

1999 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1001

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1001

House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0-49.3
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Roxanne Ford</i>			

Minutes:

A BILL FOR AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Summary of Hearing:

Senator Gary Nelson, District 22

Supported bill.

1A: 2.2 John Dorso, District 46

Supported bill.

1A: 4.6 John Olsrud, Director of Legislative Council (See attached testimony)

1A: 24.0 Discussion on publishing of Century Codes costs. John Olsrud commented on cost coming down due to internet access.

1A: 31.0 Discussion on computer lab tops/cost for Legislators.

1A: 44.0 Discussion on Information Technology Division legislative responsibilities.

Closed hearing on HB 1001.

There was no opposition to the bill.

General Discussion

- Committee on Committees
- Rules Committee
- Confirmation Hearings
- Delayed Bills Committee
- House Appropriations
- Senate Appropriations
- Other

Date February 3, 1999			
Tape Number	Side A	B Side	Meter #
1	x		5.5-15.5
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Roxanne Kohl</i>			

Minutes:

1B: 5.5 Chairman Byerly opened the discussion on House Bill 1001.

1B: 12.3 Rep. Poolman moved an amendment to remove 1 FTE and \$52,208 in general fund dollars in subsection 2 of the bill. Rep. Carlisle 2nd the motion.

1B: 13.3 Rep. Carlisle made a motion for a DO PASS AS AMENDED. Rep. Tollefson 2nd the motion. On a Roll Call Vote the motion carried.

6 voting Yes

0 voting No

0 voting Absent

General Discussion

- Committee on Committees
- Rules Committee
- Confirmation Hearings
- Delayed Bills Committee
- House Appropriations
- Senate Appropriations
- Other

Date February 4, 1999			
Tape Number	Side A	B Side	Meter #
1		x	0-12.7
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Casey Davis</i>			

Minutes:

HB 1001 - A bill for an act providing an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the legislative branch of government; and to declare an emergency.

CHAIRMAN DALRYMPLE called the meeting to order.

1B: 2.0 REP. POOLMAN presented the Government Operations subcommittee's recommendation for a DO PASS with the proposed amendment.

1B: 3.2 REP. POOLMAN made a motion to adopt amendment 0101 to HB 1001. The motion was seconded by Rep. Carlisle. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

1B: 10.2 ACTION ON BILL Rep. Poolman made a motion for a DO PASS as amended. The motion was seconded by Rep. Carlisle. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried with 13 yeas, 2 nays, and 5 absent and not voting. Rep. Poolman will carry the bill to the floor.

CHAIRMAN DALRYMPLE closed the meeting for HB 1001.

Date: 2-4-99
 Roll Call Vote #:/

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1001

House **APPROPRIATION** Committee _____

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 0101

Action Taken Do Pass as amended

Motion Made By Poolman Seconded By Carlisle

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Ole Aarsvold		✓	Rep. Ronald Nichols	✓	
Rep. LeRoy G. Bernstein	✓		Rep. Jim Poolman	✓	
Rep. James Boehm	✓		Rep. Ken Svedjan	✓	
Rep. Rex R. Byerly	✓		Rep. Mike Timm		
Rep. Al Carlson		✓	Rep. Ben Tollefson		
Rep. Ron Carlisle	✓		Rep. Janet Wentz		
Rep. Al Carlson	✓		Chairman Jack Dalrymple	✓	
Rep. Jeff Delzer	✓				
Rep. Pam Gulleeson					
Rep. Serenus Hoffner	✓				
Rep. Robert Huether	✓				
Rep. James Kerzman	✓				
Rep. Ed Lloyd	✓				
Rep. David Monson					

Total (Yes) 13 No 2

Absent 5

Floor Assignment Poolman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

1999 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1001

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1001

Senate Appropriations Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 5, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	X		80-2615
3/30/99 1	X		228-342
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Kathy C. Kotteleroch</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR NETHING: Opened the hearing on HB1001; A BILL FOR AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

