail ballot application forms for various types of elections and use specific envelopes prescribed by the secretary of state. Additionally, it modifies rules for removing election judges and adjusts some reporting and certification processes for election officials. The bill repeals two existing sections of election-related law, streamlining election administration procedures in North Dakota.
HB1389	The exemption of infrastructure fees from levy limitations.	House Finance and Taxation Executive Session (14:45:00 1/29/2025 327E)	1/29/2025	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.
HB1454	The medical liability of a government entity.	Committee Hearing 10:00	1/29/2025	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.
HB1478	Contraceptive health care rights; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 09:30	1/29/2025	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.
SB2027	County, city, and township floodplain management ordinances and to provide definitions.	Received from Senate	1/29/2025	This bill establishes comprehensive guidelines for floodplain management across counties, cities, and townships in North Dakota, creating a standardized framework for how local governments can regulate and manage flood-prone areas. The legislation defines "floodplain management" as a community-based effort to prevent or reduce flooding risks, and provides detailed provisions for how counties, cities, and townships can adopt and implement floodplain management ordinances. Counties are given primary authority to manage floodplains, but townships can opt to take over this responsibility through a written resolution, with the ability to later relinquish that authority back to the county. The bill requires local governments that adopt such ordinances to forward them to the state Department of Water Resources, which will maintain a public electronic central repository tracking which jurisdictions are undertaking floodplain management. The legislation also explicitly excludes areas within city zoning jurisdictions and Indian country from these ordinances, and provides mechanisms for enforcement, including the ability of local governing bodies to assign enforcement duties to specific officers or departments. Additionally, the bill amends existing state code to integrate floodplain management into emergency management definitions and provides clarity on how these ordinances relate to the national flood insurance program.
HB1020	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of water resources.	House Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Hearing (10:00:00 1/30/2025 Prairie)	1/30/2025	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.

HB1028	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.	Committee Hearing 11:00	1/30/2025	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.
HB1218	Comprehensive water development plans.	Committee Hearing 09:00	1/30/2025	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.
HB1297	Home rule powers in counties and cities.	Committee Hearing 04:00	1/30/2025	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.
HB1411	State prohibition on extreme risk protection provisions; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 02:30	1/30/2025	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.
HB1602	Political subdivision participation in the public employees retirement system defined contribution retirement plan.	Committee Hearing 10:00	1/30/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's public employees retirement system legislation to clarify the rules around retirement plan participation, specifically addressing political subdivisions' involvement in the defined contribution retirement plan. Starting January 1, 2025, new eligible employees will be enrolled in the defined contribution retirement plan instead of the defined benefit plan, with exceptions for existing members. The bill explicitly states that political subdivisions are not required to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, making such participation optional. An "eligible employee" is defined as a permanent employee who meets specific criteria, including being at least 18 years old and not already eligible for other specialized retirement plans (such as those for law enforcement, judges, or teachers). Importantly, the bill prohibits the retirement system board from assessing fees or costs against a political subdivision that chooses to withdraw from the defined contribution retirement plan. This legislation provides more flexibility for local government entities in managing their retirement benefit offerings while standardizing the approach for new public employees.
SB2151	The legacy earnings fund; to provide a statement of legislative intent; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.	Senate Appropriations - Government Operations Division Executive Session (14:00:00 1/30/2025 Red River)	1/30/2025	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.
SB2224	The abolition of the gaming commission and the authorization of the attorney general to administer and regulate gaming.	Received from Senate	1/30/2025	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.

