



Legislative Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2025, at 11:30 AM

3rd Floor Executive Conference Room, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW)

Any person needing special accommodation for the meeting is requested to notify the City Clerk's office at 857-4752.

1. LEGISLATIVE TOPICS DISCUSSION

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

1.1. LEGISLATIVE TOPICS DISCUSSION

Key	Bill Link	Name	Last Action	Action Date	Summary
Hearing Scheduled	HB1020	A Bank of North Dakota line of credit; to authorize the state water commission to issue and sell bonds for water projects; to provide legislative intent; to provide for a report; to provide for a study; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to provide an exemption; and to declare an emergency.	Senate Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Hearing (08:30:00 3/7/2025 Sakakawea)	3/7/2025	This bill provides comprehensive funding and strategic planning for water infrastructure and resources in North Dakota. The legislation appropriates nearly \$922.5 million from various funds to the Department of Water Resources for the 2025-27 biennium, with key financial provisions including a \$200 million line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota, a \$45 million transfer from the Resources Trust Fund to the Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund, and specific allocations for projects like the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, Mouse River Flood Control, and regional water supply initiatives. The bill authorizes the State Water Commission to issue up to \$100 million in bonds for southwest pipeline projects and mandates two important studies during the 2025-26 interim: one examining the governance and finance models of regional water systems, and another evaluating the state's water project cost-share policy. Additionally, the legislation provides funding for recreation grants, allows some flexibility in budget transfers, and includes provisions for continuing unexpended project funds into the next biennium. The bill declares itself an emergency measure, enabling immediate implementation upon passage, and reflects the state's commitment to maintaining and developing critical water infrastructure across North Dakota.
Hearing Not Scheduled	HB1138	Bonding elections.	Committee Hearing 11:15	3/13/2025	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.
Hearing Held/ Action Pending	HB1139	A sales tax exemption for fire departments; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 10:30	3/11/2025	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.
Passed as Amended	HB1142	The statutory caps for liability of political subdivisions and the state; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 02:30	3/12/2025	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.
Signed By Gov. Filed with SOS	HB1158	The exempt status of records related to petitions in possession of the secretary of state.	Committee Hearing 10:45	3/13/2025	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.
Failed or Withdrawn	HB1168	Adjustments to state aid payments, legacy fund definitions, and a legacy earnings fund; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 02:30	3/11/2025	This bill makes several significant changes to North Dakota's state aid payments, legacy fund management, and property tax levies. The bill establishes a new legacy earnings fund that will receive distributions from the legacy fund every two years, with a specified allocation process that includes funding for debt service, tax relief, highway infrastructure, state tuition, and other general fund and strategic investment purposes. For school districts, the bill reduces the maximum general fund mill levy from seventy to fifty mills and adds a new optional ten-mill levy for educational services. The bill also introduces a new limitation on property tax levies for most taxing districts (excluding school districts), restricting annual increases to no more than 3% without voter approval. Additionally, the bill modifies the state school aid funding formula, particularly for tuition calculations and mill levy deductions, and makes various technical changes to how legacy fund earnings are managed and distributed. The changes aim to provide property tax relief, manage state fund distributions more strategically, and adjust school funding mechanisms, with most provisions becoming effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.
	HB1176	Legacy fund definitions and the legacy earnings fund; to provide an appropriation; to provide a transfer; to provide an effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/10/2025	This bill introduces comprehensive changes to North Dakota's property tax and legacy fund systems, focusing on several key areas. The bill creates a new legacy earnings fund that will distribute 7% of the legacy fund's five-year average balance every two years, with specific allocations: first to the legacy sinking and interest fund for debt service, then to the highway distribution fund, and finally to a new legacy property tax relief fund. It modifies the primary residence tax credit, increasing the maximum credit to \$1,450 and establishing a new certification process for primary residential property. The bill also introduces significant limitations on property tax levies by local taxing districts, restricting annual increases to 3% without voter approval, and allowing voters to approve increases for up to four years. Additionally, the legislation adjusts property tax assessment notices, homestead tax credits, and various definitions related to property classification. The bill appropriates \$473 million for the primary residence credit, with about 84.23% of that funding coming from the legacy fund, and aims to provide property tax relief while creating more transparent and structured funding mechanisms for local governments and state services.