GARY NELSON: State Senator from District 22 appearing on HB1001 as the Chairman of the Legislative Council (tape 2, side A, meter 80-2615). HB1001 includes the appropriation for both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. As you get into the budget, you will see the Legislative Assembly's budget is reduced by \$172,497 as compared to the 1997/1999 biennium. We do have an increase in the Legislative Council budget of \$409,000. That figure will be reduced by the amount the House reduced the bill. We are very fortunate to have the staff we have supporting the Legislature in our Legislative Council staff. This committee more than any other committee can appreciate the support and the information that our fiscal analysts and our entire fiscal staff presents to the Legislative Assembly. We are truly blessed to have that kind of support. The legal staff is absolutely as competent. We are seeing something that I think is really positive, a longer period of time that our people are staying with us and working for us and that translates into greater efficiencies, particularly in the bill drafting process at a Legislative Assembly and just the institutional and historical knowledge that they develop over the years that they are here is invaluable to us. We also in the Legislative Assembly budget have a number of employees funded and each year I'm very pleased by the caliber of our committee clerks and anybody who's actually been involved with us. We've been very, very fortunate to have the kind of support that we have. In the Legislative Assemblies budget, as far as our employees are concerned, in 1993 we had 136 employees employed, in 1999 we have 84 employees. At times we have been criticized by cutting back to far, there aren't enough people, particularly pages to handle some of the things, but I think we have demonstrated a responsibility to the people of the State. As we have continued to increase our technology in the Legislature, we have been able to decrease the number of employees we used to rely upon. We also need to understand that some of the reduction comes from the privatization of the steno pool and the bill

room. I think we will continue to look at methods where by we might be able to continue to privatize some of this operation, if in fact it is positive for the organization. I do think this budget is a fiscally responsible budget. We have shown that we are operating more efficiently than in the past and I would have you take note that the House reduced the budget by \$95,934. A part of that comes from a reduction in the salary package from 3/3 to 2/2. There was additional reductions over and above that. We are not asking that you reinstate that at this time however, I know by the diligence shown by this committee in the past, as you examine it and if you find the rational for why these reduction were made, we would certainly agree that they should not be reinstated.

JOHN OLSRUD: Director, North Dakota Legislative Council to testify in support of HB1001 (testimony attached (tape 2, side A, meter 528-1790).

SENATOR ANDRIST: We have had so many technology issues before us. We buy technology because it going to do so many things, and indeed it does, but it never seems to produce savings in the bottom line. Have we seen any savings?

JOHN OLSRUD: I'm not sure I can answer that question better than anybody else. You might not save money but you will probably reduce the growth that would otherwise have been there if you had not done this. There is a trade off. We in the Legislative Branch have reduced the number of employees. Because Legislatures have computers, they no longer need bill books. Many of those employees spent half of each day updating those bill books. That reduction is in there but, we can't show a dollar saving because we're spending far more on the computers and technology that we were paying those employees. That's a tradeoff. What one person can do today compared to the old manual typewriters and etc., is phenomenal. We've reduced the demand for parking but, we can't show you a dollar savings. Hopefully, part of the reason the Legislature is able to end sessions in sixty some days is because of the technology. We don't have to wait for all these people to do all these things, bills, amendments, engrossed bills, etc.

SENATOR ST. AUBYN: The House removed that vacant secretary position, do you need that?

JOHN OLSRUD: When we had a vacancy, we normally hired during Legislative sessions out of the temporary employees. We feel we can do without. People are extremely productive today.

GARY NELSON: John talked about SB2055, which is the bill that passed the Senate several weeks ago, increasing the interim compensation from \$62.50 to \$91. The \$75 was figured in the budget because the Legislative Compensation Commission suggested \$75. The Senate increased that up to \$91 and this is the amendment that will reflect the increase that was caused by the passage of SB2055, a total of \$79,165.

SENATOR NETHING: Appointed a subcommittee: Senator Nething, Chair, Senator Kringstad, Senator Tallackson.

SENATOR NETHING: Closed the hearing on HB1001.

3/30/99 Tape 1, Side A, Meter 228-342

SENATOR NETHING: Reconvened the hearing on HB1001.

SENATOR NETHING: Called for the motion on HB1001.

SENATOR KRINGSTAD: Moved a Do Pass on HB1001.

SENATOR TALLACKSON: Seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: 14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT & NOT VOTING.