SB2296	First responders.	Committee Hearing 10:30	1/30/2025	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.
SB2310	Garnishments.	Received from Senate	1/30/2025	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.
HB1197	Jail improvement grants; and to provide for a transfer.	House Political Subdivisions Executive Session (11:02:00 1/31/2025 327B)	1/31/2025	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.
SB2180	The opportunity to provide public comment at a meeting of a public entity.	Senate State and Local Government Executive Session (09:33:00 1/31/2025 Peace Garden)	1/31/2025	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.
SB2337	Required filings for foreign persons investing in agricultural lands; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide a penalty; to provide a contingent effective date; and to provide an expiration date.	Committee Hearing 10:30	1/31/2025	This bill amends North Dakota state law to strengthen restrictions on foreign investment in agricultural lands and development, primarily focusing on foreign countries and organizations of concern. The legislation extends existing prohibitions on foreign ownership and development from July 31, 2025, to July 31, 2027, and modifies key definitions and requirements. Specifically, the bill reduces the ownership threshold for prohibited foreign investments from 50% to 25%, requires foreign persons investing in agricultural lands to file reports with the agriculture commissioner, and introduces new reporting and penalty mechanisms. Foreign organizations can be exempt from these restrictions if they have been a registered business 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. The bill also mandates that the agriculture commissioner provide an annual report to the legislative management detailing foreign land ownership, and establishes a potential civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value for non-compliance with reporting requirements. The legislation aims to enhance state oversight of foreign investment in agricultural lands and protect local economic interests by creating more stringent reporting and ownership limitations.
SB2340	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study to evaluate the evolving fire service operational and response needs of the state.	Committee Hearing 09:00	1/31/2025	This bill authorizes the legislative management to conduct a comprehensive study of fire services in North Dakota during the 2025-26 interim, focusing on evaluating and improving the state's fire emergency response capabilities. The study will explore multiple critical areas including how existing state resources can be better coordinated for fire emergency services, the potential creation of regional response teams, establishing standardized training and response authorities, and evaluating current firefighting staffing and capabilities. The bill specifically requires examining issues such as cross-training opportunities, emergency response protocols, minimum training requirements, firefighting benefits, equipment needs, and structural considerations. Additionally, the study will investigate ways to restructure fiscal support for fire services to reduce dependence on local property taxes and identify necessary legal and administrative changes to implement a unified fire service model. The legislative management is mandated to consult with various stakeholders like the state fire marshal, North Dakota firefighter's association, forest service, emergency services department, fire chiefs' association, and career and technical education department. The study's findings and recommendations, along with potential implementing legislation, will be reported to the 70th legislative assembly, potentially setting the stage for significant improvements in the state's fire emergency response system.
HB1401	The transfer of real property by exclusive and nonexclusive listing agreements.	Received from House	2/3/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law to provide more detailed guidance for city governments when selling real property through real estate listing agreements. The bill clarifies that cities can use both nonexclusive and exclusive listing agreements to sell property, with new requirements for how these agreements are established and managed. Specifically, cities must first pass a resolution describing the property for sale, setting a maximum fee or commission rate, and reserving the right to reject insufficient offers. If the city maintains a website, the resolution must be published there for at least 14 days. For exclusive listing agreements, real estate brokers must be selected through a competitive process, and their proposals must be evaluated based on their experience selling similar properties, proposed marketing strategy, and intended fee rate. The bill also introduces new provisions allowing cities to potentially pay compensation to a buyer's real estate broker, while requiring the city to carefully consider the financial implications of such payments during the listing agreement negotiation process.