HB1194	False information or false reports to law enforcement; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 02:30	3/11/2025	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.
HB1218	Comprehensive water development plans.	Committee Hearing 11:00	3/13/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's water development planning requirements to modify how the state water commission conducts comprehensive water development planning. The bill requires the commission to develop a comprehensive water development plan every two years, organized by river basin, and continue to create an inventory of future water projects for budgeting purposes. The bill changes the threshold for local project sponsor participation and project prioritization meetings from projects costing more than one million dollars to those costing more than five million dollars. Additionally, the bill specifies that the commission must hold commissioner-hosted meetings across ten specific river basin drainage areas. The legislation also limits the commission's requirement to conduct detailed life cycle analyses for municipal water supply projects and economic analyses for flood control and water conveyance projects, exempting projects expected to cost less than \$750,000 from such analyses. These changes aim to streamline the water development planning process and reduce administrative burden for smaller-scale projects.
HB1389	Infrastructure fees levied by cities and counties, and the exemption of infrastructure fees from levy limitations.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/12/2025	This bill clarifies and expands the rules for how cities and counties in North Dakota can levy infrastructure fees to fund infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The bill requires that before implementing an infrastructure fee, local governments must create a specific infrastructure zone and notify all utility account holders about the proposed project, including total cost, project description, and a public hearing date. Utility account holders will have at least 30 days to submit protest forms, and if a majority of account holders in the proposed zone protest, the project cannot proceed. The bill also stipulates that commercial property fees cannot be more than twice the rate of residential property fees. Additionally, the bill ensures that these infrastructure fees and associated tax levies are exempt from standard tax levy limitations, allowing local governments more flexibility in funding infrastructure projects. The bill applies to both county and municipal governments and provides definitions for terms like "general special assessments" and "green field special assessments" to clarify the scope of these infrastructure funding mechanisms.
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.	Committee Hearing 04:00	3/12/2025	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.
HB1500	Nonconforming structures in counties, cities, and townships.	Committee Hearing 02:30	3/11/2025	This bill creates identical provisions for nonconforming residential structures in North Dakota's counties, cities, and townships, establishing a standardized approach to rebuilding and maintaining structures that no longer comply with current zoning regulations. Under the bill, a damaged residential structure in a residential zoning district may be repaired, replaced, or rebuilt even if it was damaged beyond 50% of its value, provided the property owner submits a building permit application within six months, begins restoration within one year, and the property abuts a public right of way. The new structure must meet several specific requirements, including not expanding beyond the original structure's footprint, square footage, height, or parking spaces, and must comply with existing building, fire, health, and safety codes. The bill prohibits expanding nonconforming structures unless the expansion complies with current zoning ordinances and allows zoning authorities some flexibility to create less restrictive regulations. Additionally, the bill includes special provisions for floodplain areas to maintain national flood insurance program eligibility. A "nonconforming structure" is defined as a structure that was legal before a change in law made it nonconforming, giving property owners more options for maintaining and rebuilding residential structures that might otherwise be deemed unsuitable under current zoning regulations.
HB1518	Rotary traffic islands.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/14/2025	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.
HB1522	Golf carts on city streets.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/7/2025	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.

HB1575	Legacy fund definitions, the legacy earnings fund, and the primary residence credit; to provide an appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/11/2025	This bill introduces several significant changes to North Dakota's tax and fund management systems. It creates a new legacy earnings fund that will receive distributions from the state's legacy fund, with a specific allocation process that first directs funds to debt service payments and highway distribution, with the remaining balance going to a new legacy property tax relief fund. The bill increases homestead tax exemptions by raising income thresholds and expanding relief, raising the income limit for full exemption from \$40,000 to \$50,000 and increasing the maximum refund for renters from \$400 to \$600. Additionally, it establishes a new property valuation reduction system where residential properties will receive a 2.75% reduction in taxable value, while agricultural and commercial properties will receive a 1.5% reduction. The bill also introduces a limitation on property taxable valuation increases, capping annual increases at 3% unless improvements have been made, and allows taxing districts to seek voter approval for excess levy authority. The state will reimburse local taxing districts for these valuation reductions, with funding coming from a combination of general fund and legacy earnings fund sources. The bill sunsets some existing provisions related to the legacy fund and primary residence credits, with most tax-related changes becoming effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.
SB2027	County, city, and township floodplain management ordinances and to provide definitions.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/13/2025	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.
SB2069	Publication requirements.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/14/2025	This bill creates a new provision in North Dakota law that allows government units to file published notices directly with the secretary of state when they are legally required to publish a notice in a newspaper. The bill provides an alternative method of fulfilling publication requirements if a newspaper fails to publish the legally mandated notice. Specifically, if a newspaper does not publish a required notice, the government unit can file the notice with the secretary of state, and this filing will be considered sufficient to meet the publication requirement, unless a specific law states otherwise. This change provides a backup mechanism to ensure important government notices are made publicly available, even if local newspapers do not comply with publishing requirements.
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 for a transfer; and to provide for a report.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/7/2025	This bill creates a Rural Community Endowment Fund within the state treasury of North Dakota, designed to support small rural communities with populations under 1,000 people. The fund will be administered by a committee appointed by the state commissioner, consisting of nine rural community residents and a nonprofit representative, who will be responsible for awarding grants to support local housing, workforce development, business recruitment, infrastructure, and other community needs. The fund will be a permanent endowment, with its principal protected and only the interest earnings available for grants. An initial appropriation of \$5 million will be transferred from the state's general fund, and the fund can also accept additional gifts and donations. The department will contract with a nonprofit organization to help administer the program and can spend up to 10% of the fund's distribution on administrative costs. The committee will prioritize projects that enhance the long-term prosperity, safety, and quality of life in rural communities, and will develop its own evaluation and evaluation processes. The department is required to provide annual reports to the legislative management and appropriations committees detailing the fund's status, use of funding, and program results.
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.	Committee Hearing 09:30	3/7/2025	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.
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.	Committee Hearing 09:00	3/13/2025	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.

