



Legislative Meeting

Friday, April 4, 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

Bill Link	Name	Last Action	Action Date	Summary
HB1139	A sales tax exemption and a motor vehicle excise tax exemption for fire departments; and to provide an effective date.	Conference Committee (House Finance and Taxation) (16:00:00 4/7/2025 327E)	4/7/2025	This bill creates a sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax exemption for fire departments in North Dakota. Specifically, the bill exempts gross receipts from sales when made to a fire department for the purpose of providing fire protection services, and exempts motor vehicles acquired by or leased to fire departments for fire protection services. The term "fire department" is defined as a fire department or fire district that has filed and received approval for a certificate of existence under section 18-04-02 of the North Dakota Century Code. This means only officially recognized fire departments would qualify for the tax exemptions. The bill will take effect for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025, giving local fire departments a financial benefit by reducing their tax burden when purchasing equipment, vehicles, and other necessary items for providing fire protection services to their communities.
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.	House Appropriations Executive Session (09:30:00 4/7/2025 Roughrider)	4/7/2025	This bill establishes a new Rural Community Endowment Fund in North Dakota to support rural communities with populations under 1,200 people. The fund will be a permanent endowment in the state treasury, initially requiring at least \$10 million in total funds, with at least \$5 million coming from non-state sources like gifts, donations, or bequests. The fund will be managed by the state investment board, and its investment earnings can be used to provide grants for local housing, workforce development, business recruitment, infrastructure, and other community needs. A nine-member Rural Community Endowment Fund Committee, appointed by the commissioner and including rural community representatives and a nonprofit organization representative, will be responsible for awarding grants. The committee will prioritize capital projects that support long-term rural community prosperity and quality of life. A nonprofit organization will be contracted to help administer the fund and provide recommendations. The bill also includes a one-time appropriation of \$5 million from the state's general fund to initially fund the endowment, and requires annual reporting to the legislative management about the fund's status, funding use, and program results.
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.	House Appropriations Executive Session (09:15:00 4/7/2025 Roughrider)	4/7/2025	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 aimed at supporting affordable housing infrastructure development. The funding will be distributed across different community size categories: \$10 million for communities under 5,000 people, \$20 million for communities between 5,001-20,000 people, \$15 million for communities over 20,000 people, and \$5 million for rural metropolitan areas near larger cities. Grant recipients must provide matching funds, with the state covering up to one-third of project costs if two-thirds are secured from non-state sources like local developers, political subdivisions, tribal entities, or private donations. Communities can identify their specific housing needs, and the department will establish grant guidelines to help address infrastructure development costs, slum and blight removal, and housing mediation. Communities with over 20,000 people can receive a maximum grant of \$1.5 million, and any uncommitted funds can be reallocated to viable projects by December 31, 2026. The department is required to submit a comprehensive report to the legislative management and governor by June 30, 2026, detailing program progress, expenditures, housing units supported, and matching funds raised. The bill is declared an emergency measure, indicating its immediate importance and potential urgent housing needs.
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 Executive Session (14:30:00 4/8/2025 Sakakawea)	4/8/2025	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.
HB1226	Wearing a mask in a public place.	Committee Hearing 10:00 (Judiciary)	4/8/2025	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.
SB2069	Publication requirements for legal notices.	House Political Subdivisions Executive Session (09:00:00 4/10/2025 327B)	4/10/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's legal notice publication requirements to provide more flexibility and digital accessibility for public notices. The legislation modifies existing law to mandate that when a legal notice is submitted to a newspaper, the newspaper must publish the notice not only in its print edition, but also on a statewide legal notices website maintained by the North Dakota Newspaper Association and on the newspaper's own website, free of charge to the entity placing the notice. If a notice is submitted directly to the Newspaper Association, they must publish it on the statewide website and provide an official publication affidavit. The bill also clarifies that minor, unintentional errors in website publication that are the newspaper's fault do not invalidate the notice's legal standing. Additionally, the amendment introduces a provision that allows notices published on the statewide legal notices website or on an official governmental website to fulfill legal publication requirements if a newspaper fails to publish the notice as required. These changes aim to modernize and expand access to important public notices by leveraging digital platforms while maintaining the traditional newspaper publication method.

SB2307	Obscenity control; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide a penalty.	House Appropriations Executive Session (08:30:00 4/10/2025 Roughrider)	4/10/2025	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.
HB1534	Limitations on taxable valuation increases without voter approval; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive (09:43:00 3/10/2025 Fort Totten)	3/10/2025	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.
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.	Senate Finance and Taxation Hearing (09:00:00 3/11/2025 Fort Totten)	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.
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 (Finance and Taxation)	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.
SB2224	The abolition of the gaming commission and the authorization of the attorney general to administer and regulate gaming.	Committee Hearing 10:00 (Judiciary)	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 general's office.
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.	House Finance and Taxation Hearing (10:00:00 3/17/2025 327E)	3/17/2025	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.

HB1168	Adjustments to state aid payments, legacy fund definitions, and a legacy earnings fund; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive Session (14:30:00 3/19/2025 Fort Totten)	3/19/2025	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.
SB2340	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study to evaluate the evolving fire service operational and response needs of the state.	Committee Hearing 09:00 (Energy and Natural Resources)	3/20/2025	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.
HB1307	Supersession of state election laws in home rule counties and cities.	Committee Hearing 09:00 (State and Local Government)	3/21/2025	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.
HB1266	The property tax credit for disabled veterans; and to provide an effective date.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive Session (08:24:00 3/24/2025 Fort Totten)	3/24/2025	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.
HB1165	Election notices and municipal voter registration.	Rereferred to State and Local Government	3/26/2025	This bill makes several modifications to North Dakota's election laws, focusing on various administrative and procedural aspects of elections. The bill expands the definition of "candidate" to include individuals who have publicly declared their candidacy, formed a campaign committee, circulated nominating petitions, or solicited campaign contributions. It introduces a new definition of "complete residential address" and adds restrictions on using private funds or entities in election administration. The bill changes several procedural requirements, such as extending the deadline for write-in candidates from four to twenty-one days before an election, modifying ballot preparation and distribution processes, and adjusting how county auditors handle election-related tasks like certifying election results and issuing certificates of election. The legislation also updates requirements for absentee ballot applications, including mandatory mailing of applications by county auditors for various types of elections and standardizing envelope formats. Additionally, the bill repeals two existing sections of the North Dakota Century Code related to election notices and municipal voter registration, streamlining election-related regulations and potentially simplifying administrative processes for election officials.
HB1297	Home rule powers in counties and cities.	Committee Hearing 03:30 (State and Local Government)	3/27/2025	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.