HB1605	The prohibition on water fluoridation; to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 10:00	2/3/2025	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.
SB2323	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 Hearing 03:15	2/3/2025	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.
HB1362	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.	Committee Hearing 03:00	2/4/2025	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.
HB1391	Creating a new status related to human rights and antidiscrimination policies.	Committee Hearing 03:00	2/4/2025	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.
HB1522	Golf carts on city streets.	Received from House	2/4/2025	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.
HB1577	A wastewater infrastructure grant program and the duties of the department of environmental quality; and to provide an appropriation.	Rereferred to Appropriations	2/4/2025	This bill establishes a new wastewater infrastructure grant program administered by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to help local government entities upgrade, replace, or construct wastewater systems. The program will provide grants to eligible entities including cities, counties, townships, water resource districts, recreation service districts, and water districts, with several key restrictions: grants cannot exceed 60% of a project's total cost, no entity can receive more than one grant per two-year budget cycle, and the projects must relate to infrastructure improvements rather than routine operations and maintenance. The bill appropriates $50 million from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund for these grants during the 2025-2027 biennium, with a maximum of $12.5 million per individual project. Notably, the bill mandates that at least $12.5 million must be awarded to smaller cities with populations under 12,500 (a change from an original threshold of 5,000), ensuring that smaller communities have access to infrastructure funding. If the funds allocated for smaller cities are not fully distributed by April 2027, the DEQ can reallocate the remaining money to other eligible projects. This funding is classified as a one-time appropriation to support critical wastewater infrastructure improvements across North Dakota.
SB2251	Audits conducted by the state auditor and charges for audits.	Received from Senate	2/4/2025	This bill modifies several provisions related to state audits in North Dakota, primarily focusing on the powers and financial practices of the state auditor. The bill changes the audit requirements for political subdivisions by reducing the retained percentage of progress payments from 20% to 5% until the audit report is accepted. For occupational and professional boards, the threshold for mandatory audits is raised from $200,000 to $2 million in annual receipts, allowing smaller boards to submit an annual report instead of a biennial audit. The bill also clarifies that the state auditor can charge for federal government audit work, with the costs to be paid from the audited agency's federal funds and deposited into the general fund. Additionally, the state auditor must now report quarterly to the legislative audit and fiscal review committee about communication processes, billing practices, audit details, and audit schedules. The bill maintains the state auditor's existing broad responsibilities for financial audits and performance reviews of state agencies, while providing more flexibility and transparency in the audit process.

HB1239	Blockchain technology, protection for digital asset mining, and an exemption from a money transmitter license.	House Industry, Business and Labor Executive Session (16:30:00 2/5/2025 327C)	2/5/2025	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.
HB1435	Legacy fund definitions and a legacy earnings fund; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.	Committee Hearing 10:30	2/5/2025	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.
HB1572	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.	House Finance and Taxation Executive Session (14:43:00 2/5/2025 327E)	2/5/2025	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.
SB2160	Health insurance benefits coverage provided by the uniform group insurance program; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Human Services Executive Session (09:33:00 2/5/2025 Fort Lincoln)	2/5/2025	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.
SB2225	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.	Received from Senate	2/5/2025	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 designed to support affordable housing infrastructure development. The funding will be allocated across different community sizes: $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 can receive grants to lower infrastructure development costs and address housing needs, with a maximum grant of $1,500,000 for larger communities. The department must secure matching funds from non-state sources on a dollar-for-dollar basis, which can include contributions from political subdivisions, local developers, private funds, donations, or in-kind contributions. The program will run from the bill's effective date through June 30, 2027, and the department is required to submit a comprehensive report to the legislative management and governor by June 30, 2026, detailing the program's progress, expenditures, housing units supported, and matching funds raised. The bill is declared an emergency measure, allowing for immediate implementation.
SB2369	Exempt sales from educational, religious, or charitable activities conducted by a nonprofit organization in a publicly or privately owned facility; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive Session (09:39:00 2/5/2025 Fort Totten)	2/5/2025	This bill amends North Dakota tax law to expand sales tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations conducting educational, religious, or charitable activities. Specifically, the bill adds a new provision that allows nonprofit organizations to be exempt from sales tax for activities conducted in publicly or privately owned facilities, provided two key conditions are met: the nonprofit pays fair market rent for the facility and the entire amount of net receipts is used for educational, religious, or charitable purposes. This change builds upon existing tax exemptions for nonprofit events, addressing potential limitations in previous law by explicitly allowing such activities in both public and private facilities. The bill includes a clear effective date, with the new provisions applying to taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025, which gives businesses and nonprofits time to prepare for the change. The amendment aims to provide more flexibility for nonprofit organizations in hosting and funding their educational, religious, and charitable activities while maintaining oversight to prevent unfair competition with for-profit retailers.

