

PROPOSED HOUSE AND JOINT RULES
AMENDMENTS RELATING TO A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1 With respect to adoption of the rules by the House during a special session called to order
2 in 2026, the relevant motion would be:

3 That the House and Joint Rules of the 69th Legislative Assembly, in effect upon the
4 adjournment of the 2025 regular legislative session, be amended as follows for the
5 extraordinary session of the 69th Legislative Assembly:

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of House Rule 318 is amended as follows:

7 4. The following questions require a two-thirds vote of the members-elect of the House:

- 8 a. Initiated and referred measures amended or repealed within seven years after
9 enactment or approval, as provided in Section 8, Article III, of the Constitution
10 and House Rule 339.
- 11 b. Emergency clauses, as provided in Section 13, Article IV, of the Constitution.
- 12 c. Vetoed measures, reconsideration, as provided in Section 9, Article V, of the
13 Constitution.
- 14 d. Adoption of propositions of a divided question if the division would require a
15 two-thirds vote of the members-elect, as provided in House Rule 319.
- 16 e. To recede before a conference in a case where two-thirds governs, as provided
17 in Joint Rule 202.
- 18 f. ~~Second reading same day as report, as provided in House Rule 337.~~
- 19 g. Reconsideration after the next legislative day, as provided in House Rule 348.
- 20 h.g. Reconsideration after a clincher motion, as provided in House Rule 349.
- 21 i.h. Suspension of requirement that copies of amendments be distributed before
22 acted on, as provided in House Rule 601.
- 23 j.i. Amendment, reconsideration, or suspension of a joint rule, as provided in Joint
24 Rule 105.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes the requirement for a two-thirds vote of the members-elect to hold second reading on the same day an item is reported from committee.

25 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 329 is amended as follows:

26 **329. Measures referred to the Joint Appropriations Committee.**

- 1 1. Every bill providing an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars or more must be referred or rereferred to and acted on by the Appropriations Committee before final action by the House thereon, unless Unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present.
- 2 2. before final action by the House, the following must be referred or rereferred to and acted on by the Joint Appropriations Committee:
 - 7 a. Every bill approved for introduction by a two-thirds vote of the members of the House present and voting which provides an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars or more or resolution with~~has~~ a fiscal note stating the measure has an effect of two hundred thousand dollars or more on the appropriation for a state agency or department must be rereferred to and acted on by the Appropriations Committee before final action by the House thereon, unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present; and
 - 14 b. Every bill amended to include an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars or more or amended in a manner that results in a fiscal note stating the measure has an effect of two hundred thousand dollars or more on the appropriation for a state agency or institution.
- 18 3.2. A bill or resolution required to be referred or rereferred to the Joint Appropriations Committee which received a do not pass recommendation from committee and which then is passed by the House is deemed reconsidered and must be referred to and acted upon by the Joint Appropriations Committee if that measure has not been referred or rereferred to the Joint Appropriations Committee before passage. The Joint Appropriations Committee shall report the measure back to the House for action in accordance with these rules.
- 25 4. Except for bills approved for introduction after the deadline for introduction of bills, all House bills required to be rereferred to the Appropriations Committee must be rereferred not later than the twenty-third legislative day and all Senate bills required to be rereferred to the Appropriations Committee must be rereferred not later than the fifty-fifth legislative day. If an appropriation bill is not reported to the floor and rereferred as required herein, the bill is deemed rereferred and is under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee at the end of the twenty-third or fifty-fifth legislative day, as appropriate.

NOTE: This rule amendment pertains to referral or rereferral of bills to the Joint Appropriations Committee and requires any bill approved for introduction by a two-thirds vote of the members of the House present and voting, which provides an appropriation of \$100,000 or more, has a fiscal note indicating an effect of \$200,000 or more, is amended to include an appropriation of \$100,000 or more, or is amended in a manner that results in a fiscal note indicating an effect of \$200,000 or more, must be referred or rerefereed to and acted on by the Joint Appropriations Committee.

1 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 337 is amended as follows:

2 **337. Second reading.** No bill requiring the approval of the Governor, no resolution
3 proposing a change in the Constitution of North Dakota, and no resolution ratifying an
4 amendment to the Constitution of the United States may be referred, except in the case of a bill
5 or resolution that is prefiled pursuant to House Rule 401, or amended until it has been read; nor
6 may any such bill or resolution have its second reading and final passage until at least one day
7 after ~~it has been reported to the House by the committee to which it was referred, provided that~~
8 ~~any such bill or resolution may have its second reading and final passage on the same day it is~~
9 ~~reported back when so ordered by two-thirds of the members-elect of the House~~its first reading.

