



# State Historical Society of North Dakota

Testimony

House Appropriations

House Bill

January 21, 2025

10-11 a.m.

Prairie Room

Dr. Bill Peterson, Director & ND SHPO



# One-Page Itemized Listing of Changes to Executive Recommendation


Priority	Fund	Agency Request				Armstrong Exec Rec				Agency Changes to Exec Rec					
		General		Federal		Special		Special		Federal		Special		Special	
		FTE	Total	FTE	Total	FTE	Total	FTE	Total	FTE	Total	FTE	Total	FTE	Total
1	Ongoing Funding Items Costs to continue operations	1,131,251	1,131,251	1,131,251	1,131,251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Compliance with new NAGPRA regulations	610,872	610,872	1,00	624,529	0	(12,439)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(12,439)
4	State Archives Storage for Maximum Longevity & Efficiency	365,072	365,072	0.00	0	0	170,120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170,120
7	Updating State Historical Society Visitor, Student, and Digital User Info	809,758	809,758	0.00	0	0	203,237	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	203,237
8	New Exhibition Needs for State Museum & State Historic Sites	435,244	435,244	1.00	239,496	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Revolutionizing archaeology among increasing workloads	150,796	220,080	0.00	150,796	0.00	220,080	0.00	370,876	1.00	(70,520)	(102,728)	0	0	(173,248)
11	Rural Revitalization & Cultural Heritage Grant Programs	11,685,440	11,685,440	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
14	National Resources Cultural Services Grant	15,188,433	172,402	2.00	2,146,072	0	392,482	0	2,538,554	1.00	290,398	(102,728)	0	0	187,670
<i>One-Time Funding Items</i>															
2	North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum Expansion	80,700,000	42,944,524	0	123,644,524	0	83,644,524	0	83,644,524	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Compliance with new NAGPRA regulations	106,135	106,135	0.00	106,135	0	106,135	0	106,135	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	State Archives Storage for Maximum Longevity & Efficiency	211,590	211,590	0.00	207,500	0	207,500	0	207,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	North Dakota 250 Commemoration	7,200,000	7,200,000	0.00	7,200,000	0	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Historic Structure Building Improvements	7,203,000	7,203,000	0.00	7,203,000	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Updating State Historical Society Visitor, Student, and Digital User Info	138,180	138,180	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
8	New Exhibition Needs for State Museum & State Historic Sites	642,090	642,090	0.00	642,090	0	642,090	0	642,090	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Medora Area Planning	23,470,000	23,470,000	0.00	6,470,000	0	6,470,000	0	6,470,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Revolutionizing archaeology among increasing workloads	4,090	4,090	0.00	4,090	0	4,090	0	4,090	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Rural Revitalization & Cultural Heritage Grant Programs	2,045	2,045	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
12	Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant	750,000	750,000	0.00	750,000	0	750,000	0	750,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Underrepresented Community Grant	75,000	75,000	0.00	75,000	0	75,000	0	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	National Resources Cultural Services Grant	2,011	2,011	0.00	2,011	0	2,011	0	2,011	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
15	USDA Forest Service Grant	50,000	50,000	0.00	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		14.00	134,865,563	1,269,493	42,944,524	2.00	2,463,797	1,269,493	95,756,614	1.00	290,398	(102,728)	0	0	187,670



We are requesting changes to Governor Armstrong's Executive Budget Recommendation for the following:

***Ongoing Funding Items***

- Priority 3 – We asked for authority for 3 FTE positions for tribal consultation and collections management under the new NAGPRA federal regulations. Armstrong's Executive Budget Recommendation provided the funding for 1 FTE and 2 temporary positions. With temporary positions, the state does not pay the same benefits as it would FTEs. Therefore, we are willing to decrease the recommended general fund amount by \$12,439.
- Priority 4 – We had asked for authority for 2 FTE positions to focus on the backlog of legacy records and another to assist with the management of the increasing volume of incoming records from government agencies. The executive recommendation did not provide any authority or funding for either position. The State Archivist, as mandated by NDCC 55-02.1-03, is the official custodian of North Dakota's government archival resources. To continue fulfilling this mandate, due to an increase in transfers from both state and local governments, the State Archives requesting general fund authority and funding of \$170,120 to hire one temporary position to process, rehouse, and appraise records, increasing storage longevity.
- Priority 7 – We had asked for authority for 4 FTE positions for an assistant editor to help with the increase in the workload demand for digital and print materials produced by our agency; two additional education positions to manage the growing education workloads involving North Dakota's students, teachers, and lifelong learners; and one to provide GIS and AI technical assistance to users and researchers that are required to meet the requirements under Federal and State National Historic Preservation rules. The executive recommendation did not provide any authority or funding for any of these positions. We are requesting general fund authority and funding of \$203,137 to hire one temporary education position to help the increasing workload with National History Day and the ND Studies curriculum.
- Priority 10 – We asked for authority for 2 FTE positions to conducting studies in-house at our managed properties to help set precedents in modernizing fieldwork for cultural resource management consultants to use non-destructive methods and to develop innovative procedures for consistent and timely consultation, provide efficient technical assistance to federal agencies and private applicants amongst increasing workloads. The executive recommendation provided the funding for making these 2 positions as temporary. We are requesting a change to fund 1 FTE position and remove the second position. Therefore, we are willing to decrease the



recommended general fund amount by \$70,520 and federal fund amount by \$102,728.