HB1500	Nonconforming structures in counties, cities, and townships.	Returned to House (12)	3/27/2025	This bill creates new sections of law for counties, cities, and townships in North Dakota that establish consistent rules for repairing and rebuilding nonconforming residential structures (buildings that no longer meet current zoning requirements due to changes in local ordinances). Under these provisions, a damaged residential structure located in a residential zone can be fully repaired or rebuilt even if it was damaged beyond 50% of its value, provided certain conditions are met. These conditions include: submitting a building permit application within six months of damage, beginning restoration within one year, ensuring the property abuts a public right of way, and meeting specific requirements such as not expanding the structure's footprint, height, or square footage, maintaining existing parking spaces, complying with building and health codes, and not posing risks to public safety or encroaching on neighboring properties. The bill also allows zoning authorities some flexibility to create less restrictive regulations and maintains special considerations for structures in floodplain areas to ensure continued eligibility for national flood insurance. A "nonconforming structure" is defined as a building that was legally constructed but became non-compliant due to subsequent zoning changes.
HB1303	The prohibition of sanctuary city policies and to create the sanctuary compliance fund; to provide a penalty; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Committee Hearing 09:00 (State and Local Government)	3/28/2025	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.
SB2251	Audits conducted by the state auditor and charges for audits.	Reported back, do pass, place on calendar 20 0 3	3/31/2025	This bill makes several changes to North Dakota's laws regarding state audits and the state auditor's responsibilities. The bill modifies provisions related to audit charging practices, specifically removing previous language about mandatory charges to agencies for audits and instead allowing more flexible billing practices. It reduces the percentage of progress payments that political subdivisions must retain from twenty percent to five percent when paying for an audit. The bill also increases the threshold for annual reporting for occupational and professional boards from \$200,000 to \$2 million in annual receipts, allowing smaller boards to submit annual reports instead of biennial audits. Additionally, the bill clarifies the state auditor's authority to charge for federal government audit work, with fees to be paid from the audited agency's federal funds and deposited into the general fund. The bill also introduces a new provision requiring the state auditor to refer open records requests related to submitted information back to the original submitting agency, effectively transferring the responsibility for responding to such requests. These changes aim to streamline audit processes, provide more flexibility in audit reporting, and clarify the state auditor's responsibilities and fee structures.
HB1482	The requirements of a municipal bond election.	Senate Finance and Taxation Executive Session (09:08:00 4/1/2025 Fort Totten)	4/1/2025	This bill modifies North Dakota's laws regarding municipal bond elections by making several key changes to the process of issuing municipal bonds. The bill updates the requirements for municipalities to borrow money and issue bonds, clarifying that most bond issuances now require approval at a primary or general election with a 60% vote of qualified voters. The legislation provides several exceptions to this rule, such as allowing bond issuances without an election for specific purposes like highway projects, public building improvements, and emergency conditions. The bill also introduces a protest mechanism where property owners can challenge bond resolutions if protests are signed by property owners representing at least 5% of the municipality's total assessed property value. Additionally, the bill streamlines language around debt limits, specifying that municipalities cannot incur indebtedness exceeding 5% of their assessed property value, with provisions for cities and school districts to increase this limit through voter approval. The changes aim to provide more clarity and flexibility for local governments while maintaining voter oversight of municipal bond issuances.
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; to authorize a line of credit; to provide an exemption; and to declare an emergency.	Senate Appropriations Executive Session (09:46:00 4/1/2025 Harvest)	4/1/2025	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.
SB2009	State fair facility operations and maintenance costs; and to declare an emergency.	Amendment adopted, placed on calendar	4/1/2025	This bill provides a specific appropriation to support the North Dakota State Fair Association for the 2025-2027 biennium, allocating a total of \$1,842,833 in funding. The appropriation includes \$642,833 from the general fund and \$1,200,000 from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund, which will be used for several specific purposes: premiums (\$642,833), a campground rest facility (\$600,000), safety and security infrastructure (\$500,000), and facility enhancements (\$100,000). The funding is structured as a cost-share program, with the state providing up to 50% of the costs, not exceeding \$600,000 for the campground rest facility and \$500,000 for safety and security infrastructure. The bill also declares these specific infrastructure-related funds as an emergency measure, meaning they can be implemented immediately. Additionally, the bill repeals a previous section of the North Dakota Century Code related to state fair facility operations and maintenance costs. The state fair association will be required to report to the appropriations committees about the use of these one-time funding items for the 2027-2029 biennium.

SB2160	Health insurance benefits coverage provided by the uniform group insurance program; to provide an appropriation; to provide a statement of legislative intent; and to provide an effective date.	House Industry, Business and Labor Executive Session (14:17:00 4/1/2025 327C)	4/1/2025	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.
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.	Laid over three legislative days	4/1/2025	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.
SB2296	Emergency services communications systems.	Returned to Senate	4/1/2025	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.
SB2351	Annexation of property to a school district; and to declare an emergency.	Returned to Senate (12)	4/1/2025	This bill modifies North Dakota's school district annexation process by making several key changes. First, when individuals petition to exchange property between school districts, the bill removes the previous limit on valuation differences and instead requires both affected school districts to agree on the property's value. The bill also strengthens notification requirements for annexation hearings, mandating that property owners must receive certified mail notice at least 21 days before the hearing, compared to the previous less specific notice provisions. During annexation hearings, the county committee must now explicitly consider the potential modification to property tax obligations for the owners of the property being annexed, which was not previously required. Additionally, the bill clarifies procedures for annexation petitions involving school districts in multiple counties, specifying how county committees should jointly review such petitions. The bill includes an emergency clause, which means the changes can take effect immediately upon passage, potentially expediting property annexation processes for school districts. These modifications aim to provide more transparency, detailed consideration, and collaborative decision-making in school district boundary changes.
HB1026	The administration of the state bonding fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Reported back, do pass, place on calendar 5 0 0	4/2/2025	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.
HB1032	Ordinance violations and municipal judges.	Senate Judiciary Executive Session (09:41:00 4/2/2025 Peace Garden)	4/2/2025	This bill comprehensively reforms municipal court operations in North Dakota by establishing new statutes governing municipal court jurisdiction, procedures, and administration. The legislation creates a detailed framework for municipal courts, including requirements for establishing, staffing, and operating these courts in cities of different sizes. Key provisions include mandating that municipal courts be part of the unified judicial system, setting qualifications for municipal judges (which vary based on city population), establishing court jurisdiction limitations (such as prohibiting jurisdiction over certain serious offenses), and creating procedures for case transfers, appeals, and court administration. The bill allows cities to establish individual or joint municipal courts, provides guidelines for handling ordinance violations, and specifies how indigent defense and prosecution will be managed. Starting July 1, 2026, municipal courts will become courts of record, and the bill provides comprehensive rules about judicial conduct, facility requirements, and record-keeping. Additionally, the legislation addresses how cities can transfer or abolish municipal courts, with different procedures for cities under and over 5,000 population, and ensures oversight by the state supreme court through rule-making authority. The bill repeals existing statutes related to municipal judges and ordinance violations, replacing them with this more comprehensive legal framework.

