

North Dakota Legislative Council

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Legislative Council

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TO: ALL EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCH AGENCY HEADS

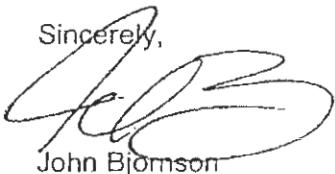
Joint Rule 208 provides executive branch agencies and the Supreme Court may prefile bills, **other than bills making appropriations**, with the Legislative Council before a legislative session. The rule provides the bills must be prefiled by the close of business on the day after the adjournment of the organizational session. We anticipate the organizational session will adjourn on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, so the deadline for introduction of agency bills will be the close of business on Thursday, December 8, 2022. A copy of Joint Rule 208 is attached for your information. Please notice the rule extends the introduction privilege to bills only and does not include resolutions.

The filing of agency bills has proven to be an efficient and timesaving factor in assisting the Legislative Assembly in managing its workload. By directly introducing bills, agency officials do not need to spend their time or that of legislators in soliciting sponsors for agency bills. Agencies also may ask a legislator to sponsor agency bills, and the same deadline applies. The signed authorization by the legislator must accompany the bill when it is prefiled with the Legislative Council.

Legislative rules for the 2023 legislative session will be adopted at the organizational session on December 5-7, 2022. We recommend you begin planning agency legislation as soon as possible so you can comply with the December 8 introduction deadline. Anyone on your staff who will be drafting bills for the 2023 legislative session should plan to attend a legislative drafting seminar sponsored by the Legislative Council staff from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, in the House Chamber in the State Capitol. Attendees have the option of attending the legislative drafting seminar in person or via Microsoft Teams. You may register online at <https://ndlegis.gov/2022-legislative-drafting-seminar>.

If you have any comments or suggestions concerning the rules on agency bill introductions, you may wish to express your concerns to the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee in care of the Legislative Council.

Sincerely,



John Bjornson
Director

JB/BM
Encs.