CARRIER: SENATOR TALLACKSON

SENATOR NETHING: Closed the hearing on HB1001.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1001

Page 1, line 19, replace "4,116,366" with "4,195,531"

Page 1, line 23, replace "6,663,116" with "6,742,281"

Page 1, line 24, replace "14,983,332" with "15,062,497"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

DEPARTMENT 160 - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SENATE - This amendment makes the following changes:

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	HOUSE VERSION	SENATE CHANGES	SENATE VERSION
Salaries and wages	\$4,207,745	\$4,116,366	\$79,165	\$4,195,531
Operating expenses	2,043,811	2,043,811		2,043,811
Equipment	20,000	20,000		20,000
Information technology program	487,494	482,939		482,939
Total all funds	\$6,759,050	\$6,663,116	\$79,165	\$6,742,281
Less special funds				
General fund	\$6,759,050	\$6,663,116	\$79,165	\$6,742,281
FTE	37.00	36.00	0.00	36.00

Detail of Senate changes to the House version includes:

	ADD PER DIEM FUNDING	TOTAL SENATE CHANGES
Salaries and wages	\$79,165 ¹	\$79,165
Operating expenses		
Equipment		
Information technology program		
Total all funds	\$79,165	\$79,165
Less special funds		
General fund	\$79,165	\$79,165
FTE	0.00	0.00

Senate changes narrative:

¹ Adds funding to provide for a per diem rate of \$91 as provided in Senate Bill No. 2055. Under current law the per diem rate is \$62.50. As introduced, Senate Bill No. 2055 which was recommended by the Legislative Compensation Commission provided for per diem at \$75 and based on this recommendation the Legislative Council budget included \$61,848 from the general fund to provide for this increase. As a result of the Senate action increasing per diem from \$75 to \$91, this amendment adds the \$79,165 from the general fund that is necessary to provide for the \$91 rate for the 1999-2001 biennium.

Date: 3/30/99
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. Engrossed HB 1001

Senate APPROPRIATIONS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Senator Kringstad Seconded By Senator Tallackson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Nething, Chairman	✓				
Senator Naaden, Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Solberg	✓				
Senator Lindaas	✓				
Senator Tallackson	✓				
Senator Tomac	✓				
Senator Robinson	✓				
Senator Krauter	✓				
Senator St. Aubyn	✓				
Senator Grindberg	✓				
Senator Holmberg	✓				
Senator Kringstad	✓				
Senator Bowman	✓				
Senator Andrist	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Tallackson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 30, 1999 9:02 a.m.

Module No: SR-57-5935
Carrier: Tallackson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1001, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Nething, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1001 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HB 1001

January 21, 1999

**STATEMENT OF JOHN D. OLSRUD, DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, REGARDING HOUSE BILL NO. 1001,
JANUARY 21, 1999**

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Appropriations Committee--Government Operations Section.

I am here this morning appearing on House Bill No. 1001 on behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly and the members of the Legislative Council to explain the budget requests for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council for the 1999-2001 biennium.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Subdivision 1 of the bill contains the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation for the Legislative Assembly of \$8,320,216 from the general fund. This amount is \$172,497 less than the 1997-99 appropriation of \$8,492,713. The amount requested is considered necessary for the organizational session and a 77 legislative day (108 calendar day) regular 2001 legislative session. The following schedule presents the number of legislative days for previous sessions:

Legislative Session	Legislative Days
1997	66
1995	67
1993	77
1991	67
1989	75

The 1997 Legislative Assembly provided funding for an estimated 72 legislative day 1999 legislative session; however, because the 1997 session was shorter than anticipated, funding is available for an estimated 77 legislative day 1999 session.

Salaries and Wages

The salaries and wages line item of approximately \$4.8 million includes funding for:

- Legislative employees' pay for the 2001 session based on the same number of employees employed for the 1997 legislative session of 89.
- Legislators' salary policy of \$111 per day for a 77 legislative day regular session (108 calendar days). Additional compensation of \$10 per calendar day for the legislative leaders and \$5 per calendar day for chairmen of the standing committees and assistant legislative leaders.
- Legislators' monthly compensation of \$250 per month. Health insurance coverage for 121 legislators. Currently, 126 legislators receive health insurance coverage.