HB1197	A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of correctional facilities.	Returned to House (12)	4/2/2025	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 various aspects of jails and regional correctional centers, including their current and future infrastructure requirements, the potential advantages and costs of regional correctional facilities, the consequences of delayed inmate admissions, and how inmates are prioritized for placement in the department of corrections and rehabilitation. To ensure a thorough and balanced investigation, the study will include input from a diverse group of stakeholders, such as representatives from counties with populations above and below 7,500, local law enforcement officials, the department of corrections and rehabilitation, the office of management and budget, and the attorney general's office. By the end of the study, the legislative management is required to prepare a report detailing their findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation necessary to implement those recommendations, which will be presented to the 70th legislative assembly.
HB1329	The duties of the superintendent of public instruction and the establishment of a government spending database; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.	Reported back amended, do pass, amendment placed on calendar 6 0 0	4/2/2025	This bill requires the superintendent of public instruction to create and maintain a comprehensive, publicly accessible online government spending database that will collect and display detailed expenditure information from various government entities, including budget units, political subdivisions, school districts, and higher education institutions. The database must be updated monthly and include specifics for each expenditure such as the amount paid, payment date, recipient name, paying entity, and for educational entities, additional details like curriculum descriptions, textbook publishers, and software specifications. The database will feature advanced functionality including search capabilities, data aggregation tools, download options in common formats, and anonymous salary information, all categorized using standardized United States census bureau and national codes. To support this initiative, the bill appropriates \$500,000 from the state's general fund for establishing and maintaining the database during the 2025-2027 biennium, with the database becoming operational on July 1, 2026. Submitting parties will be required to provide accurate data using existing resources and follow the specified reporting guidelines.
HB1454	An opt-out procedure for required vaccines.	Returned to House (12)	4/2/2025	This bill creates a new section in North Dakota law establishing an opt-out procedure for required vaccines across various government entities. Specifically, the bill mandates that state agencies, political subdivisions, and government entities cannot require an individual to receive a vaccine without providing an opt-out option on health, religious, or philosophical grounds. However, certain institutions are exempted from this requirement, including correctional facilities, public health units, hospitals, healthcare providers (such as long-term care and assisted living facilities), and educational institutions like schools and day care centers. The bill also includes a critical exception that allows mandatory vaccination during a declared public health disaster or emergency. By introducing this legislation, the bill aims to provide individuals with more personal choice regarding vaccine requirements while maintaining specific exemptions for sensitive institutional settings where disease prevention is particularly critical.
HB1537	Service agreement protection of service during the term of the loan; and to declare an emergency.	Reported back amended, do pass, amendment placed on calendar 5 0 0	4/2/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law to provide additional protections for political subdivisions that have received loans from state agencies for infrastructure improvements. The bill clarifies that when a political subdivision has received a loan to construct or acquire an improvement, its service cannot be 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 permits or franchises to continue serving the area during the loan term. The bill adds a new provision that addresses agreements made before January 1, 2025, which might violate the existing law: such agreements are now voidable at the option of the public finance authority or other state agency that provided the loan, with a thirty-day written notice. This provision does not apply to litigation already commenced before the specified date. The bill is declared an emergency measure, which means it would take effect immediately upon passage, likely to provide quick clarity and protection for political subdivisions' service agreements and loan arrangements.
SB2180	The opportunity to provide public comment at a meeting of a public entity.	Returned to Senate (12)	4/2/2025	This bill establishes requirements for public comment during regular meetings of local government entities in North Dakota, including cities, counties, townships, school districts, park districts, and water resource districts. The bill mandates that every regular meeting must provide an opportunity for public comments, with individuals required to provide their name and address in writing (though the address will be kept confidential). Governing bodies are given the flexibility to set reasonable limits on public comments, such as restricting the time per speaker or total comment duration. They must develop a formal policy governing public comments that ensures comments are relevant to the public entity, do not disrupt the meeting, and are not defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful. The policy can also prohibit comments that involve confidential information, have alternative submission procedures, or are otherwise legally prohibited. This legislation aims to enhance transparency and civic participation by creating a structured framework for public input during local government meetings while maintaining the orderly conduct of those meetings.
SB2269	Recall petitions and recall elections for political subdivision officials.	Returned to Senate (12)	4/2/2025	This bill modifies North Dakota's recall election procedures, primarily focusing on recall petitions for city, park district, and school board members. The bill introduces a new threshold for recall petitions, requiring signatures from 35% of voters in the most recent election (compared to the previous 25%), and mandates specific requirements for petition sponsorship. For cities or school districts with populations over 250, petitions must have 15 sponsors who are qualified electors from the relevant jurisdiction. The bill establishes a detailed process for recall petition circulation, including requiring approval from the secretary of state, limiting petition circulation to 90 days, and specifying that a recall election cannot be held within 95 days of a scheduled election. The legislation also clarifies that a member cannot be recalled twice during their term and cannot be subject to recall if their regular election is within one year. Additionally, the bill provides mechanisms for handling scenarios where no candidates file for a recall election, in which case the original elected official can continue serving their term. These changes aim to provide a more structured and deliberative process for challenging the tenure of local government officials while maintaining a balance between accountability and stability.