NOTE: This rule amendment allows the second reading and final passage of a bill or resolution to occur on the same day the measure is reported from committee without requiring a two-thirds vote of the members-elect of the House.

10 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 347 is amended as follows:

11 **347. Transmittal of measure to Senate - Notice of intention to reconsider.**

12 1. After the second reading of a bill or resolution, the Chief Clerk shall retain the bill or
13 resolution until the end of the next legislative day, unless the bill or resolution has
14 previously been disposed of.

15 2. On the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh legislative days and after the fifty-seventh
16 legislative day, the Chief Clerk shall transmit the bill or resolution to the Senate
17 immediately upon adjournment of the last session on that day unless action on the bill
18 or resolution is pending as the result of the House passing a motion to reconsider or
19 unless the Majority or Minority Leader has given notice of intention to move the
20 reconsideration of that bill or resolution.

21 3. After the sixty-sixth legislative day, the Chief Clerk shall transmit the bill or resolution
22 to the Senate immediately after the second reading of the bill or resolution unless the
23 Majority or Minority Leader has given notice of intention to move the reconsideration of
24 that bill or resolution.

1 4. When a member in explaining the member's vote states to the House that the
2 member's vote is for the purpose of reconsideration, that statement also is notice of
3 such intention.

4 5. If notice is given by a member other than the Majority or Minority Leader but the
5 motion to reconsider is not made before the end of the next legislative day, the Chief
6 Clerk shall transmit the bill or resolution to the Senate at the end of that next legislative
7 day.

8 2. If notice of intention to move reconsideration is given by the Majority or Minority
9 Leader, the Chief Clerk shall retain the bill or resolution until adjournment of that day's
10 session.

NOTE: This rule amendment allows immediate transmittal of a measure to the other house after second reading unless notice of intention to reconsider is given by the Majority or Minority Leader.

11 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of House Rule 401 is amended as follows:

12 1. Any bill or resolution that conforms to statutory requirements and these rules, ~~within~~
13 ~~the number and time prescribed~~, may be introduced by any member, standing
14 committee, or the Legislative Management, by filing the bill or resolution with the Chief
15 Clerk, who shall number consecutively each bill or resolution.

NOTE: This rule amendment eliminates references to introducing bills within the number and time prescribed (under House Rule 402). House Rule 402 is proposed for amendment to eliminate references to introducing numbers of bills depending on the legislative day.

16 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 402 is amended as follows:

17 **402. When introduced.**

18 1. ~~No member other than the Majority and Minority Leaders may introduce more than five bills as prime sponsor after the third legislative day. No bill or resolution may be introduced after the eighth legislative day, and no resolution, except those resolutions described in subsection 3, may be introduced after the sixteenth legislative day, except only upon approval of a majority of the Delayed Bills Committee Legislative Management or upon two-thirds vote of the members of the House present and voting.~~

24 2. ~~No bill introduced at the request of an executive agency or the Supreme Court may be introduced after the close of business on the day after the adjournment of the organizational session, except upon approval of a majority of the Delayed Bills Committee.~~

1 3. Resolutions that propose amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota and
2 resolutions directing the Legislative Management to carry out a study may not be
3 introduced after the thirty-fourth legislative day.

NOTE: This rule amendment restricts the introduction of bills or resolutions during the special session to those approved by the Legislative Management or by a two-thirds vote of the members of the House present and voting. The Delayed Bills Committee will not meet during the special session, thus House Rule 403 related to the Delayed Bills Committee is suspended during the special session.

4 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 501 is amended as follows:

5 **501. StandingProcedural and standing committees.**

6 1. The Committee on Committees consists of eleven members. The Majority Leader, by
7 virtue of office, is a member of the committee and shall serve as its chairman. The
8 Speaker, by virtue of office, is a member of the committee and is the vice chairman of
9 the committee. The Majority Leader shall appoint five other members from the majority
10 party and four members from the minority party to the committee. The committee shall
11 appoint standing committees concerned with matters in the fields as indicated and
12 procedural committeescommittee members to the Joint Policy Committee under Joint
13 Rule 304 and may appoint replacement members to any committee in the event of an
14 absence.

15 2. The five-day standing committee is Appropriations: (23 members) Bills and resolutions
16 referred or rereferred under House Rule 329. Except for the committee chairman,
17 each member of the committee must be appointed to one of the following divisions of
18 the committee which, for purposes of North Dakota Century Code Section 54-03-10,
19 are deemed standing committees:
20 a. Education and Environment.
21 b. Government Operations.
22 c. Human Resources.
23 3. The three-day standing committees, each with up to 14 members, are:
24 a. Education:
25 Public Schools; Libraries; Institutions of Higher Learning.
26 b. Finance and Taxation:
27 Public Debt; Taxes and Tax Laws.
28 c. Human Services:
29 Human Services; Public Health; Public Safety.