SB2224	The abolition of the gaming commission and the authorization of the attorney general to administer and regulate gaming.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/12/2025	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
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.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/13/2025	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.
SB2296	Emergency services communications systems.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/14/2025	This bill amends the North Dakota Century Code to update and expand definitions related to emergency services communications systems, with a particular focus on clarifying and adding terms used in emergency response contexts. The bill introduces a new definition for "first responder" that explicitly includes firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical services personnel, and public safety telecommunicators, which broadens the previous understanding of public safety personnel. Several existing definitions are renumbered and slightly modified, such as expanding the description of "wireless service" and "voice over internet protocol service" to be more comprehensive. The bill also updates terminology around emergency communications systems, adding more precise language about communication connections, services, and technologies used in emergency response. Notable changes include more detailed explanations of 911 systems, public safety answering points (PSAPs), and the types of services and technologies involved in emergency communications. The amendments aim to provide greater clarity and precision in legal definitions related to emergency communication infrastructure and personnel, reflecting the evolving technological landscape of emergency services.
SB2310	Garnishments.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/11/2025	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.
SB2317	The revocation of a transfer of township zoning authority.	Committee Hearing 01:45	3/13/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law to modify the process by which townships can revoke their transfer of zoning authority to a county. Currently, cities can unilaterally reacquire zoning authority through mutual agreement with the county, but the bill establishes a more detailed process specifically for townships. To reacquire zoning authority, a township must now follow a multi-step process: the township board of supervisors must pass a written resolution supporting a return to township zoning, hold an election where a majority of qualified electors vote in favor of returning to township zoning, adopt a comprehensive plan, create a zoning ordinance, and appoint a zoning administrator. Once these requirements are met, the county is obligated to accept the township's reacquisition of zoning authority. The bill also maintains existing provisions that allow agreements to be amended or terminated by mutual consent or after a one-year notice period, and provides flexibility for agreements to be terminated if a political subdivision is dissolved.
SB2321	Awarding costs and fees in eminent domain proceedings.	Committee Hearing 01:45	3/13/2025	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.
SB2332	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of grant funding for emergency services and public safety.	Committee Hearing 03:35	3/10/2025	This bill directs the Legislative Management (the legislative committee responsible for interim studies between legislative sessions) to conduct a comprehensive study of grant funding for emergency services and public safety during the 2025-26 interim period. Specifically, the study will examine several key aspects of potential grant programs, including determining the appropriate amount of funding needed, identifying potential funding sources, defining which entities would be eligible to receive grants, specifying what types of expenses could be reimbursed, selecting the most suitable agency to administer the grant program, and exploring options for establishing an oversight committee. The Legislative Management is required to complete the study and present its findings, recommendations, and any necessary draft legislation to the 70th Legislative Assembly, which would convene in 2027. This study aims to develop a structured approach to providing financial support for emergency services and public safety organizations in North Dakota.

SB2351	Annexation of property to a school district.	Committee Hearing 02:00	3/12/2025	This bill modifies the process for annexing property to a school district in North Dakota by making several key changes to the existing law. The bill requires county superintendents to provide certified mail notice to each property owner being annexed at least fourteen days before a public hearing, in addition to publishing notice in the county's official newspaper. The bill expands the list of factors the county committee must consider during the annexation hearing, specifically adding a requirement to examine the potential modification to property tax obligations for the owners of the property being annexed and to consider their specific concerns. The bill maintains the existing comprehensive review process, which includes evaluating factors such as district boundaries, student enrollment, educational needs, transportation costs, and potential educational opportunities. The bill preserves the requirement that two-thirds of qualified electors in the proposed annexation area must sign the petition, and it continues to mandate that final approval of any annexation must come from the state board. The bill also retains provisions allowing for appeals to the state board and subsequently to the district court, and it includes restrictions on resubmitting annexation petitions, limiting new petitions to no more than twice in a twelve-month period.
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.	Committee Hearing 09:30	3/11/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's tax code to modify sales tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations' educational, religious, or charitable activities. The bill clarifies existing exemption rules by specifying that tax-exempt status for events does not apply to gross receipts from taxable sales over \$10,000 in a publicly owned facility where fair market rent has not been paid. Additionally, the exemption does not apply to sellers who compete with retailers by maintaining inventory, conducting regular retail sales from a permanent location, or soliciting sales through a website. The bill preserves existing exemptions for certain types of events, such as those hosted by higher education institutions, public school districts, and nonprofit music or dramatic arts organizations. The changes will take effect for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025, providing clarity and potentially limiting tax exemptions for some nonprofit fundraising and event activities that could be seen as competing with traditional retail businesses.
SB2379	The surveying process during eminent domain proceedings.	Committee Hearing 01:45	3/13/2025	This bill amends Section 32-15-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, which governs the surveying process during eminent domain proceedings (legal proceedings where government or authorized entities can acquire private property for public use). The key changes clarify the conditions under which surveyors can enter private land, specifically requiring written consent from the landowner or a court order before conducting surveys. The bill maintains the existing principle that survey activities must be conducted in a manner that provides the greatest public benefit while causing the least private injury. The language modifications include replacing generic terms like "such" and "whoever" with more specific phrasing, and explicitly stating that survey entry does not constitute a claim for relief unless damages result from negligence, wantonness, or malice. These refinements aim to provide more precise legal guidance for surveyors and landowners during eminent domain processes, ensuring clearer communication and protection of property rights while facilitating necessary public infrastructure projects.
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.	Committee Hearing 10:30	3/11/2025	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.
HB1026	The administration of the state bonding fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Rereferred to Industry and Business	2/21/2025	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.	Committee Hearing 10:00	2/18/2025	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.	Senate Judiciary Executive Session (13:36:00 3/5/2025 Peace Garden)	3/5/2025	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.	Committee Hearing 11:15	2/17/2025	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.	Reported back, do pass, place on calendar 7 0 0	2/21/2025	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.
HB1152	The definition of residential property; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive Session (09:04:00 2/19/2025 Fort Totten)	2/19/2025	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.
HB1232	The definition of residential property; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive Session (09:25:00 2/19/2025 Fort Totten)	2/19/2025	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.
HB1235	The agriculture infrastructure grant program.	Committee Hearing 02:30	3/6/2025	This bill amends a section of North Dakota law related to the agriculture infrastructure grant program by modifying who can receive grants for road and bridge improvements. Previously, grants could be awarded to political subdivisions, but now the grants will be specifically targeted to smaller counties, townships, and cities with populations of 1,500 residents or less. The grants can be used for two primary purposes: improving transportation corridors on city, county, and township roadways, and enhancing roads or bridges that provide access to value-added agriculture businesses. The agriculture commissioner, in consultation with the state's department of transportation, will continue to be responsible for awarding these grants. The change appears designed to focus infrastructure support on more rural and smaller local government entities that may have limited resources for maintaining transportation infrastructure supporting agricultural economic development.
HB1266	The property tax credit for disabled veterans; and to provide an effective date.	Received from House	2/25/2025	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.