HB1027	The administration of the state fire and tornado fund; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a continuing appropriation.	Reported back amended, do pass, amendment placed on calendar 4 1 0	4/3/2025	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 key changes to how the fund operates. The bill modifies numerous sections of North Dakota law to reflect this administrative shift, including updating definitions, assessment procedures, and insurance coverage guidelines. The office of management and budget will now be responsible for managing the fund, which provides insurance coverage for state agencies, political subdivisions, and winter shows against various risks like fire, tornado, and other physical losses. The bill establishes a continuing appropriation for the fund, allows for excess loss reinsurance, and sets guidelines for assessing and collecting insurance payments. Additionally, the bill includes a provision for the legislative management to study the potential removal of political subdivisions from the state fire and tornado fund during the 2025-26 interim, analyzing the feasibility, potential statutory changes, and impacts on premiums. The legislation also repeals several existing sections of law related to the fund's previous administration and adds new provisions for fund management, assessment collection, and insurance coverage.
HB1176	Legacy fund definitions and the legacy earnings fund; to provide a statement of legislative intent; to provide an appropriation; to provide an effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.	Emergency clause carried	4/3/2025	This bill creates a comprehensive reform of North Dakota's property tax and legacy fund systems, with several key provisions. The bill establishes a new legacy earnings fund that will distribute seven percent of the five-year average legacy fund balance every two years, with allocations first going to debt service payments, then to highway infrastructure, and the remaining amount to a new legacy property tax relief fund. It introduces a primary residence certification process and a primary residence tax credit that will provide property tax relief for homeowners, with credits ranging from \$500 to \$1,250 and covering up to 75% of property taxes. The bill also implements a new limitation on property tax levies by taxing districts, restricting annual increases to 3% without voter approval, and allows voters to approve levy increases for up to four years at a time. Additionally, the bill modifies property tax assessment and valuation processes, including changes to how residential and commercial properties are classified and valued. The legislative intent suggests future consideration of property tax relief for other property classifications like agricultural property. The changes are phased in over several years, with most provisions becoming effective for taxable years beginning in 2025 and 2026.
HB1218	A temporary moratorium on conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects; to provide for a study by the state water commission; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an expiration date.	Returned to House (12)	4/3/2025	This bill establishes a temporary two-year moratorium from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2027, during which the North Dakota State Water Commission and Department of Water Resources are prohibited from conducting economic analyses for assessment drain projects. During this period, the State Water Commission is required to study and review its existing formula for performing economic analyses of these drain projects. The commission must provide periodic updates to the legislative management and submit a final report before August 1, 2026, which will include findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation or appropriation requests needed to implement changes to the economic analysis process. The moratorium section of the bill will automatically expire on July 31, 2027, effectively suspending the prohibition on economic analyses after that date. This bill appears to be aimed at allowing state water resources officials to comprehensively review and potentially improve their methodology for evaluating the economic aspects of drainage project assessments.
HB1577	A wastewater infrastructure grant program and the duties of the department of environmental quality; and to provide an appropriation.	Rereferred to Appropriations	4/3/2025	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.
HB1371	AN ACT to provide for a legislative management study relating to providing uniform group insurance program health insurance benefits coverage for retired peace officers.	Sent to Governor	4/1/2025	This bill directs the North Dakota Legislative Management to conduct a comprehensive study during the 2025-26 interim period regarding health insurance benefits for retired peace officers. The study will examine multiple aspects of potential health insurance coverage, including reviewing current benefits, analyzing premium costs, evaluating eligibility requirements such as retirement years of service and Medicare eligibility, assessing potential financial impacts on the state and political subdivisions, and exploring the potential effects on law enforcement recruitment and retention. The study will also investigate the implications of establishing a specialized health insurance pool for retired peace officers and consider how such benefits might impact the state's financial reporting of post-employment benefit-related unfunded liability. By the end of the interim period, the Legislative Management is required to report its findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation, to the 70th Legislative Assembly, providing a thorough examination of how to potentially improve health insurance benefits for retired peace officers in North Dakota.
HB1602	Political subdivision participation in the public employees retirement system defined contribution retirement plan.	Sent to Governor	4/1/2025	This bill amends the North Dakota Century Code to modify rules for public employees' retirement plans, primarily focusing on changes to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) starting January 1, 2025. Specifically, the bill closes the defined benefit main plan 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, becomes a participating member after December 31, 2024, and is not already covered by other specialized retirement plans like those for law enforcement, judges, or teachers. Importantly, the bill clarifies that political subdivisions are not required to participate in the defined contribution retirement plan, making such participation optional. The bill also prohibits the retirement board from assessing fees or costs against a political subdivision for withdrawing 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. The bill aims to provide flexibility for political subdivisions while transitioning new employees to a defined contribution retirement plan.