***One-Time Funding Items***

- Priority 11 – We are open to discussion. We have been made aware of individual bills that have been introduced in which funding is requested for cultural resource, historic preservation, revitalization and rehabilitation projects historical in nature. By funding a rural revitalization program, our agency could provide larger sums of money to revitalize and rehabilitate these types of projects. In addition, by restoring our cultural heritage grant program, small grants could continue to be given to communities throughout North Dakota for a variety of projects ranging from \$10K-\$30K.

We do not have any changes to Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation for the following:

***Ongoing Funding Items***


- \$1,131,251 in general funds for priority 1 - Costs to continue operations for costs that go above and beyond our base budget needs. Funding is requested to restore the 3% budget cuts to temporary salaries and to add temporary positions that cover maintenance, data entry, visitor services, and interns across the agency. In addition, funding is needed for increased costs associated with NDIT data processing costs for IT projects completed with State Fiscal Recovery Funds; fire and tornado insurance premiums that are going up by 25%; a new elevator maintenance contract for the elevator that was installed in the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse; storage needs for digital collections and supplies within the State Archives; and utilities as we are increasing the use and functionality of some of the 80 buildings and historic sites that we manage with the funding we've received for historic site repairs and improvements.
- Priority 11 asked for an additional FTE to monitor the Rural Revitalization & Cultural Heritage Grant programs. As no funding was provided for these grant programs, an additional FTE is not needed.

We do not have any changes to Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation for the following:

***One-Time Funding Items***

- \$83,644,524, for priority 2 – North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum Expansion in which \$38,744,524 would come from donations and \$44,200,000 would be paid from a new Legacy Fund bonding package. Private fundraising for this project continues. With a mission to “Honor, Educate, and Inspire”, there is a lot of interest in this project. We are certain we will reach our fundraising goals with the state contributing to half of this project.
- \$106,135 in general funds for priority 3 – Compliance with new NAGPRA regulations to hire a tribal consultant.
- \$207,500 in general funds for priority 4 – State Archives Storage for Maximum Longevity & Efficiency to hire a structural engineer to study the load carrying capacity in order to upgrade current storage solutions by enclosing and fireproofing storage carriages; converting microfilm and map case storage for more efficient shelving and use of space; and replacing static shelving with compact shelving, which would provide an additional 7,500 linear feet of capacity. By maximizing space usage now an expansion may be prolonged well beyond the twelve-year estimate.
- \$2,000,000 in SIIF funds for priority 5 – North Dakota 250 Commemoration to plan, fabricate, and purchase an exhibit production service for a State Museum





Governors Gallery exhibition to be installed in the Governors Gallery of the State Museum; and provide public programming and events at the State Museum and state historic sites to compliment the North Dakota 250 exhibition in communities across the state.

- \$3,000,000 in SIIF funds for priority 6 – Historic Structure Building Improvements for the list of our building improvement needs.
- \$642,090 in general funds for priority 8 - New Exhibition Needs for the State Museum & State Historic Sites for updating the Pembina Museum exhibitions by purchasing exhibit objects and installing the new gallery design, along with the creation of a new permanent fossil exhibit in the Pembina Museum’s temporary exhibits gallery. Funding would be used to increase awareness of the Pembina State Museum by designing two billboards that would reach traffic coming and going from Canada.
- \$6,470,000 in SIIF funds for priority 9 – Medora Area Planning to begin the planning stages of building an attraction at the Chateau Interpreter Center in the form of a museum focusing on hunting. This funding will also allow the agency to produce an exhibit in the temporary gallery at the Chateau Interpretive Center, along with updates to interpretive panels and the railing and panel-hanging system.
- \$4,090 in general funds for priority 10 - Revolutionizing archaeology among increasing requests for the startup costs associated with new employees.
- \$750,000 in federal funds for priority 12 - Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant to provide pass-thru Federal grant funding to qualifying subrecipients for historic preservation to National Register listed buildings located in rural communities.
- \$75,000 in federal funds for priority 13 - Underrepresented Community Grant Program to hire a consultant that would focus on survey and context development of integrated baseball players and fields in North Dakota and culminate in a National Register Nomination.
- \$2,011 in federal funds for priority 14 - Natural Resources Cultural Services Grant for the startup costs associated with new employees.
- \$50,000 in federal funds for priority 15 - USDA Forest Service to hire a full-time temporary Archaeology Collections Specialist that would support and assist with care, preservation and maintenance of the USDA Forest Service collections housed at the SHSND.