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.	Committee Hearing 10:00	2/18/2025	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.
HB1303	The prohibition of sanctuary city policies and to create the sanctuary compliance fund; to provide a penalty; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law to prohibit "sanctuary city" policies across the state, which are local government practices that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. The bill prevents state agencies, political subdivisions, and higher education institutions from adopting policies that: restrict communication with federal immigration officials about an individual's immigration status, grant unauthorized immigrants special rights or protections, violate federal immigration cooperation laws, prevent law enforcement from asking about a person's citizenship status, or impede the transfer of undocumented immigrants to federal custody. If a political subdivision is found to have a sanctuary policy, the state attorney general can investigate, issue an opinion, and direct the state treasurer to withhold funding from that jurisdiction. The withheld funds will be deposited into a new "sanctuary compliance fund," which can be redistributed to compliant political subdivisions. The bill provides a process for local governments to appeal the attorney general's findings or provide evidence that they have discontinued sanctuary policies. Any local policy found to violate these provisions will be automatically declared void, emphasizing the state's intent to ensure full cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.
HB1307	Supersession of state election laws in home rule counties and cities.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill amends North Dakota state law to clarify and limit the ability of home rule counties and cities to supersede state election laws. Specifically, the bill adds language to several sections of the state code that explicitly states that any ordinances enacted by home rule counties or cities regarding elections that conflict with state law are void. The bill maintains the broad powers of home rule entities to govern their own affairs in most matters, but creates a clear prohibition on modifying state election regulations. The changes apply to both county and city home rule charters, ensuring a consistent approach to election governance across different local government structures. The bill preserves the fundamental principle of home rule - allowing local governments significant autonomy in managing their affairs - while establishing a bright-line rule that election procedures must follow state guidelines. This ensures uniformity in election processes and prevents potential local variations that could create confusion or inconsistency in how elections are conducted across the state.
HB1311	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention.	Committee Hearing 10:30	3/5/2025	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.
HB1329	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding the establishment of a government spending database; and to provide an appropriation.	Received from House	2/24/2025	This bill proposes to establish a comprehensive government spending database and conduct a legislative study on its implementation. The bill requires the state treasurer to create an online, free-access database that includes detailed expenditure information from various government entities, such as budget units, political subdivisions, school districts, and higher education institutions. The database would provide extensive financial transparency by capturing specific details for each expenditure, including payment amount, date, recipient name, paying entity, and for educational materials, additional specifics like curriculum descriptions and textbook details. The database would feature advanced functionalities like search capabilities, data aggregation tools, download options, and anonymous salary information. Additionally, the bill mandates that the superintendent of public instruction contract for training services to help school officials understand and comply with the new database requirements. The legislative management will conduct an interim study during 2025-26 to evaluate the feasibility of this database, with a report and potential legislation to be presented to the seventieth legislative assembly. The bill includes a one-time appropriation of \$97,000 to the legislative council for consulting services to assist with the study, with the database-related provisions set to become effective on July 1, 2026.
HB1375	The time frame to file a complaint against a licensed retailer of alcoholic beverages; and to provide a penalty.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill proposes several changes to North Dakota's alcoholic beverage regulations. First, it establishes limits on compliance checks for licensed alcohol premises, allowing local governing bodies to conduct up to two compliance checks per month and restricting random inquiries without reasonable suspicion of a violation. The bill also introduces a new provision requiring individuals under 21 years old to provide photo identification when requested by a peace officer if there is suspicion they are in a licensed premises for a prohibited purpose. If an individual fails to provide identification, they can be charged with an infraction, but the charge will be dismissed if they later prove they were over 21 at the time. Additionally, the bill modifies the existing process for filing complaints against licensed alcohol retailers by specifically requiring that such complaints be filed within 14 days of the alleged violation and setting clear guidelines for how hearings on these complaints should be conducted, including mailing requirements and mandating that hearings be electronically or stenographically recorded. These changes aim to clarify enforcement procedures and strengthen age verification processes in establishments that serve alcohol.
HB1391	Creating a new status related to human rights and antidiscrimination policies.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's human rights and antidiscrimination laws to add "health status" as a protected category across multiple sections of existing law. 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 prohibit discrimination based on health status in various contexts including employment, public accommodations, public services, and credit transactions. Additionally, the bill introduces a new section specifically addressing health care facilities, allowing them to ask employees about their health status for the purpose of implementing safety measures related to communicable diseases. Under this provision, health care facilities can request voluntary health status information and may consider employees who decline to provide such information as potentially at risk for communicable diseases. The changes aim to expand protections against discrimination while providing some flexibility for health care facilities to manage workplace health and safety concerns.