SB2379	The surveying process during eminent domain proceedings.	Second reading, passed, yeas 39 nays 8	4/2/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law regarding the surveying process during eminent domain proceedings, which is the legal process by which government or authorized entities can acquire private property for public use. The bill requires that before conducting a survey on private land for a public use project, the entity must provide the landowner with a detailed written notice via certified mail at least thirty days before the survey. This notice must include specific information such as the project's name, proposed completion date, type, route, nature of work, and contact details of the person in charge. If the survey is not conducted within 90 days of the initial notice, a new notice must be sent. The bill maintains the existing requirement that surveys must be conducted in a manner that provides the greatest public benefit while causing the least private injury. The law also clarifies that survey entry does not constitute a claim for relief by the landowner, except in cases of negligence, wantonness, or malice. These changes aim to provide landowners with more transparency and protection during the initial stages of potential land acquisition for public projects.
SB2398	The establishment of military impact zones and military compatibility committees.	Second reading, passed, yeas 46 nays 1	4/2/2025	This bill establishes a new framework for managing potential conflicts around military bases in North Dakota by creating military compatibility committees and military impact zones. The bill defines "encroachment" as any action that could interfere with military base operations, including issues like environmental impact, noise pollution, land development, and urban growth. These military compatibility committees would be formed by the agriculture commissioner and include representatives from counties, townships, cities, and military installations within designated military impact zones. The committees' primary responsibilities would include providing guidance to local governments on military-compatible practices, and establishing a uniform process for coordinating zoning, land use, construction, energy development, telecommunications, and infrastructure projects that could potentially impact military operations. The zones' boundaries would be determined by a compatible use study and based on the specific missions of each military base. This approach aims to proactively manage potential conflicts and support the sustainability of military operations in the state by ensuring coordinated and compatible land and resource use around military installations.
HB1194	False information or false reports to law enforcement; and to provide a penalty.	Second reading, passed as amended, yeas 47 nays 0	4/3/2025	This bill amends the North Dakota Century Code's section on false information or reports to law enforcement, updating the language and adding a new provision. The bill maintains the existing criminal penalty of a class A misdemeanor for individuals who knowingly provide false information to law enforcement that could interfere with an investigation or materially mislead an officer, or who falsely report a crime of violence or emergency incident that did not actually occur. The key changes include replacing the term "person" with "individual" throughout the statute and adding a new requirement that on-duty law enforcement officers who have probable cause to believe someone has maliciously filed a false report about another individual must report this 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. The bill aims to strengthen accountability for false reporting and provide a clear mechanism for law enforcement to escalate instances of vexatious false reports.
HB1375	The time frame to file a complaint against a licensed retailer of alcoholic beverages; and to provide a penalty.	Second reading, passed as amended, yeas 47 nays 0	4/3/2025	This bill makes two key changes to North Dakota's alcohol-related laws. First, it establishes a new procedure for peace officers to verify the age of individuals under 21 in licensed premises, allowing officers to request photo identification if they have reasonable suspicion that the individual is there for a prohibited purpose. If an individual refuses to provide identification, they can be charged with an infraction, but the charge will be dismissed if they later prove they were 21 or older at the time of the request. Second, the bill modifies the existing process for filing complaints against licensed alcohol retailers by implementing a strict 14-day time limit for filing an affidavit about a violation with the attorney general, city attorney, or state's attorney. The bill also clarifies and standardizes the hearing procedures for such complaints, including requirements for mailing notices to licensees and mandating that hearings be electronically or stenographically recorded. These changes aim to provide clearer guidelines for age verification in licensed establishments and streamline the complaint process for alcohol-related violations.
HB1588	Dangerous weapons, the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering, testing for a license to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed, and producing a concealed carry license upon request; and to provide a penalty.	Second reading, passed as amended, yeas 43 nays 4	4/3/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's laws regarding dangerous weapons and concealed carry regulations. The bill expands the definition of a "dangerous weapon" by increasing the blade length threshold for knives from five to six inches and makes several modifications to existing weapon and firearm regulations. It clarifies rules about possessing firearms or dangerous weapons in public spaces like schools, churches, and government buildings, adding nuanced exceptions for specific groups such as law enforcement, correctional officers, emergency personnel, and judges. The bill increases the testing fee for concealed carry licenses from fifty to one hundred dollars and allows individuals to show a digital image of their license when requested by law enforcement. It also changes the penalty for violations from an infraction to a noncriminal offense with specific monetary fees, such as a \$100 fine for possessing a weapon in prohibited spaces. Additionally, the bill provides more flexibility for churches and places of worship to authorize concealed carry with approval from their leadership and protects such entities from liability for injuries caused by authorized weapon carriers. The legislation aims to provide clearer guidelines and slightly more permissive regulations around weapon possession and concealed carry in North Dakota.
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.	Filed with Secretary Of State 02/18	3/12/2025	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.

HB1033	Concurrent federal jurisdiction on military installations.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/14	3/19/2025	This bill establishes a process for the state of North Dakota to accept concurrent legislative jurisdiction over United States military installations within the state's boundaries. Under this legislation, the governor can accept a request from a military installation's principal officer to share legislative jurisdiction with the federal government, but only after the request meets specific requirements, such as providing details about the installation's location, the requesting official's authority, and the purpose of the jurisdiction request. The bill stipulates that the governor's acceptance must document each element of the request and submit key documents to the secretary of state for record-keeping. Importantly, the state will not incur or assume liability from this jurisdictional arrangement, and after establishing concurrent jurisdiction, state agencies and political subdivisions may enter reciprocal agreements with federal agencies to define their respective duties. This type of legislation allows for more collaborative governance and clearer legal frameworks on military installations, ensuring that both state and federal authorities can effectively manage and oversee these properties.
HB1043	The vice chairman of the state water commission.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/14	3/19/2025	This bill amends North Dakota state water Section dating)-08, which concerns how the stets watterr control Rather conducts him. Those. thelyh the applied law specifies datingthat the law framework that the deemed Governor shall be dating chairman dating cha., the that the Commission would select a dating member to among itself to dating ofating as vice the dating chairman chairman. However the updated bill dating proposes dating to clarrthe the language specifying dating the the the the Governor shall dating be dating the dating, instead permitting dating more dating dating in dating Commission leadership. dating Specifically, the dating new dating language dating indicates that dating dating the Governor dating dates their dates appointed shall dating preside dating at dating all dating Commission dating meetings, dating and dates the dating their date dating absence, or dating disability, date dating vice dating chairman shall date dating preside dating dating bill essentially provides more procedural dating clarity dating about dating meeting dating leadership dating and dating datingency dating dating planningining the to primary dating leadership.dating
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.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/14	3/19/2025	This bill amends three sections of the North Dakota Century Code to expand tax refund eligibility for fuel purchases by fire departments. Currently, only emergency medical services operations licensed under chapter 23-27 can receive tax refunds for motor vehicle, special, and aviation fuel purchases. The bill adds fire departments to this refund provision, allowing them to apply to the tax commissioner for refunds on fuel taxes paid for motor vehicle, special, and aviation fuels used by the fire department. To qualify, a fire department must be a department or district that has filed and received approval for a certificate of existence under section 18-04-02. The bill specifies that these fuel tax refunds are not subject to reduction for deposit in the agricultural products utilization fund or the agricultural research fund. The amendments are identical across motor vehicle, special, and aviation fuel tax statutes, and the bill will take effect for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2025, providing fire departments with a new mechanism to recover fuel-related expenses.
SB2083	The definition of a sensitive image.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/14	3/19/2025	This bill amends the North Dakota Century Code to define and establish the handling of "sensitive images" in public records. Specifically, the bill introduces a new definition of "sensitive image" as an image that depicts an exposed intimate body part, a gruesome injury, a deceased individual, or a minor. The legislation further stipulates that such sensitive images are classified as "exempt records," meaning public entities have the discretion to withhold these images from public access unless another law provides different guidance. By creating this classification, the bill aims to protect the privacy and dignity of individuals who might be depicted in such sensitive images, while still maintaining flexibility for public entities in managing their records. The exemption allows government agencies to decide whether to release these types of images on a case-by-case basis, preventing automatic public disclosure of potentially traumatic or intrusive visual content.
HB1311	Volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill directs the legislative management to conduct a comprehensive study during the 2025-26 interim period focusing on volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention challenges. The study will explore issues facing various types of emergency volunteers, including firefighters, 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 and addressing the current obstacles to recruitment and retention of emergency volunteers. Upon completion of the study, the legislative management will be expected to report its findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation, to the seventieth legislative assembly, with the ultimate aim of improving volunteer emergency response capabilities in North Dakota.
SB2045	A bidding exception for water supply funds and contents of advertisement for public improvement projects.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill modifies two sections of North Dakota law regarding public improvement project bidding requirements. The first section removes the specific exemption for municipal, rural, and industrial water supply projects from contractor licensing requirements, which previously allowed bidders on these projects more flexibility in obtaining licensing. The second section eliminates language specific to water supply projects related to contractor licensing, removing the provision that previously allowed bidders on such projects 20 days after being identified as the lowest responsible bidder to obtain a full contractor's license. The bill standardizes bidding and licensing requirements across different types of public improvement projects, ensuring that all bidders must have appropriate licensing at the time of bid submission, with specific exceptions remaining for bids submitted to the department of transportation, public service commission, and for federal aid highway funds. These changes aim to create more uniform and consistent bidding processes for public contracts in North Dakota by streamlining licensing requirements and removing project-specific exceptions.