1 d. ~~Industry, Business and Labor:~~
2 Banks and Banking; Corporations; Insurance; Matters pertaining to Private
3 Business and Industry; Workers' Compensation; Unemployment Compensation;
4 Labor Laws and kindred subjects.

5 e. ~~Judiciary:~~
6 Elections and Election Privileges; Judiciary; Constitutional Revision.

7 4. ~~The two-day standing committees, each with up to 14 members, are:~~

8 a. ~~Agriculture:~~
9 Agriculture; Livestock; Drainage and Irrigation; Warehouse and Grain Grading.

10 b. ~~Energy and Natural Resources:~~
11 Game and Fish; Public Lands; Mines and Mining; Gas and Oil; Forestry.

12 c. ~~Government and Veterans Affairs:~~
13 State and Federal Affairs; Government Pensions and Benefits; Military and
14 Veterans Affairs; Industrial Commission and institutions under its supervision;
15 State Historical Society and State Parks.

16 d. ~~Political Subdivisions:~~
17 Cities; Counties; Townships; Park Districts; Apportionment.

18 e. ~~Transportation:~~
19 Highways and Bridges; Railroads; Motor Vehicles; Airlines and Airports.

20 5. ~~The procedural committees are:~~

21 a. Arrangements for House Committee Rooms, to consist of three members.

22 b. Correction and Revision of the Journal, to consist of five members.

23 c. ~~Delayed Bills, to consist of five members.~~

24 d. Employment, to consist of five members.

25 e. ~~Inaugural Planning, to consist of three members.~~

26 f.d. Rules, to consist of seven members.

NOTE: This rule amendment provides the Majority Leader shall appoint the members of the Joint Policy Committee and removes from operation during the special session the 5- and 3-day appropriations and standing committees and the Delayed Bills and Inaugural Planning Committees.

27 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 504 is amended as follows:

28 **504. Committee meetings.**

1. The Appropriations Committee meets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.
2. The three-day committees meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week.
3. The two-day committees meet on Thursday and Friday of each week.
4. The chairman of any committee, or a majority of that committee, may call meetings at times and on other days as deemed necessary.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes references to the meeting times of committees that have been suspended during the special session.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. House Rule 601 is amended as follows:

601. Report of committees.

1. The report of a committee must provide for one or more of the following recommendations with respect to the bill or resolution: do pass, do not pass, be amended, be referred to another committee, or be placed on the calendar without recommendation. However, when a committee fails to adopt any of the above recommendations due to the lack of a majority, the chairman shall report the bill to the floor with whatever minority reports individual committee members may request in accordance with House Rule 602.
2. During the fifth order of business, the Chief Clerk shall announce that committee reports have been received, if such is the case, and shall list the bill or resolution number, or other identifier, and state the accompanying committee recommendation. If the committee report is divided pursuant to House Rule 602, the Chief Clerk shall announce the majority and minority report, or reports, as well.
3.
 - a. If the committee report is for amendment, the proposed amendment must be placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day on the sixth order of business.~~ After the fifty-third legislative day, the proposed amendment must be placed on the calendar on the sixth order of business immediately after the report of the committee is received. On sixth order, the Speaker shall announce that without objection, the proposed amendments on the sixth order are deemed approved. If any member objects to a proposed amendment being approved with other proposed amendments, that amendment must be voted on as a separate item.
 - b. No action may be taken on an amendment until a verbatim copy of the amendment has been distributed to each member; provided, that on a two-thirds

1 vote of the members-elect, this may be suspended, and the amendment acted on
2 immediately after the report of the committee.