HB1454	An opt-out procedure for required vaccines.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill proposes to create a new section in North Dakota law that restricts government entities' ability to require vaccines or medical products. Specifically, the bill mandates that state agencies, political subdivisions, and other government entities cannot require individuals to take or receive a vaccine or medical product unless the manufacturer assumes full liability for any death or serious injury caused by the product. The bill provides individuals with the right to opt out of vaccine requirements for health, religious, or philosophical reasons. An important exception is noted for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which would be exempt from these provisions. For schools, day care centers, child care facilities, head start programs, and nursery schools, the bill refers to existing vaccine and opt-out provisions under section 23-07-17.1 of North Dakota law. The bill uses broad language, defining medical products as items used to diagnose or manage diseases, including medical devices, drugs, and biologics, and aims to provide individuals with more personal choice regarding medical interventions mandated by government entities.
HB1474	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of property tax reform for residential property.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/5/2025	This bill directs the Legislative Management to conduct a comprehensive study of property tax reform for residential property during the 2025-26 interim period. The study will examine the current property tax system for residential properties, exploring potential alternative taxation methods, such as replacing the existing ad valorem (value-based) tax system with a price-per-square-foot approach. Specifically, the study will review current property assessment procedures, the equalization and abatement process, and how taxing district budgets are determined. It will also analyze methods to limit the growth of residential property values, considering both the advantages and disadvantages for property owners and taxing districts. The research will investigate the potential implementation of a square-foot-based taxation method, including its impact on taxpayers and local jurisdictions, potential unintended consequences of transitioning from the current system, and strategies to mitigate those consequences. By the end of the interim, the Legislative Management is required to report its findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation, to the 70th Legislative Assembly, providing a detailed roadmap for potential property tax reform.
HB1534	Limitations on taxable valuation increases without voter approval; and to provide an effective date.	Committee Hearing 10:30	3/5/2025	This bill proposes a new law that would limit annual increases in property tax valuations to no more than 3% per year for any parcel of taxable property, with exceptions for new improvements to the property. Under this proposed legislation, if a property's taxable value would increase by more than 3%, the additional increase can only be implemented through a ballot measure approved by a majority of qualified voters in the taxing district during a statewide general or primary election. The proposed increases can be approved for up to four taxable years at a time, and cities or counties would be prohibited from modifying or overriding this limitation through home rule authority. The bill would take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, meaning it would first apply to property tax assessments in 2025. The primary goal of this legislation appears to be providing property owners with protection against rapid increases in property tax valuations and giving voters more direct control over potential tax increases.
HB1537	Service agreement protection of service during the term of the loan.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill amends Section 6-09.4-22 of the North Dakota Century Code to provide broader protections for political subdivisions that have received loans from state agencies for infrastructure improvements. The bill eliminates specific references to "water service" and expands the protection to apply to any service provided by a political subdivision that has been financed through a loan from the public finance authority or another state agency. Under the new provisions, a political subdivision cannot have its service curtailed or limited if its service area is incorporated into another political subdivision's boundaries or if a private franchise for similar service is granted. The political subdivision is not required to obtain new franchises, licenses, or permits to continue serving its area during the loan term. The bill also introduces new language allowing political subdivisions to negotiate service agreements, but such agreements must include the public finance authority or state agency as a party and include safeguards to protect outstanding bond payments. Additionally, the bill specifies that only the public finance authority or financing state agency can enforce these provisions, and it provides that any agreements made before January 1, 2025, that violate these terms are voidable at the option of the financing agency. The bill applies retroactively to July 31, 1997, effectively providing long-standing protection for political subdivisions' service agreements.
HB1577	A wastewater infrastructure grant program and the duties of the department of environmental quality; and to provide an appropriation.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill establishes a new wastewater infrastructure grant program administered by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, designed to help local government entities upgrade, replace, or construct wastewater systems. The program allows cities, counties, townships, water resource districts, recreation service districts, and water districts to apply for grants to improve their wastewater infrastructure, 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 projects must either be in compliance with current wastewater regulations or work to return a system to compliance. The bill appropriates \$25 million from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund for these grants, with a specific mandate that at least \$12.5 million must be awarded to cities with populations under 12,500. No single project can receive more than \$12.5 million, and any remaining funds targeted for smaller cities can be reallocated to other eligible projects by April 1, 2027, if not fully distributed. This funding is considered a one-time allocation for the 2025-2027 biennium, aimed at supporting critical wastewater infrastructure improvements across North Dakota's smaller communities.
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.	Received from House	2/25/2025	This bill proposes 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 adds provisions for liability exemptions, weapon possession, and penalties. Specifically, the bill creates new protections for public and private entities, allowing them to be exempt from liability for injuries caused by individuals carrying concealed weapons. It permits political subdivisions to prohibit firearms in public buildings and introduces a new criminal penalty for using a binary trigger (a device that allows a firearm to fire multiple rounds rapidly) during the commission of a crime. The bill also modifies existing regulations around carrying concealed weapons, including requirements for license holders to produce their license when requested by law enforcement and clarifying information disclosure during interactions with officers. Additionally, the bill changes penalties for weapon-related infractions, replacing some criminal charges with noncriminal offenses and establishing specific fee structures for violations. The legislation aims to provide more clarity and flexibility in North Dakota's firearm and dangerous weapon regulations while maintaining public safety considerations.

