

ATTIRE FOR FLOOR GUESTS - PROPOSED LANGUAGE

At the July 1, 1999, meeting of the Legislative Management Committee, the discussion included comments concerning decorum and dress by guests, i.e., students, on the floor. The committee requested a statement be included in the packet of tour guide materials sent to schools informing the schools of the proper attire students must wear to be admitted as guests on the floor.

TOUR GUIDE PROGRAM MATERIALS

Early in December preceding a legislative session a letter is sent to all principals of North Dakota high schools. The letter describes the legislative tour guide program, how to schedule a legislative tour, the best time to visit the Legislative Assembly, the responsibilities of school officials, and other related programs and tours. A copy of a letter sent in December 1998 is attached to this memorandum as Appendix A.

A copy of this letter is also sent to all members of the Legislative Assembly, notifying them of the legislative tour guide program. Under the program, the tour guide lectures student groups on the legislative process and notifies legislators of the dates and times when high schools from their districts are scheduled for tours.

In addition to the memorandum provided to high school principals, a list of nine tips is provided to principals. A copy of *Tips to Help Plan Your Legislative Visit* is attached as Appendix B. Note that paragraph 2 provides: "Dress should be appropriate for the occasion. Caps are not allowed to be worn in legislative chambers or Supreme Court."

PROPOSED LANGUAGE ON STUDENT ATTIRE

The suggestion with respect to proper attire would fit after paragraph 2, regarding appropriate dress for the occasion. Suggested language is:

A legislator is allowed to have one guest per day sit with that legislator on the floor of the chamber. In order to maintain proper decorum, a student sitting as a guest on the floor must be suitably attired. No blue jeans with tee shirts or sweatshirts. Males must wear ties and sport coats or suit coats. Females must wear dresses or skirts of modest length or dress slacks.

The duties for pages and bill book clerks as distributed by the Senate and applied to pages under the Senate's "Page for a Day" program provided: "Dress properly and conduct yourself with proper decorum. Attire for male pages are coat, shirt and tie, for female pages, dress pants, dresses or skirts. No jeans are allowed."

The 1999 *North Dakota Senate Decorum Guidelines* provided: "Legislators and employees shall be suitably attired. No blue jeans. Men must wear ties and suits or sport coats and slacks. Women shall wear dresses and skirts of modest length, pantsuits, or business suits."

The 1999 House *Rules of Decorum* provided: "Legislators and employees to be suitably attired."

ATTACH:2