



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## Representative Landon Bahl

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## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

Chairman and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Landon Bahl, and I have the honor of representing the citizens of District 17 in the North Dakota House of Representatives.

I stand before you today to introduce House Bill 1408, a bill that proposes transitioning the North Dakota Legislature to annual sessions beginning in 2027. This bill represents a proactive approach to modernizing our legislative process while preserving the integrity of our existing framework, I firmly believe that with House Bill 1408, the following objectives would occur:

- HB 1408 would enhance fiscal and economic responsiveness by our legislature in terms of decision making. More frequent legislative sessions will allow us to better manage the state budget, respond to economic shifts in real-time, and provide necessary adjustments without delays.
- HB 1408 maintains the 80-Day Legislative Limit. This bill does not increase the total number of legislative days. Instead, it strategically distributes the existing 80 days over two years, ensuring efficiency without extending government operations.
- As this committee has heard often, the people voted for term limits. Now we need to address the challenges that term limits are bringing. To ensure we remain an equal branch of government, we will need to preserve institutional knowledge held by the legislative branch and annual sessions will allow new lawmakers to gain experience more efficiently, fostering better-informed decision-making and continuity of governance, ultimately enhancing the knowledge of our legislators.
- Interim committees will have the opportunity to conduct more meaningful research, analysis, and public engagement, ensuring that policies are better developed, reviewed, and refined before final legislative action. This will increase the effectiveness of policy decisions and reduce rushed legislation.
- Truly one of the most important objectives of this house bill is the ability to attract high-quality legislative candidates. By implementing annual sessions, we provide greater flexibility and accessibility for individuals who wish to serve, encouraging a broader, more experienced, and diverse pool of candidates to step forward and serve our great state who normally would not be able to commit to four months at one time

HB 1408 is more than just a change in our meeting schedule, it's a strategic step toward more effective governance. This forward-thinking initiative ensures North Dakota remains competitive, responsive, and well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of our citizens and economy. By granting legislative management the flexibility to determine the structure of annual sessions, this bill enhances adaptability and efficiency in lawmaking. Crafted with input from many legislators who recognize the importance of this moment, HB 1408 reflects a shared commitment to progress. If passed, annual legislative sessions would begin in 2027, paving the way for a more citizen-focused, dynamic, and resilient legislative future for North Dakota.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Government & Veterans Affairs Committee, I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of House Bill 1408. This legislation will help us build a stronger, more efficient, and more accountable government for the people of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time, and I will stand for any questions.

Regards,  
Landon Bahl