Operating Expenses

The operating expenses line item of approximately \$3.3 million includes funding for:

- Legislators' travel costs for 16 trips at 25 cents per mile during the regular session and one trip for the organizational session.
- Lodging costs of \$650 per month for 135 legislators for four months.
- Data processing costs of approximately \$1.7 million for operating and maintaining current legislative computer systems. Funding of \$365,000 is included for beginning to convert legislative session computer systems from the current mainframe system to a client/server-based system and \$238,000 to convert the legislative budget status system from the current mainframe system to a client/server system.
- Professional services of approximately \$369,000 includes funding for the privatization of legislative secretarial services (\$50,000), bill and journal room operations (\$50,000), and for information technology consulting services (\$255,500).

Equipment

The equipment line item of \$42,150 is \$274,846 less than the 1997-99 budget and is the amount considered necessary for the 1999-2001 biennium. The 1997-99 budget includes \$287,796 used to purchase personal computers for legislators which is not being requested for the 1999-2001 biennium.

National Conference of State Legislatures

The National Conference of State Legislatures line item of \$158,113 is an increase of \$8,719 from the 1997-99 budget of \$149,394. This represents North Dakota's contribution to NCSL and the amount is based on NCSL's estimate of North Dakota's share of the NCSL budget for fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Subdivision 2 of House Bill No. 1001 contains the 1999-2001 appropriation for the Legislative Council of \$6,759,050 from the general fund, which is \$409,358 more than the 1997-99 general fund appropriation of \$6,349,692. In addition, the Legislative Council received a \$250,000 special fund appropriation for the 1997-99 biennium relating to the selling of legislative information. This special fund appropriation is not necessary for the 1999-2001 biennium because of the revolving fund which was established by the 1997 Legislative Assembly.

Salaries and Wages

The salaries and wages line item of approximately \$4.2 million includes funding for:

- Thirty-three FTE positions, the same level authorized for the 1997-99 biennium. The line item includes \$175,225 from the general fund for the Governor's recommended salary and fringe benefits adjustment.
- Temporary employees' pay during the 2001 legislative session.
- Legislators per diem for meetings during the interim of \$371,582, \$57,093 more than the 1997-99 per diem budgeted amount of \$314,489. This request is based on the same number of committees (23) appointed during the 1997-98 interim and assumes an 87.5 percent attendance rate at committee meetings. Senate Bill No. 2055, recommended by the Legislative Compensation Commission, increases legislative per diem for attending interim Legislative Council meetings by \$12.50 per day, from \$62.50 to \$75. The estimated cost of this increase for the 1999-2001 biennium of \$61,848 is included in this line item.

Operating Expenses

The operating expenses line item of approximately \$2 million includes funding for:

- Legislators' travel expenses relating to meetings during the interim of \$686,099, \$15,352 less than the 1997-99 budget of \$701,451. The funding request is based on the same number of committees (23) appointed during the 1997-98 interim and assumes an 87.5 percent attendance rate at committee meetings.
- Data processing costs of \$597,625, \$13,322 less than the 1997-99 budget of \$610,947. Major data processing costs included in the 1999-2001 request include \$205,000 for Phase 2 of the administrative code conversion project and \$182,000 for central processing unit (CPU) charges from the Information Services Division.
- Professional services of \$391,500, which is \$59,375 more than the 1997-99 budget. Major professional services include contracting for the Legislative Council audit (\$3,500) and the State Auditor's office audit (\$10,000), information technology consulting services (\$246,000), and other consulting services to assist with interim committee studies when required (\$130,000).
- Other operating expenses changes are based on the Office of Management and Budget's guidelines as they are applicable and anticipated needs in other areas.

Equipment

The equipment line item of \$20,000 is \$13,160 less than the 1997-99 budget of \$33,160 and is the amount considered necessary for the 1999-2001 biennium.

Information Technology

The information technology line item of \$487,494 is \$20,534 more than the 1997-99 budget of \$466,960. The increase relates to the Governor's recommended salary and fringe benefits adjustment. This program includes four FTE positions authorized by the 1997 Legislative Assembly but which have not been filled. The funding is being requested in a separate line item to provide the Legislative Council flexibility to either hire FTE positions or to contract for consulting services to meet its information technology requirements for the 1999-2001 biennium.