SB2397	The definition of non-oil-producing county for purposes of the flexible transportation fund, legacy earnings township aid fund, municipal infrastructure fund, and county and township infrastructure fund; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.	Received from Senate	2/5/2025	This bill amends the definition of a "non-oil-producing county" in four different sections of North Dakota law, changing the criteria from receiving less than $5 million in funding to having average annual oil production of fewer than 10 million barrels over a three-year period. Specifically, the bill modifies sections related to the flexible transportation fund, legacy earnings township aid fund, municipal infrastructure fund, and county and township infrastructure fund. The new definition will be used to determine county eligibility for certain funding allocations, with the calculation based on oil production data from the three years preceding the start of each biennial budget cycle. The bill is set to become effective on July 1, 2025, and is declared an emergency measure, which typically means it will take effect immediately upon passage. This change appears to provide a more precise and production-based method of defining non-oil-producing counties, potentially impacting how infrastructure and transportation funds are distributed across North Dakota counties.
HB1176	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.	House Finance and Taxation Executive Session (17:00:00 2/6/2025 327E)	2/6/2025	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.
HB1194	False information or false reports to law enforcement; and to provide a penalty.	Amendment adopted, placed on calendar	2/6/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's existing law regarding false information or false reports to law enforcement by making a few key changes. Currently, an individual can be charged with a class A misdemeanor if they knowingly provide false information to a law enforcement officer that could interfere with an investigation or materially mislead the officer, or if they falsely report a crime of violence or emergency incident that did not actually occur. The bill modifies the language from "person" to "individual" throughout the statute and adds a new provision requiring non-duty law enforcement officers who have probable cause to suspect someone has provided a false report to report that information to the county state's attorney. The term "security official" is defined as a public servant responsible for handling emergencies involving public safety, with a slight modification to the language describing their role. These changes aim to clarify and potentially strengthen the existing legal framework for addressing false reporting to law enforcement in North Dakota.
HB1226	Wearing a mask in a public place.	**Reported back amended, do pass, amendment placed on calendar 9 3 2**	2/6/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's existing law regarding wearing masks in public places by adding a new provision that makes it a criminal offense to wear a mask or face covering with the intent to conceal one's identity while congregating with other masked individuals, specifically when a law enforcement officer requests that individuals unmask. The bill maintains existing prohibitions against wearing masks with intent to intimidate, threaten, abuse, harass, or evade identification during a criminal offense. An important exception is added to clarify that this new provision does not apply to traditional masked gatherings like Halloween celebrations or masquerade parties. Violation of this law would be classified as a class A misdemeanor, which typically carries potential penalties of up to one year in jail and/or a fine. The amendment appears designed to address potential concerns about group anonymity in public spaces while preserving cultural and celebratory mask-wearing traditions.
HB1235	The agriculture infrastructure grant program.	Committee Hearing 10:30	2/6/2025	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.
HB1266	The property tax credit for disabled veterans; and to provide an effective date.	Rereferred to Appropriations	2/6/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's property tax credit for disabled veterans by increasing the taxable valuation threshold from $8,100 to $9,000 and making several clarifying modifications. The bill allows disabled veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher, or those with an extra-schedular rating bringing their total disability to 100%, to receive a property tax credit proportional to their disability percentage on their homestead. Surviving spouses of such veterans can also qualify, receiving a 100% credit if they receive dependency and indemnity compensation. The bill adds definitions for "child" and "parent" and adjusts provisions for co-owned properties, specifying that veterans can receive credit only for their proportional interest when the homestead is co-owned with someone other than a spouse, parent, or child. The legislation maintains existing processes for applying for the credit, including filing an initial affidavit with the county auditor and providing certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill will take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, ensuring that disabled veterans and their surviving spouses can benefit from the expanded property tax credit in the upcoming tax year.
HB1303	The prohibition on sanctuary cities; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 09:30	2/6/2025	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.