SB2074	Municipal infrastructure fund reporting requirements.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's reporting requirements for municipal infrastructure grants by adding a population threshold and clarifying reporting procedures. Specifically, only cities with a population of at least 1,000 that receive infrastructure grants will now be required to submit a report to the state treasurer by November 30th of each even-numbered year, starting in 2022. The report must detail the amount of grant funding received and spent, and provide a description of infrastructure projects completed using those funds. The state treasurer will notify cities of this reporting requirement by November 1st each even-numbered year and can grant a 15-day extension upon request. Cities that fail to submit the report on time or in the correct format will be ineligible to receive future grants for two years. Additionally, if a financial audit reveals that a city used grant funds inconsistently with requirements, the state treasurer can reduce future grants by the amount improperly spent. The state treasurer will also make these reports publicly available on their website, promoting transparency in how municipal infrastructure grants are used.
SB2110	The certification and penalization of water distribution and wastewater system operators; and to provide a penalty.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill modifies North Dakota's regulations for water distribution and wastewater system operators by making several key changes: it shifts the annual certification expiration date from July to January, allows the department to establish more flexible fee structures for certification based on actual administrative costs instead of fixed amounts, permits the department to use third-party services for examination preparation and administration, and strengthens penalty provisions for violations. Specifically, the bill introduces graduated penalty structures, including civil penalties up to \$5,000 per day for violations, potential class A misdemeanor charges for willful violations or false statements, and establishes a new administrative procedure for rule adoption and appeals related to water and wastewater system operator certifications. The bill also maintains the department's existing responsibilities for promoting certification programs, distributing applications, maintaining operator records, and scheduling training programs, while providing more administrative flexibility and clearer enforcement mechanisms for regulating water and wastewater system operators.
SB2141	A change in the purpose of use of a conditional or perfected water permit.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law to provide more flexibility for water permit holders who want to change the purpose of their water use. Specifically, the bill allows a water permit holder to modify the purpose of a conditional or perfected water permit without losing its original priority date, provided the change is approved by the state Department of Water Resources. The bill establishes two scenarios under which such a change can be approved: first, if the new use is considered a "superior use" according to existing water rights priority rules, and second, if the change is for livestock use or fish, wildlife, and recreation purposes for a reservoir that does not involve withdrawing water. The application for such a change must be processed in the same manner as a conditional water permit application, and the department can only approve the change if it will not negatively impact the water rights of other users. This modification aims to provide water permit holders with more options for utilizing their water resources while maintaining protections for existing water rights.
SB2332	Grant funding for emergency services and public safety.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill directs the North Dakota Legislative Management to conduct a comprehensive study during the 2025-26 interim period focusing on potential grant funding for emergency services and public safety. The study will explore several key aspects, including determining the appropriate amount of grant funding needed, identifying potential funding sources, defining which entities would be eligible to receive grants, specifying the types of expenses that could be reimbursed through the grant program, selecting the most suitable agency to administer the grants, and considering the establishment of a grant program oversight committee. The Legislative Management will be required to report their findings and recommendations, along with any necessary proposed legislation, to the 70th Legislative Assembly. This study represents a proactive approach to enhancing emergency services and public safety funding by thoroughly examining the potential structure and implementation of a grant program before formally establishing it.
SB2371	Rotary traffic islands.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/18	3/20/2025	This bill amends Section 39-10-16 of the North Dakota Century Code related to traffic regulations for one-way roadways and rotary traffic islands. The key changes modify rules for vehicles traveling around and exiting rotary traffic islands (circular intersections designed to manage traffic flow). Specifically, the bill removes the word "not" and "first" from the existing language, which appears to alter the requirements for how vehicles can exit a rotary traffic island. The bill maintains the existing requirement that vehicles must drive to the right of a rotary traffic island and that drivers must signal their intention to exit the island. By removing the restrictive language, the bill seems to provide more flexibility for drivers when navigating and exiting rotary traffic islands, potentially making the traffic regulation less stringent than the previous version of the law.
SB2310	Garnishments.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/20	3/24/2025	This bill amends three sections of North Dakota's garnishment laws, primarily focusing on updating the disclosure fee from \$25 to \$40 for garnishment proceedings. Specifically, the bill modifies how service can be made on state institutions, departments, or agencies by allowing service through the office of management and budget, and increasing the mandatory disclosure fee that must be tendered when a garnishment summons is served. The bill also adjusts the minimum judgment threshold, changing the language to clarify that no judgment can be rendered against a garnishee if the original judgment against the defendant is less than \$40, exclusive of costs. This means that if the original debt is under \$40, the garnishee (typically an employer or financial institution holding the defendant's assets) will be discharged from the garnishment proceeding. The changes appear to be administrative in nature, updating fee structures and clarifying legal language around garnishment processes in North Dakota.
HB1142	The statutory caps for liability of political subdivisions and the state; and to provide an effective date.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/24	3/25/2025	This bill amends two sections of the North Dakota Century Code related to liability limitations for political subdivisions and the state, primarily adjusting the monetary caps for damages in legal claims. Specifically, the bill increases the liability limits for both political subdivisions and the state from \$375,000 to \$468,750 per person, and from \$1 million to \$1,875,000 for claims arising from a single occurrence through June 30, 2026. After that date, the limits will change to \$500,000 per person and \$2 million for a single occurrence. The bill removes the previous annual incremental adjustments to these liability caps and establishes new fixed amounts. The legislation maintains existing provisions that protect political subdivisions and the state from liability in many circumstances, such as discretionary actions, public duties, and specific types of claims. These changes aim to update the state's liability framework, providing slightly higher compensation limits for potential legal claims while preserving significant protections for governmental entities.