I will be happy to attempt to answer any questions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
AS OF FEBRUARY 18, 1999

BILL #/DEPARTMENT	LINE	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	HOUSE VERSION	HOUSE DIFF TO EXEC BUDGET	SENATE VERSION	SENATE DIFF TO EXEC BUDGET	DIFF BETWEEN HOUSE & SENATE
HB1001 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	SALARIES AND WAGE	4,828,739	4,828,739	0+	0	0+	0+
	OPERATING EXPENSE	3,291,214	3,291,214	0+	0	0+	0+
	EQUIPMENT	42,150	42,150	0+	0	0+	0+
	NCSL	158,113	158,113	0+	0	0+	0+
	TOTAL	8,320,216	8,320,216	0+	0	0+	0+
150	SPECIAL FUNDS	0	0	0+	0	0+	0+
	GENERAL FUND	8,320,216	8,320,216	0+	0	0+	0+
	TOTAL	8,320,216	8,320,216	0+	0	0+	0+
HB1001 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	SALARIES AND WAGE	4,207,745	4,116,366	91,379-	0	0+	0+
	OPERATING EXPENSE	2,043,811	2,043,811	0+	0	0+	0+
	EQUIPMENT	20,000	20,000	0+	0	0+	0+
	INFO TECH	487,494	482,939	4,555-	0	0+	0+
	TOTAL	6,759,050	6,663,116	95,934-	0	0+	0+
160	SPECIAL FUNDS	0	0	0+	0	0+	0+
	GENERAL FUND	6,759,050	6,663,116	95,934-	0	0+	0+
	TOTAL	6,759,050	6,663,116	95,934-	0	0+	0+
BILL TOTAL	TOTAL	15,079,266	14,983,332	95,934-	0	0+	0+
HB1001	SPECIAL FUNDS	0	0	0+	0	0+	0+
	GENERAL FUND	15,079,266	14,983,332	95,934-	0	0+	0+

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

DEPARTMENT 160 - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE - This amendment makes the following changes:

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	HOUSE CHANGES	HOUSE VERSION
Salaries and wages	\$4,207,745	(\$91,379)	\$4,116,366
Operating expenses	2,043,811		2,043,811
Equipment	20,000		20,000
Information technology program	487,494	(4,555)	482,939
Total all funds	\$6,759,050	(\$95,934)	\$6,663,116
Less special funds			
General fund	\$6,759,050	(\$95,934)	\$6,663,116
FTE	37.00	(1.00)	36.00

Detail of House changes to the executive budget include:

	REDUCE COMPENSATION PACKAGE TO 2/2	ADJUST HEALTH INSURANCE COST	REMOVE VACANT SECRETARIAL POSITION	TOTAL HOUSE CHANGES
Salaries and wages	(\$48,295)	\$9,124	(\$52,208)	(\$91,379)
Operating expenses				
Equipment				
Information technology program	(5,695)	1,140		(4,555)
Total all funds	(\$53,990)	\$10,264	(\$52,208)	(\$95,934)
Less special funds				
General fund	(\$53,990)	\$10,264	(\$52,208)	(\$95,934)
FTE	0.00	0.00	(1.00)	(1.00)

Department 150 - Legislative Assembly
House Bill No. 1001

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1999-2001 Executive Budget	0.00	\$8,320,216	\$0	\$8,320,216
1997-99 Legislative Appropriations	0.00	8,492,713	0	8,492,713
Increase (Decrease)	0.00	(\$172,497)	\$0	(\$172,497)

* In addition, this amount has been increased by \$357,061 of 1995-97 carryover authority.

Major Items Affecting Legislative Assembly 1999-2001 Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Adds funds for increasing the number of legislative days budgeted for the 2001 legislative session compared to the 1999 legislative session. Funding is included for a 77-day 2001 legislative session, 5 days more than the 72 days approved for the 1999 session.	\$183,247		\$183,247
2. Reduces funding as a result of the 1997 session being shorter than anticipated	(385,486)		(385,486)
3. Reduces data processing funding relating to maintenance and improvements on legislative computer systems	(200,996)		(200,996)

Major Legislation Affecting Legislative Assembly

House Bill No. 1415 provides that the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate be paid an additional \$250 per month of compensation effective December 1, 2000. The additional cost to the Legislative Assembly for the 1999-2001 biennium as a result of this change totals \$7,536 from the general fund.