- 3 c. If the amendment is adopted by a majority vote of the members present, the
4 amended measure must then be placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative~~
5 day under the applicable order of business for second reading and final passage
6 except as provided in subdivision e ~~or~~ g.
- 7 d. If the amendment is rejected, the measure without amendment must be placed
8 on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day~~ under the applicable order of business
9 for second reading and final passage except as provided in subdivision e ~~or~~ g.
- 10 e. If the committee report is for amendment and then rereferral to another
11 committee, the measure must be rereferred to the appropriate committee after
12 adoption or rejection of the amendment. If, after adoption or rejection of the
13 amendment, a measure is subject to rereferral under House Rule 329, the
14 measure must be rereferral to the Joint Appropriations Committee, regardless of
15 whether the report provides for rereferral.
- 16 f. If the committee report does not recommend rereferral to another committee but
17 recommends that the measure pass, do not pass, or makes no recommendation,
18 the measure must be placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day~~ under
19 the applicable order of business for second reading and final passage ~~except as~~
20 ~~provided in subdivision g.~~
- 21 g. ~~On motion~~Except as provided under subdivision e, a measure must be placed on
22 the calendar for second reading and final passage immediately after action is
23 taken on the amendment. ~~If the committee report recommends the measure be~~
24 ~~placed on the calendar for second reading and final passage immediately after~~
25 ~~action is taken on the amendment, the measure must be placed on the calendar~~
26 ~~for second reading and final passage immediately after the amendment is~~
27 ~~adopted. After the thirtieth legislative day all House bills, and after the fifty-third~~
28 ~~legislative day all measures, must be placed on the calendar for second reading~~
29 ~~and final passage immediately after action is taken on the amendment. Without~~
30 ~~objection, a measure placed on the calendar under this subdivision must be~~
31 ~~acted on immediately after placement on the calendar. If more than one~~
32 ~~amendment was deemed approved under subdivision-a and the measures are~~

placed on the calendar under this subdivision, the Speaker shall announce whether the measures will be acted on immediately after placement on the calendar and the order in which the measures will be considered.

h. A report for amendment must be approved as to form and style by the Legislative Council staff. When a report for amendment is received by the Chief Clerk without a notation that the report was approved as to form and style by the Legislative Council staff, the Chief Clerk immediately shall cause that report to be delivered to the Legislative Council office with a request that the report be examined and receive a notation approving its form and style.

10 4. If the committee report is divided as provided in House Rule 602, the reports must be
11 placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day~~ on the seventh order of business.
12 The Speaker shall receive and announce a motion that the report of the minority be
13 substituted for the majority committee report. If the minority report is adopted, that
14 report is substituted for the majority report and must be placed on the calendar on the
15 eleventh or fourteenth order of business. If the minority report is not adopted, the
16 majority report is deemed adopted and must be placed on the calendar on the
17 eleventh or fourteenth order of business. If a "do not pass" report is adopted under this
18 subsection, the measure must be placed on the calendar on the eleventh or fourteenth
19 order of business. If no report is adopted under this subsection, the measure must be
20 placed on the calendar on the eleventh or fourteenth order of business unless the
21 measure is subject to rereferral under House Rule 329.

5. The if practicable, the Chief Clerk shall ensure that the daily calendar contains appropriate notation of committee reports.

NOTE: This rule amendment allows for immediate action on ame

reading after adoption or rejection of amendments without motions. The references to subdivision g as an exception are deleted because subdivision g (immediate second reading) becomes the rule rather than the exception.

SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Joint Rule 202 is amended as follows:

202. Receding before conference. Either house may recede from any subject matter of

ference existing between the two houses at any time before a conference whether the papers which the difference has arisen are before the house receding formally or informally, and a majority of the members-elect governs, except in a case where two-thirds of the members-elect required by the Constitution, and the question having been put and lost, may not be again put

1 the same day, and the consideration thereof in other respects is regulated by the rules of the
2 respective houses.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes the requirement for a day to pass before a question may be reconsidered with respect to an issue that would go to a conference committee.

3 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Joint Rule 207 is amended as follows:

4 **207. Consideration of items on consent calendar.**

- 5 1. ~~No item on the consent calendar may be considered for adoption on the same legislative day it is placed on the consent calendar.~~
- 6 2. Bills or resolutions on the consent calendar are not debatable, except that the presiding officer shall allow a reasonable time for questions from the floor and shall permit the proponents of the bills or resolutions to answer the questions.
- 7 3.2. The question of the final passage of more than one item contained on the consent calendar may be voted on in a single vote if the vote is on either bills or resolutions and not on any combination thereof in the same vote.
- 8 4.3. Immediately before voting on the first consent calendar bills or resolutions, the presiding officer shall call to the attention of the members the fact that the next vote will be the vote on the bills or resolutions on the consent calendar. A recorded roll call vote is necessary on items on the consent calendar only if a recorded roll call vote is required under Senate or House Rule 341.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes the prohibition on considering measures on the same day they are reported from committee.

18 **SECTION 12.** Joint Rule 303 is created as follows:

19 **303. Joint Appropriations Committee.**

- 20 1. A Joint Appropriations Committee must be appointed during a special session.
- 21 2. The committee consists of thirty-nine members, the twenty-three members from the House who served on the Appropriations Committee during the most recent legislative session and the sixteen members from the Senate who served on the Appropriations Committee during the most recent legislative session. The first-named member from each house is co-chairman of the committee.
- 22 3. The presiding officer shall refer to the committee all bills and resolutions that serve primarily to provide an appropriation. The committee shall meet at the call of the co-chairmen. For each bill under consideration by the committee, the co-chairman

1 from the house of introduction of the bill shall preside. Members of the committee are
2 excused from attending a meeting of any other committee while the members are
3 attending a meeting of the Joint Appropriations Committee.