HB1306	Fees assessed for open records requests.	Committee Hearing 09:00	2/6/2025	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.
HB1307	Supersession of state laws in home rule counties and cities.	Committee Hearing 10:00	2/6/2025	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.
HB1346	The regulation of the operation of off-highway vehicles and political subdivision rules regulating off-highway vehicles; and to provide a penalty.	House Transportation Executive Session (10:23:00 2/6/2025 327E)	2/6/2025	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.
HB1371	Uniform group insurance program benefits for retired peace officers.	House Government and Veterans Affairs Executive Session (14:52:00 2/6/2025 Pioneer)	2/6/2025	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.
HB1487	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.	Rereferred to Appropriations	2/6/2025	This bill authorizes the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) to transfer approximately 1.25 acres of land in Ward County to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The bill specifically exempts this land transfer from certain existing statutory requirements about property transfers. Additionally, the bill appropriates $4.9 million from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund to the OMB for constructing a facility in Minot that will be leased to other state agencies. The funding is designated as a one-time appropriation for the 2025-2027 biennium, with an exemption allowing the unused funds to be carried forward into the 2027-2029 biennium. This means the OMB will have flexibility in spending the allocated funds beyond the typical state budgeting restrictions, allowing for potential delays or phased construction of the Minot facility.
HB1513	The notice to construct, rebuild, or repair sidewalks.	Committee Hearing 04:00	2/6/2025	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.
HB1518	Rotary traffic islands.	**Reported back, do pass, place on calendar 14 0 0**	2/6/2025	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.

HB1537	Water service agreement protection of service during the term of the loan; and to provide for retroactive application.	Committee Hearing 03:00	2/6/2025	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.
HB1585	A requirement for peace officers to report undocumented immigrants to United States immigration and customs.	Amendment adopted, placed on calendar	2/6/2025	This bill requires peace officers in North Dakota to report immigrants they have probable cause to believe are in the United States illegally to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Specifically, when a peace officer, who works for a criminal justice agency or political subdivision, determines an immigrant may be undocumented, they must contact ICE via their tip line phone number or website tip form as soon as possible. If a peace officer fails to make this report, they would be guilty of an infraction, which is a low-level legal violation. The bill adds a new section to Chapter 12-63 of the North Dakota Century Code, creating a mandatory reporting requirement for law enforcement that differs from previous practices where reporting undocumented immigrants might have been discretionary. The legislation aims to enhance immigration enforcement at the local law enforcement level by compelling officers to proactively engage with federal immigration authorities when they encounter individuals they suspect of being in the country without legal authorization.
HB1588	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.	Committee Hearing 02:30	2/6/2025	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.
SB2009	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state fair association.	Senate Appropriations Executive Session (08:30:00 2/6/2025 Harvest)	2/6/2025	This bill provides an appropriation to the North Dakota State Fair Association for the 2025-2027 biennium, allocating a total of $2,542,833 from the state's general fund. The funding includes $642,833 for base level premiums, $900,000 for a campground rest facility (with a 75% cost-share not exceeding $900,000), and $1,000,000 for safety and security infrastructure. The bill specifically notes that these are one-time funding items not included in the base budget for the 2027-2029 biennium, and the State Fair Association will be required to report to the appropriations committees about how these funds are used. Additionally, the bill provides an exemption from existing state law to allow the State Fair to use the provided funding for constructing the campground rest facility and improving safety and security infrastructure, which represents a deviation from previous restrictions on facility operations and maintenance costs.
SB2218	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.	**Reported back, do pass, place on calendar 16 0 0**	2/6/2025	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.
SB2254	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.	Senate Transportation Executive Session (14:24:00 2/6/2025 Fort Totten)	2/6/2025	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.
SB2306	The establishment of a child care workforce recruitment and retention program.	Senate Workforce Development Executive Session (14:57:00 2/6/2025 Fort Lincoln)	2/6/2025	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.