Department 160 - Legislative Council
House Bill No. 1001

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1999-2001 Executive Budget	37.00	\$6,759,050	\$0	\$6,759,050
1997-99 Legislative Appropriations	37.00	6,349,692	250,000	6,599,692
Increase (Decrease)	0.00	\$409,358	(\$250,000)	\$159,358

* In addition, this amount has been increased by \$162,402 of 1995-97 carryover authority.

Major Items Affecting Legislative Council 1999-2001 Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Adds funds for increasing interim per diem by \$12.50, from \$62.50 to \$75.00 as recommended by the Legislative Compensation Commission (Senate Bill No. 2055 (see below) was amended by the Senate to provide per diem at \$91 rather than \$75.)	\$61,848		\$61,848
2. Removes funding relating to the legislative services fund. The 1997 Legislative Assembly established, within the Legislative Council, a revolving fund that may be used for providing legislative information services. Because moneys in the fund of up to \$250,000 per biennium are appropriated on a continuing basis, a specific biennial appropriation is not needed.		(\$250,000)	(250,000)
3. Increases funding for professional services relating to additional data processing consulting services and an increase in audit fees	59,375		59,375

Major Legislation Affecting Legislative Council

Senate Bill No. 2031 creates a Legislative Agency Review Committee to coordinate and direct activities involved in the development of recommendations to assist the Legislative Assembly as it develops policy and provides appropriations for the operations of state government. The estimated cost for the 1999-2001 biennium is \$439,482, including three FTE positions. This funding is not included in Senate Bill No. 2031 nor in the amounts included in House Bill No. 1001 for the Legislative Council.

Senate Bill No. 2043 reduces the Legislative Council's involvement in information technology activities of state government.

Senate Bill No. 2044 establishes a statutory Information Technology Committee of the Legislative Council to review and study information technology of state government.

Senate Bill No. 2055 increases legislative compensation for attending interim Legislative Council meetings by \$28.50 per day, from \$62.50 to \$91. The estimated cost for the 1999-2001 biennium is \$141,013; however, \$61,848 is included in the Legislative Council funding in House Bill No. 1001; therefore, the additional funding needed for the 1999-2001 biennium is \$79,165.

March 2, 1999

STATEMENT OF JOHN D. OLSRUD, DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, REGARDING ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1001, MARCH 5, 1999

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

I am here this morning appearing on Engrossed House Bill No. 1001 on behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly and the members of the Legislative Council to explain the budget requests for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council for the 1999-2001 biennium.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Subdivision 1 of the bill contains the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation for the Legislative Assembly of \$8,320,216 from the general fund. This amount is \$172,497 less than the 1997-99 appropriation of \$8,492,713. The amount requested is considered necessary for the organizational session and a 77 legislative day (108 calendar day) regular 2001 legislative session. The following schedule presents the number of legislative days for previous sessions:

Legislative Session	Legislative Days
1997	66
1995	67
1993	77
1991	67
1989	75

The 1997 Legislative Assembly provided funding for an estimated 72 legislative day 1999 legislative session; however, because the 1997 session was shorter than anticipated, funding is available for an estimated 77 legislative day 1999 session.

Salaries and Wages

The salaries and wages line item of approximately \$4.8 million includes funding for:

- Legislative employees' pay for the 2001 session based on the same number of employees employed for the 1997 legislative session of 89.
- Legislators' salary policy of \$111 per day for a 77 legislative day regular session (108 calendar days). Additional compensation of \$10 per calendar day for the legislative leaders and \$5 per calendar day for chairmen of the standing committees and assistant legislative leaders.
- Legislators' monthly compensation of \$250 per month. House Bill No. 1415 increases the monthly compensation for the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate by \$250 per month, from \$250 to \$500 effective December 1, 2000. The estimated additional cost of this change for the 1999-2001 biennium is \$7,536.

- Health insurance coverage for 121 legislators. Currently, 126 legislators receive health insurance coverage.

Operating Expenses

The operating expenses line item of approximately \$3.3 million includes funding for:

- Legislators' travel costs for 16 trips at 25 cents per mile during the regular session and one trip for the organizational session.
- Lodging costs of \$650 per month for 135 legislators for four months.
- Data processing costs of approximately \$1.7 million for operating and maintaining current legislative computer systems. Funding of \$365,000 is included for beginning to convert legislative session computer systems from the current mainframe system to a client/server-based system and \$238,000 to convert the legislative budget status system from the current mainframe system to a client/server system.
- Professional services of approximately \$369,000 includes funding for the privatization of legislative secretarial services (\$50,000), bill and journal room operations (\$50,000), and for information technology consulting services (\$255,500).