4. 4. The committee shall issue joint reports on the measures referred to it, with a report
5 first being presented to the house having possession of the measure, and later
6 presented to the other house if appropriate. A majority of each house's committee
7 members must approve a recommendation before the committee may issue a joint
8 report.

9. 5. If there is a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction after
10 the joint report is reported out of the joint committee, a bill messaged to the second
11 house must be rereferred to the joint committee by the second house.

NOTE: This rule creates a 39-member Joint Appropriations Committee, comprised of the members who served on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees during the regular session. The committee shall hold joint hearings on bills and resolutions that serve primarily to provide an appropriation and shall meet at the call of the co-chairmen. The committee shall issue joint reports, which must be approved by a majority of each house's members, presented first to the bill's house of introduction. The committee is not required to meet after issuing a joint report unless the bill is subject to a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction.

12 **SECTION 13.** Joint Rule 304 is created as follows:

13 **304. Joint Policy Committee.**

14. 1. A Joint Policy Committee must be appointed during a special session.

15. 2. The committee consists of twenty-eight members, fourteen from the House and
16 fourteen from the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader in each house. The first-
17 named member from each house is co-chairman of the committee.

18. 3. The presiding officer shall refer all bills and resolutions not referred to the Joint
19 Appropriations Committee to the Joint Policy Committee. The committee shall meet at
20 the call of the co-chairmen. For each bill under consideration by the committee, the
21 co-chairman from the house of introduction of the bill shall preside. Members of the
22 committee are excused from attending a meeting of any other committee while the
23 members are attending a meeting of the Joint Policy Committee.

24. 4. The committee shall issue joint reports on the measures referred to it, with a report
25 first being presented to the house having possession of the measure, and later
26 presented to the other house if appropriate. A majority of each house's committee

1 members must approve a recommendation before the committee may issue a joint
2 report.

3 5. If there is a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction after
4 the joint report is reported out of the joint committee, a bill messaged to the second
5 house must be rereferred to the joint committee by the second house.

NOTE: This rule creates a 28-member Joint Policy Committee, comprised of members appointed by the Majority Leader in each house. The committee shall hold joint hearings on bills and resolutions not referred to the Joint Appropriations Committee and shall meet at the call of the co-chairmen. The committee shall issue joint reports, which must be approved by a majority of each house's members, presented first to the bill's house of introduction. The committee is not required to meet after issuing a joint report unless the bill is subject to a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction.

6 **SECTION 14.** Joint Rule 305 is created as follows:

7 **305. Remote testimony and participation.** The Joint Appropriations Committee and the
8 Joint Policy Committee shall allow remote testimony during committee meetings. Committee
9 members may participate remotely upon approval from the Majority Leader of the Senate or the
10 Speaker of the House.

NOTE: This rule requires the joint committees to allow remote testimony and allows members of either joint committee to participate remotely if the member receives approval from the Majority Leader of the Senate or the Speaker of the House.

11 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of Joint Rule 501 is amended as follows:

12 4. a. The agency or department preparing the fiscal note for a bill or resolution as
13 introduced shall complete and return the fiscal note to the Legislative Council not
14 later than five daysone day from the date of the request. The agency or
15 department preparing the fiscal note for an amended bill or resolution shall
16 complete and return the fiscal note to the Legislative Council not later than one
17 day from the date of the request.

18 b. The Legislative Council shall provide an electronic copy of the fiscal note to the
19 Office of Management and Budget and the Governor. The Legislative Council
20 shall make an electronic or paper copy of the fiscal note available to the
21 Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

NOTE: This rule amendment shortens the length of time for an agency or department to respond to a fiscal note request from 5 days to 1 day.

22 **SECTION 16. SUSPENSION.** House Rules 338, 403, 502, and 509 are suspended.

NOTE: This provision suspends for the duration of the special session the rules relating to the requirement for all bills and resolutions to be placed on the calendar for second reading after the 53rd legislative day (House Rule 338), the operation of the Delayed Bills

Committee (House Rule 403), the requirement for each member except the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader to serve on two standing committees (House Rule 502), and the requirement for House bills and resolutions to be reported back to the House no later than the 34th legislative day and Senate bills and resolutions to be reported back to the House no later than the 63rd legislative day (House Rule 509).