SB2314	The investigation of and penalty for approving a development agreement in the state for a foreign adversary; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 09:00	2/6/2025	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.
SB2317	The revocation of a transfer of township zoning authority.	Senate State and Local Government Executive Session (11:37:00 2/6/2025 216)	2/6/2025	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.
SB2322	The exercise of public domain in geological storage of carbon dioxide.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Executive Session (10:00:00 2/6/2025 Peace Garden)	2/6/2025	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.
SB2324	The amendment or repeal of a county and city home rule charter.	Received from Senate	2/6/2025	This bill modifies the procedures for amending home rule charters for counties and cities in North Dakota. The legislation introduces a new streamlined process for making charter amendments when a portion of the charter does not conform to state requirements, is preempted by legislative action, or has been invalidated by a court order. Under the new provisions, a county or city governing body can adopt a resolution to amend non-conforming portions of their home rule charter without requiring a public vote or petition from electors. However, this expedited amendment process does not apply to adding new powers not originally included in the charter, which would still require a traditional voter approval process. The bill requires that any such amendments be published in the official newspaper or on the official county/city website within 30 days of adoption, and that the county or city auditor file a copy of the amendment with the secretary of state. These changes provide local governments more flexibility in quickly addressing legal or statutory conflicts in their home rule charters while maintaining safeguards against substantial changes that would require broader public input.
SB2371	Rotary traffic islands.	**Reported back, do pass, place on calendar 5 0 1**	2/6/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's traffic laws regarding rotary traffic islands (also known as roundabouts) by modifying the existing rules for vehicle movement. Specifically, the bill makes two key changes to the language about exiting a rotary traffic island: it removes the word "not", which previously implied vehicles could not exit the island from any position, and it removes the word "first", which previously required drivers to signal their intention to exit before doing so. The revised language suggests that drivers are now permitted to exit a rotary traffic island from any position, with the existing requirement to signal their intention to exit still in place. The bill maintains the existing rule that vehicles must drive to the right of a rotary traffic island and can only proceed in the designated direction on one-way roadways. These changes appear to provide more flexibility for drivers navigating rotary traffic islands while still maintaining basic safety guidelines.
HB1026	The administration of the state bonding fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government	2/5/2025	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.
HB1027	The administration of the state fire and tornado fund; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Industry and Business	2/5/2025	This bill transfers the administration of the state fire and tornado fund from the insurance commissioner to the office of management and budget, making several significant changes to how state agencies, political subdivisions, and winter shows obtain property insurance. The bill creates a continuing appropriation for the fund, establishes new procedures for assessing and collecting insurance payments, and allows the office to contract for administrative services and insurance broker support. Key provisions include requiring state agencies to obtain replacement cost appraisals every six years, setting a minimum fund balance of twelve million dollars, and establishing procedures for handling unreasonably hazardous risks, loss assessments, and reinsurance. The bill also provides a mechanism for issuing anticipation bonds or borrowing from the Bank of North Dakota if the fund balance drops below two million dollars due to catastrophes. Additionally, the legislation directs the legislative management to study the potential removal of political subdivisions from the state fire and tornado fund during the 2025-26 interim, examining the feasibility, statutory changes, and potential premium impacts of such a move.

HB1032	Ordinance violations and municipal judges.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary	2/5/2025	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.
HB1033	Concurrent federal jurisdiction on military installations.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary	2/5/2025	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.
HB1043	The vice chairman of the state water commission.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Energy and Natural Resources	2/5/2025	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.
HB1482	The requirements of a municipal bond election.	Second reading, passed, yeas 88 nays 5	2/6/2025	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.
HB1121	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	1/16/2025	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.
HB1150	Sunday closing laws and retail agreements; and to provide a penalty.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 4 nays 89	1/16/2025	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.
HB1185	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	1/16/2025	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.

SB2026	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	1/20/2025	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.
HB1187	A debris removal lien.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 3 nays 87	1/23/2025	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.
HB1050	Cooperative agreements between the director and law enforcement agencies regarding license plate readers.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 42 nays 51	1/28/2025	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.
HB1171	The creation of the law enforcement family scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 14 nays 79	1/29/2025	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.
SB2220	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.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 10 nays 36	1/29/2025	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.
HB1289	A partial property tax exemption for residential property used for in-home care services for a qualifying individual; and to provide an effective date.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 32 nays 61	1/30/2025	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.

[SB2166]	A property tax information portal; to provide a report; and to provide an appropriation.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 13 nays 32	1/30/2025	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.
[HB1309]	State contracts with certain companies that boycott energy, mining, and production agriculture; and to provide for application.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 12 nays 76	1/31/2025	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.
[HB1552]	Limitation of the rate of home rule sales, use, or gross receipts taxes; and to provide an effective date.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 38 nays 51	1/31/2025	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.
[HB1402]	State surplus motor vehicles.	Withdrawn from further consideration	2/5/2025	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.
[HB1273]	The prohibition of a policy, order, or ordinance that limits free speech.	Second reading, failed to pass, yeas 20 nays 73	2/6/2025	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.