Equipment

The equipment line item of \$42,150 is \$274,846 less than the 1997-99 budget and is the amount considered necessary for the 1999-2001 biennium. The 1997-99 budget includes \$287,796 used to purchase personal computers for legislators which is not being requested for the 1999-2001 biennium.

National Conference of State Legislatures

The National Conference of State Legislatures line item of \$158,113 is an increase of \$8,719 from the 1997-99 budget of \$149,394. This represents North Dakota's contribution to NCSL and the amount is based on NCSL's estimate of North Dakota's share of the NCSL budget for fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Subdivision 2 of Engrossed House Bill No. 1001 contains the 1999-2001 appropriation for the Legislative Council of \$6,663,116 from the general fund, which is \$313,424 more than the 1997-99 general fund appropriation of \$6,349,692. In addition, the Legislative Council received a \$250,000 special fund appropriation for the 1997-99 biennium relating to the selling of legislative information. This special fund appropriation is not necessary for the 1999-2001 biennium because of the revolving fund which was established by the 1997 Legislative Assembly.

Salaries and Wages

The salaries and wages line item of approximately \$4.1 million includes funding for:

- Thirty-two FTE positions, one position less than authorized for the 1997-99 biennium. The House removed 1 vacant secretarial position. The line item includes \$136,054 from the general fund for the salary and fringe benefits adjustment.
- Temporary employees' pay during the 2001 legislative session.

- Legislators per diem for meetings during the interim of \$371,582, \$57,093 more than the 1997-99 per diem budgeted amount of \$314,489. This request is based on the same number of committees (23) appointed during the 1997-98 interim and assumes an 87.5 percent attendance rate at committee meetings. Senate Bill No. 2055, recommended by the Legislative Compensation Commission, has been amended to increase legislative per diem for attending interim Legislative Council meetings by \$28.50 per day, from \$62.50 to \$91. The estimated cost of this increase for the 1999-2001 biennium is \$141,013. As introduced, this bill was to increase the per diem rate by \$12.50 per day, from \$62.50 to \$75. This increase was estimated to cost \$61,848, and this amount has been included in the 1999-2001 biennium budget request. Because of the change approved by the Senate, an additional \$79,165 from the general fund is necessary for the Legislative Council to pay the higher per diem rate for the 1999-2001 biennium.

Operating Expenses

The operating expenses line item of approximately \$2 million includes funding for:

- Legislators' travel expenses relating to meetings during the interim of \$686,099, \$15,352 less than the 1997-99 budget of \$701,451. The funding request is based on the same number of committees (23) appointed during the 1997-98 interim and assumes an 87.5 percent attendance rate at committee meetings.
- Data processing costs of \$597,625, \$13,322 less than the 1997-99 budget of \$610,947. Major data processing costs included in the 1999-2001 request include \$205,000 for Phase 2 of the administrative code conversion project and \$182,000 for central processing unit (CPU) charges from the Information Services Division.
- Professional services of \$391,500, which is \$59,375 more than the 1997-99 budget. Major professional services include contracting for the Legislative Council audit (\$3,500) and the State Auditor's office audit (\$10,000), information technology consulting services (\$246,000), and other consulting services to assist with interim committee studies when required (\$130,000).
- Other operating expenses changes are based on the Office of Management and Budget's guidelines as they are applicable and anticipated needs in other areas.

Equipment

The equipment line item of \$20,000 is \$13,160 less than the 1997-99 budget of \$33,160 and is the amount considered necessary for the 1999-2001 biennium.

Information Technology

The information technology line item of \$482,939 is \$15,979 more than the 1997-99 budget of \$466,960. The increase relates to the salary and fringe benefits adjustment. This program includes four FTE positions authorized by the 1997 Legislative Assembly but which have not been filled. The funding is being requested in a separate line item to provide the Legislative Council flexibility to either hire FTE positions or to contract for consulting services to meet its information technology requirements for the 1999-2001 biennium.

I will be happy to attempt to answer any questions.