HB1235	The agriculture infrastructure grant program.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/24	3/25/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's agriculture infrastructure grant program by modifying which local government entities can receive grants for road and bridge improvements. Previously, grants could be awarded to any political subdivisions, but now the grants will be specifically limited to counties, townships, or cities with populations of 1,500 residents or less. The grants can be used for two primary purposes: corridor improvements on city, county, and township roadways, and improvements to roads or bridges that provide access to value-added agriculture businesses. The agriculture commissioner will continue to award these grants in consultation with the director of the department of transportation, maintaining the core purpose of supporting infrastructure that facilitates agricultural economic development by improving transportation routes near agricultural businesses.
HB1522	Golf carts on city streets.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/24	3/25/2025	This bill amends North Dakota state law to modify regulations around golf cart usage on city streets. Currently, city governments can allow golf carts on city streets through local ordinances, but the existing law previously restricted golf cart travel to daytime trips between a resident's home and a golf course. The new bill removes this specific daytime/golf course restriction and instead focuses on prohibiting golf cart operation at night. The legislation maintains that golf carts operating under city ordinances remain exempt from typical vehicle title, registration, and equipment requirements. Additionally, the ordinance continues to prevent golf carts from traveling on federal, state, or county highways, with the exception of making perpendicular crossings of such highways. This change gives city governments more flexibility in determining local golf cart operation rules while maintaining basic safety constraints.
SB2324	The amendment or repeal of a county and city home rule charter.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/25	3/26/2025	This bill addresses the process for amending home rule charters for counties and cities in North Dakota, creating a new streamlined mechanism for making changes when legally required. Specifically, the bill allows county and city governing bodies to directly amend their home rule charters through a resolution when a portion of the charter is preempted, superseded, or invalidated by a legislative act or court order, without requiring a public vote. The resolution must reference the legal authority supporting the amendment and must be published in the official newspaper or on the official website within 30 days of adoption. However, the bill maintains that any amendments adding new powers not originally included in the home rule charter must still go through the traditional amendment process with voter approval. The changes apply to both county and city home rule charters, providing a more efficient way to ensure charter compliance with current laws and court orders. The bill requires that copies of such amendments be filed with the secretary of state, ensuring proper documentation and transparency in the process.
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.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/26	3/27/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's careless driving law to expand penalties and protections for emergency responders and snow removal workers. The legislation increases the fine for careless driving from \$30 to \$100 and establishes more specific penalties when a driver causes injury or significant damage to certain individuals and vehicles. Specifically, the bill creates enhanced infractions for drivers who cause injury to first responders, emergency vehicle operators, or their assistants while they are stationary on the roadside with visible warning lights, or who cause damage exceeding \$4,000 to snow removal equipment or authorized emergency vehicles. The bill defines snow removal equipment as vehicles operated by employees maintaining highways during winter conditions. The updated law aims to provide greater legal protection for essential workers performing critical public safety and infrastructure maintenance tasks by imposing stricter consequences for drivers who do not exercise reasonable caution in these scenarios.
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.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/26	3/27/2025	This bill amends North Dakota tax law to modify sales tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations' educational, religious, or charitable activities. Specifically, the bill clarifies that sales tax exemptions for such activities will not apply to gross receipts over \$10,000 from events held in publicly owned facilities where fair market rent has not been paid. The bill also maintains existing exemptions for sales that do not compete with regular retailers, such as those that do not maintain inventory, conduct regular retail sales, or use dedicated sales websites. Additionally, the bill preserves existing tax exemptions for events 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 a clear timeline for implementation and giving organizations time to adjust to the new regulations.
HB1138	Bonding elections.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/27	3/31/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's law regarding bonding elections by modifying several key provisions related to how and when these elections are conducted. The bill increases the minimum time between the initial resolution and the election from 20 to 64 days, giving voters more time to consider the proposed bond. It restructures the existing law by adding numerical subsections for clarity and makes some technical changes to language about election procedures. The bill specifies that the election date, polling hours, and polling place must be the same as municipal elections, and requires the governing body to appoint election officials (one inspector, two judges, and two clerks) for each polling place. It also clarifies the process for filling election official vacancies, stating that remaining election officials can appoint a qualified elector if an official is absent or unable to serve. The overall intent appears to be providing more structure and consistency to the municipal bonding election process while ensuring proper representation and opportunity for voter input.
HB1158	The exempt status of records related to petitions in possession of the secretary of state.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/27	3/31/2025	This bill creates a new provision in North Dakota law that establishes an exemption for certain petition-related records held by the secretary of state. Specifically, the bill makes records received by the secretary of state that are related to a petition to initiate or refer a measure confidential and exempt from public disclosure. These records will remain exempt until either the secretary of state has officially reviewed and determined the sufficiency of the petition (as outlined in section 16.1-01-10) or 35 days have passed since the secretary of state initially received the record, whichever occurs first. This means that during the initial review period, petition records will be kept private, which could protect the privacy of petition signers and prevent premature public scrutiny of potential ballot measures while they are being initially evaluated. The bill appears designed to provide a temporary confidentiality period for petition-related documents during their initial processing and review stage.