SB2009	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state fair association.	Committee Hearing 02:00	3/6/2025	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.
SB2035	The definitions of an educational organization and public-spirited organization, and raffles; and to provide for application.	Committee Hearing 09:30	3/5/2025	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.
SB2045	A bidding exception for water supply funds and contents of advertisement for public improvement projects.	Committee Hearing 09:30	3/6/2025	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.
SB2074	Municipal infrastructure fund reporting requirements.	Committee Hearing 10:30	3/5/2025	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 the fund.
SB2083	The definition of a sensitive image.	Committee Hearing 08:30	2/24/2025	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.
SB2110	The certification and penalization of water distribution and wastewater system operators; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 01:30	3/6/2025	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.
SB2141	A change in the purpose of use of a conditional or perfected water permit.	Committee Hearing 01:30	3/6/2025	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.

SB2160	Health insurance benefits coverage provided by the uniform group insurance program; to provide an appropriation; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; and to provide an effective date.	Received from Senate	2/25/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's uniform group insurance program to clarify and update health insurance coverage definitions and provisions for state employees, political subdivisions, and retirees. The bill modifies key definitions, including introducing the term "nongrandfathered health plan" and expanding the description of health insurance benefits coverage to align with federal healthcare regulations. It allows political subdivisions to join the uniform group insurance program under specific conditions, such as a minimum 60-month participation requirement, and provides flexibility for retirees to join the program under certain circumstances. The bill also includes a \$4.3 million appropriation to help cover potential health insurance premium increases, with \$1.9 million coming from the general fund and \$2.4 million from federal and special funds. The legislation is intended to help state agencies manage health insurance costs and provide more comprehensive and flexible coverage options for public employees and retirees. Most provisions of the bill will become effective on January 1, 2027, giving state agencies and the public employees retirement system time to prepare for the changes.
SB2251	Audits conducted by the state auditor and charges for audits.	Committee Hearing 03:30	3/6/2025	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.
SB2254	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for fixed route city and paratransit transportation services grants; and to provide for a legislative management study.	Committee Hearing 02:15	3/6/2025	This bill provides two key provisions related to transportation services in North Dakota. First, it appropriates \$2,000,000 from the state's general fund to the Department of Transportation specifically for grants to support fixed route city transportation providers and their associated paratransit services during the 2025-2027 biennium. This is designated as a one-time funding allocation, meaning it is not intended to be a recurring expense in future budgets. Second, 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. This study will explore how these transportation systems can address critical community needs such as population growth, economic development, workforce requirements, and healthcare access. Additionally, the legislative management is tasked with developing a proposed funding formula for these transportation systems and must report its recommendations and potential legislation to the 70th legislative assembly. The overall goal appears to be understanding and improving transportation infrastructure and funding in the state.
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; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date.	Received from Senate	2/19/2025	This bill makes several changes to how North Dakota allocates oil and gas gross production tax revenues, with key provisions including extending the current tax allocation framework from 2027 to 2037, creating a new energy impact grant fund that will receive up to \$20 million per fiscal year, and modifying how those funds will be distributed to hub cities (Williston, Dickinson, and Minot). Specifically, the bill establishes that 73.88% of the energy impact grant fund will go to Williston, 15.66% to Dickinson, and 10.46% to Minot, with the requirement that these cities use the grants for debt repayments or expenses related to oil and gas development impacts. The bill also adjusts state revenue deposits, increasing the initial deposit to the state general fund from \$230 million to \$250 million and making corresponding adjustments to other fund allocations. Additionally, the bill provides some temporary exemptions for allocations to the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund and oil and gas research fund, limiting their funding to \$7.5 million and \$17.5 million respectively during a specific period. These changes aim to provide continued support for communities impacted by oil and gas development while maintaining the state's complex tax revenue distribution system.
SB2324	The amendment or repeal of a county and city home rule charter.	Committee Hearing 03:30	3/6/2025	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.
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.	Rereferred to Energy and Natural Resources	2/25/2025	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.

SB2371	Rotary traffic islands.	Committee Hearing 02:00	3/6/2025	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.
SB2382	Vexatious litigation; and to provide a penalty.	Committee Hearing 10:00	3/5/2025	This bill creates a new legal framework in North Dakota for addressing vexatious litigation, which is a legal process designed to prevent individuals from filing repetitive, harassing, or frivolous lawsuits that burden the court system. The bill defines vexatious conduct as litigation that primarily aims to harass another party, lacks legal merit, is intended solely for delay, hinders judicial administration, or imposes undue burden on court resources. A person can be designated a "vexatious litigant" if they have filed at least two litigious actions deemed vexatious in the past seven years, attempt to relitigate previously resolved cases, repeatedly file unmeritorious motions, or have been previously declared a vexatious litigant by another court. Under the bill, a judge can issue a prefilming order that requires the vexatious litigant to obtain court permission before filing new litigation, potentially require them to provide financial security, and may summarily dismiss any unauthorized filings. The bill also establishes procedures for applying for leave to file new litigation, mandates that vexatious litigants cannot electronically file documents, requires the court administrator to maintain a roster of vexatious litigants, and provides mechanisms for appealing such designations, with the ultimate goal of preventing abuse of the judicial system while still preserving access to justice.
SB2398	The establishment of the military compatibility commission.	Committee Hearing 10:30	3/6/2025	This bill establishes the Military Compatibility Commission in North Dakota to address potential conflicts between military operations and surrounding communities. The commission is designed to create a collaborative approach to managing land use and development near military bases. It defines "encroachment" as any action that could interfere with military base operations, including issues like environmental impact, noise pollution, land development, airspace competition, and urban growth. The commission will be composed of representatives from the governor's office, counties, townships, and cities within military impact zones, along with voluntary participation from military installation commanders. The commission's primary responsibilities include providing guidance to local governments on military-compatibility practices and establishing a uniform process for coordinating infrastructure and development projects with the Department of Defense to ensure they do not negatively impact military radar, airspace, communications, or operational readiness. The bill creates a new chapter in title 37 of the North Dakota Century Code to formalize these provisions and promote the sustainability of military operations in the state.
HB1106	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for nonfixed route transit program grants.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Transportation	2/17/2025	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.
HB1149	The revised uniform unclaimed property act; and to declare an emergency.	Introduced, first reading, (emergency), referred to Industry and Business	2/13/2025	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.	Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government	2/13/2025	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.
HB1197	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of correctional facilities.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Workforce Development	2/13/2025	This bill directs the Legislative Management to conduct a comprehensive study of correctional facilities in North Dakota during the 2025-26 interim period. The study will examine jails and regional correctional centers, focusing on their current and future infrastructure needs, analyzing the costs and benefits of regional facilities, exploring the impacts of deferred inmate admissions, and evaluating how inmates are prioritized for placement in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. To ensure a thorough and balanced assessment, the study will involve input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from counties of different population sizes (specifically those with populations above and below 7,500), local law enforcement, corrections department officials, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Attorney General. By the end of the interim period, the Legislative Management is required to prepare a detailed report with its findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation needed to implement those recommendations, which will be presented to the 70th Legislative Assembly.

HB1226	Wearing a mask in a public place.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary	2/17/2025	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.
HB1297	Home rule powers in counties and cities.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary	2/20/2025	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.
HB1346	The regulation of the operation of off-highway vehicles and political subdivision rules regulating off-highway vehicles; and to provide a penalty.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Transportation	2/20/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law regarding off-highway vehicles (OHVs) by making several key changes. First, it adds a definition for "peace officer" to the existing statute and clarifies the categories of OHVs, which include Class I (two-wheeled vehicles), Class II (three or four-wheeled vehicles within specific width and weight limits), and Class III (vehicles capable of cross-country travel). The bill expands the authority of local governments by allowing both cities and counties to regulate, restrict, and prohibit OHV use within their jurisdictions. Additionally, the bill increases penalty fees for various OHV-related infractions: raising the general infraction fee from ten to twenty dollars, and specific violation fees from twenty to fifty dollars. These changes aim to provide more comprehensive regulation of OHV operation, give local governments more control over OHV use in their areas, and establish clearer penalties for violations. The modifications seek to balance recreational vehicle use with safety and local governance concerns.
HB1371	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to providing uniform group insurance program health insurance benefits coverage for retired peace officers.	Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government	2/20/2025	This bill proposes changes to the uniform group insurance program to specifically address health insurance benefits for retired peace officers. The bill defines a "peace officer" as a retiree who worked in a permanent position as a peace officer for at least 32 hours per week, at least 20 weeks each year, for a minimum of 20 years of employment. Under the new provisions, the board would be required to pay the full premium amount for retired peace officers who are not yet eligible for Medicare, without charging the retired officer any portion of the premium. Additionally, the bill mandates a legislative management study during the 2025-26 interim to comprehensively examine the impact of providing health insurance benefits to retired peace officers. This study will explore various aspects including benefit options, premium costs, retirement eligibility requirements, potential state and local government costs, effects on recruitment and retention, and the potential establishment of a retired peace officer health insurance pool. The legislative management will be required to report its findings and recommendations, along with potential implementing legislation, to the 70th legislative assembly.
HB1401	The transfer of real property by exclusive and nonexclusive listing agreements.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Industry and Business	2/13/2025	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.
HB1482	The requirements of a municipal bond election.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Finance and Taxation	2/13/2025	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
HB1572	Park district bonding authority without a vote, reporting of legislative tax relief information, and delivery and contents of the real estate tax statement; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Finance and Taxation	2/24/2025	This bill encompasses several key modifications to North Dakota tax and financial regulations. It increases park district bonding authority by allowing districts to issue up to one percent of their assessed valuation in bonds, with a maximum of \$15 million, without requiring voter approval. The bill creates a new uniform taxing district financial reporting system, requiring the tax commissioner to develop a standardized method for collecting and reporting financial and property tax data from taxing districts by January 1, 2026. It also modifies real estate tax statements to include more detailed, color-coded information about tax levies, including three-year historical comparisons and graphical representations of tax distributions. Additionally, the bill establishes a legislative tax reform and relief advisory committee to study historical tax relief and review recent tax reform legislation. The bill repeals certain existing levy authorities, such as the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District levy, and provides state reimbursement for these repealed levies. Lastly, it mandates a comprehensive study of tax-exempt properties, requiring the tax commissioner to compile detailed data on such properties and submit a report to the legislative management by July 1, 2026.