SB2165	The powers and duties of the peace officer standards and training board and peace officer licensing fees.	Signed by Governor 03/27	3/31/2025	This bill modifies the powers and duties of the North Dakota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, expanding its authority and clarifying 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 access and review medical and psychological records related to these examinations. The bill also expands the board's fee structure to include charges 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 the ability to do so if an officer has a physical or psychological condition that prevents them from safely performing their duties. The legislation provides the board with more comprehensive oversight of peace officer licensing, including the power to require examinations before reinstating a revoked license and to deny licensure if an applicant refuses to release requested medical information. The bill aims to enhance public safety by giving the board more robust tools to assess and maintain the professional standards of peace officers in North Dakota.
SB2382	Vexatious litigation; and to declare an emergency.	Signed by Governor 03/28	3/31/2025	This bill creates a new chapter in North Dakota law to address vexatious litigation, which is defined as legal action primarily intended to harass, cause unnecessary burden, or impede the judicial process. The bill defines a "vexatious litigant" as someone who has either commenced multiple litigations involving vexatious conduct, repeatedly files unmeritorious motions or documents, attempts to relitigate previously resolved cases, or has been declared a vexatious litigant by another court. If a court determines by a preponderance of evidence that an individual meets these criteria, it can issue a prefilming order restricting the person from filing new litigation or documents without prior court approval. The prefilming order must also impose all costs of the vexatious litigation on the filing party and award reasonable attorney fees to the opposing party. The clerk of court will provide copies of such orders to the state court administrator, who will maintain a roster of vexatious litigants. The bill declares itself an emergency measure, meaning it would take effect immediately upon passage, and requires the Supreme Court to adopt rules for implementing these provisions. This legislation aims to prevent abuse of the legal system by individuals who file repetitive, frivolous, or harassing lawsuits.
HB1401	The transfer of real property by exclusive and nonexclusive listing agreements.	Signed by Governor 03/27	4/1/2025	This bill amends North Dakota law to provide more detailed guidelines for cities selling real property through listing agreements. The bill expands the existing procedures by allowing cities to sell property through both nonexclusive and exclusive listing agreements, with specific requirements for the latter. When selecting a real estate broker for an exclusive listing, cities must evaluate the broker's experience selling similar properties, their proposed marketing strategy, and their fee structure. The bill requires cities to publish the resolution describing the property to be sold on their website for at least fourteen days. Additionally, the legislation introduces new provisions allowing cities to pay compensation to a buyer's real estate broker during purchase negotiations, while mandating that city officials carefully consider the financial impact of such compensation on the total fees and commissions. The bill aims to provide cities with more flexibility and transparency in selling municipal real property, ensuring a more competitive and strategic approach to real estate transactions.
SB2027	County, city, and township floodplain management ordinances and to provide definitions.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/31	4/1/2025	This bill establishes a comprehensive framework for floodplain management authority in North Dakota, allowing counties, cities, and townships to create and enforce floodplain management ordinances. The bill defines key terms like "floodplain management" as a community-based effort to prevent or reduce flooding risks, and provides detailed guidelines for how local governments can exercise this authority. Counties have primary floodplain management responsibility by default, but townships can opt to take over this authority through a written resolution, with the ability to later relinquish it back to the county. Cities can also establish their own floodplain management ordinances within their zoning jurisdictions. The bill requires that all floodplain management ordinances be forwarded to the department of water resources for inclusion in a new central, publicly accessible electronic repository, which will track which jurisdictions are undertaking floodplain management. Importantly, the bill explicitly excludes Indian country lands from these local management efforts and allows local governments to enact these ordinances without first activating their zoning authorities. The legislation aims to create a more structured and transparent approach to managing flood risks at the local government level.
HB1149	The revised uniform unclaimed property act; and to declare an emergency.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/31	4/2/2025	This bill amends North Dakota's Unclaimed Property Act with several key provisions, primarily updating rules around abandoned property. The bill expands the definition of abandoned property to include virtual currency, which can be considered abandoned after three years of no owner activity, and adds provisions for excess proceeds from vehicle and property sales. It modifies record retention requirements for holders, allowing them to keep records for ten years after filing reports and extending retention during examinations or voluntary disclosure programs. The bill also changes 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 arose. Additionally, the bill adds a new provision allowing the administrator to authorize voluntary property disclosure and expands the types of debts that can be collected from unclaimed property, now including civil monetary judgments. The bill also updates interstate and international information-sharing protocols, making it easier for the state to exchange information about abandoned property with other jurisdictions. Lastly, the bill is declared an emergency measure, meaning it would take effect immediately upon passage.
HB1346	The regulation of the operation of off-highway vehicles and political subdivision rules regulating off-highway vehicles; and to provide a penalty.	Filed with Secretary Of State 03/31	4/2/2025	This bill makes several amendments to North Dakota's off-highway vehicle (OHV) regulations, focusing on three key areas. First, it updates the definitions section to include a new definition for "peace officer" and clarifies the existing definitions of different classes of off-highway vehicles. Second, the bill expands the authority of local governments by allowing both cities and counties to regulate, restrict, and prohibit the use of off-highway vehicles within their jurisdictions. Third, the bill modifies the penalty structure for OHV violations, increasing some fines: the general infraction fee is raised from ten to twenty dollars, and another specific infraction fee is increased from twenty to fifty dollars. The bill maintains the provision that allows for a fee reduction if proof of registration is provided after a violation. These changes aim to provide more comprehensive regulation of off-highway vehicles, giving local governments more control over OHV use and establishing a more structured penalty system for violations. An off-highway vehicle is defined as a motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel on various terrains, excluding electric bicycles, and is categorized into three classes based on size, weight, and design characteristics.

HB1106	AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for nonfixed route transit program grants.	Signed by President	4/3/2025	This bill provides a state appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the general fund to the North Dakota Department of Transportation specifically for grants to nonfixed route public transportation providers. Nonfixed route transit refers to transportation services that do not follow a predetermined, fixed route or schedule, such as demand-response or paratransit services that can be more flexible in picking up and dropping off passengers. The appropriation is designated for the state's upcoming biennial budget period, which will run from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. The bill aims to support public transportation providers that offer more adaptable transit services, likely to serve populations with specific mobility needs such as seniors, people with disabilities, or residents in rural or less densely populated areas where traditional fixed-route bus services might not be practical or cost-effective.
SB2254	AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of transportation for fixed route city paratransit transportation services grants; and to provide for a legislative management study.	Signed by Governor 04/02	4/3/2025	This bill provides a \$2 million one-time appropriation from the state's general fund to the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) to offer grants to fixed route city transportation providers for paratransit services during the 2025-2027 biennium. Additionally, the bill requires the legislative management to conduct a comprehensive study during the 2025-26 interim period focusing on the funding needs of fixed route city transportation networks. The study will examine how these transportation systems can address critical areas such as population growth, economic development, workforce needs, and healthcare accessibility. As part of the study, the legislative management is tasked with developing a proposed funding formula for fixed route city transportation systems within the DOT budget. The legislative management must then report its findings and recommendations, along with any necessary legislation, to the 70th legislative assembly. Paratransit services typically provide transportation for individuals with disabilities who cannot use standard fixed route public transportation, making this bill important for ensuring accessible transportation options.