HB1602	Political subdivision participation in the public employees retirement system defined contribution retirement plan.	Introduced, first reading, referred to State and Local Government	2/20/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's public employees retirement system laws to clarify and modify participation rules for the defined contribution retirement plan. Specifically, effective January 1, 2025, the existing defined benefit main plan will be closed to new eligible employees, who will instead be required to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan. An "eligible employee" is defined as a permanent employee who is at least 18 years old and begins employment after December 31, 2024, with some exceptions for specific professional groups like law enforcement, judges, and teachers. The bill explicitly states that political subdivisions (like local governments) are not required to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, and their participation remains optional. Furthermore, the bill prohibits the retirement system board from charging fees or costs to a political subdivision that chooses to withdraw from the defined contribution retirement plan. Employees who were already participating or had deferred membership in the defined benefit plan before January 1, 2025, can continue to remain in that plan, even if they are rehired after that date.
SB2165	The powers and duties of the peace officer standards and training board and peace officer licensing fees.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions	2/13/2025	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.
SB2180	The opportunity to provide public comment at a meeting of a public entity.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions	2/25/2025	This bill modifies North Dakota law to strengthen public access and comment rights at meetings of public entities and political subdivisions. It requires that meetings be open to the public and mandates that at least one-fourth of a political subdivision's regular yearly meetings must provide an opportunity for public comment. Individuals providing comments will need to submit their name and address in writing, and political subdivisions can establish policies that limit comment duration and set reasonable guidelines. These guidelines can include requirements that comments be pertinent to the subdivision, not interfere with meeting proceedings, avoid being defamatory or harassing, and can be restricted if alternative communication procedures exist or if the comment involves confidential information. The bill also clarifies existing provisions about public meeting access, including the right to attend meetings in-person or electronically, and provides protections to ensure individuals are not inappropriately denied access to public meetings. Overall, the legislation aims to enhance transparency and citizen participation in local government proceedings by creating more structured and predictable opportunities for public engagement.
SB2269	Recall petitions and recall elections for political subdivision officials.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Political Subdivisions	2/25/2025	This bill modifies North Dakota's recall petition and election processes, primarily focusing on city governing body members and school board officials. The legislation introduces new requirements for recall petitions, including increasing the percentage of voter signatures needed from 25% to 35% for city and school board members. For cities with populations over 250 or school districts with enrollments over 250, petitions must now have 15 sponsors who are qualified electors. The bill standardizes recall petition procedures, mandating that petitions include a stated reason for recall and be pre-approved by the secretary of state. Circulators now have 90 days to gather signatures, and filing officers will review petition signatures thoroughly. The bill also establishes specific timelines for special recall elections, requiring them to be held between 95 and 105 days after petition certification, with provisions to prevent recall elections near regularly scheduled elections. Additionally, the legislation clarifies that a member cannot be recalled twice during their term and adds procedural details about candidate filing, election cancellation, and replacement of recalled members. These changes aim to provide more structured and consistent guidelines for recall processes in North Dakota's local political subdivisions.
SB2307	Obscenity control; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide a penalty.	Introduced, first reading, referred to Judiciary	2/25/2025	This bill addresses obscenity control and library content in North Dakota by establishing new guidelines for public libraries and school districts regarding explicit sexual material. The legislation redefines obscene material using a "reasonable adult" standard and creates a comprehensive framework for managing library collections, particularly those accessible to minors. Public libraries and school districts are now required to develop policies by January 2026 to review and potentially relocate materials deemed explicitly sexual, ensuring they are not easily accessible to minors. The bill mandates that digital and online library resources for kindergarten through 12th-grade students must have safety policies and technology protection measures that prevent access to obscene or sexually explicit content. Additionally, the legislation introduces a review process where individuals can request a state's attorney's opinion if they believe a library or school district is not complying with these regulations. If violations are found, entities may face financial penalties, with funds potentially being withheld by the state treasurer or superintendent of public instruction until compliance is achieved. The bill also provides mechanisms for reporting issues, reviewing materials, and ensuring that library resources are age-appropriate and consistent with community standards.
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.	Signed by Governor 02/18	2/18/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's primary residence tax credit law to provide more detailed definitions and clarify eligibility requirements. Specifically, the bill expands the definition of "owned" and "primary residence" to include situations involving trusts, allowing property owners who hold a beneficial interest in a qualifying trust to claim the \$500 tax credit. The bill defines a "qualifying trust" as one where the trustor or beneficiary has the right to use and occupy the property as their primary residence rent-free, and establishes conditions for how and when this applies. The credit can only be claimed for one primary residence, cannot exceed the property tax due, and must be applied after other exemptions. Individuals who are temporarily absent due to medical confinement can still qualify for the credit, provided the residence is not rented to another person. To claim the credit, applicants must file an application with the tax commissioner by April 1st each year. The bill is retroactively effective for the first two taxable years after December 31, 2023, and includes a provision allowing taxpayers who qualify for the credit in 2024 to file an abatement claim by May 1, 2025, to receive a refund equal to the credit amount.