

**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE****Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly**

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**Bismarck, February 18, 2025**

The Senate convened at 1:00 p.m., with President Strinden presiding.

The prayer was offered by Pastor Randy Upgren, Inspire Family Fellowship, Bismarck.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senator Wobbema.

A quorum was declared by the President.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that SB 2326, which is on the Eleventh order, be rereferred to the **Judiciary Committee**, which motion prevailed. Pursuant to Sen. Klein's motion, SB 2326 was rereferred.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that after action taken on the Sixth order, SB 2156 and SB 2323 be placed on the Eleventh order for immediate second reading and final passage, which motion prevailed.

**THE SENATE RECOGNIZED THE PRESENCE OF:**

Former Senators Jessica Bell and Randy Christman

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of two be appointed to escort Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak, to the rostrum, which motion prevailed.

**PRESIDENT STRINDEN APPOINTED** Sens. Cleary and Braunberger.

**REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JULIE FEDORCHAK****February 18, 2025**

Good afternoon, Madam President, members of the Senate, and all those gathered here today.

It is an honor to stand before you in this chamber, where the work of governing North Dakota takes place.

Thank you to Majority Leader Hogue, Assistant Majority Leader Klein and Minority Leader Hogan and Assistant Minority Leader Boschee for allowing me to address the body today.

I'm one of you now. A legislator! Except things in Congress operate much differently than they do here. Only a few bills ever see the light of a committee hearing. And even fewer an actual vote on the floor.

And just last week I gave a speech to the House about the reliability challenges facing our nations electric grid and the House chamber was mostly empty! More of my colleagues watched it on CSPAN and YouTube than live on the house floor. I like your tradition of legislators showing up for floor sessions! It's nice to have you as a captive audience for a few minutes.

Let me start by thanking each of you for your dedication, and leadership. Public service is not easy. The long hours, the tough decisions, and the responsibility you carry on behalf of your constituents can be heavy. Yet, you leave your families at home to stand up for the people you represent, and to build a stronger future for this state. I respect and deeply appreciate your sacrifice and service.

We are at a defining moment, not just for North Dakota, but for our entire country.

Our federal government is bloated, inefficient, and wasteful, and as a result, we are going broke. 36 Trillion in debt. Meanwhile our adversaries, most notably China, are becoming stronger, more emboldened, and increasingly aggressive. These are not separate problems; they are two sides of the same coin.

A weak, irresponsible America creates openings for our adversaries, and they are taking full advantage. But we are not standing idly by. With unified leadership in Congress and the White House, we are turning things around.

We have renewed energy and urgency behind efforts to modernize our government, eliminate waste and abuse, and restore fiscal responsibility.

Hardworking taxpayers should be respected, not treated as an endless source of funding for reckless policies and billions in accounted for waste.

We have the opportunity, and responsibility, to put America on a stronger footing, this means rooting out fraud like millions of people marked alive to receive social security payments.

This means cutting programs that serve no real purpose; like creating a Pakistani version of "Sesame Street," and it means redirecting agencies to their core mission, not expanding their reach.

Fixing our fiscal crisis is not just about reducing waste, it's about rebuilding America's economic foundation.

Energy dominance, regulatory reform, and pro-growth tax policies are the keys to unleashing the economy, right-sizing the federal government, returning power to the states, and ensuring America is strong for generations to come.

We are a leader in oil, gas, coal, wind, power generation and emerging technologies that will shape the future of energy production. Yet recently, Washington has treated American energy like a problem instead of an asset. Burdensome regulations have slowed development, driven up costs, and made us more dependent on foreign sources. That must change.

Energy security is national security. It is also the foundation for lowering prices, increasing growth and developing new technologies.

One of the most significant national security challenges of our time is the race for artificial intelligence supremacy.

AI requires vast computing power, which means it requires abundant, reliable, and affordable energy.

If we want to outpace China and other global competitors, we need energy policy that ensures American innovation is fueled at home.

North Dakota should lead these efforts. We have more gas in the Bakken than we can use. Let's turn it into electricity, power AI computing at sites near the gas source and make more room in our pipelines for additional gas production. This grows our production, solves our gas challenge, creates a new industry and helps America lead in AI.

I'm leading a working group in the House to focus on the energy needs of AI.

Our country has the resources to power this revolution, and to export our energy and technology to our allies.

To do that, we must remove barriers to domestic production, expedite permitting processes, and invest in energy technologies like carbon capture and the domestic production of critical minerals that allow us to compete globally.

However, Washington's overreach doesn't just hinder energy, it stifles the entire economy.

Farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and manufacturers across North Dakota face unnecessary regulations that drive up costs and slow down growth.

Government should exist to serve the people, not the other way around. That's why I am working to:

Streamline permitting, so businesses and infrastructure projects aren't stuck in endless review processes.

Eliminate duplicative and outdated regulations that do nothing but drive up costs. Hold federal agencies accountable when they push rules that harm industries and communities.

For North Dakota to thrive, Washington needs to get out of the way. Our state has always been a leader in innovation, hard work, and efficiency. We don't need federal agencies telling us how to do our jobs.

For decades, Washington's approach to taxes has been backwards. They punish economic success rather than encouraging it.

The more you work, the more you produce, the more you invest, the more Washington wants to take. That is the opposite of what we need right now. Rather than raising taxes, we need to focus on policies that: minimize burdens on businesses so they create more jobs and pay workers higher wages. Let families keep more of what they earn instead of sending it to Washington to waste. Make America the best place in the world to invest and grow a business.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 delivered historic tax relief for individuals and businesses, boosting job creation, wages, and investment. However, if Congress does not act, these tax cuts will expire at the end of 2025, leading to the largest tax increase in U.S. history. Marginal tax rates for individuals would increase. In fact, the average American family will pay \$1700 more in taxes. Deductions would shrink, and small businesses would face higher tax burdens—dealing a major blow to entrepreneurship and innovation. The expiration of these tax cuts would hurt middle-class families the most, reducing their ability to save for the future, buy homes, or invest in education. We cannot allow this to happen. I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to extend the TCJA provisions.

The simple truth is Washington does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending, transparency and accountability problem. The solution is not taking more money from families and businesses. The solution is reducing waste and increasing growth—expanding the workforce, raising wages, and creating more opportunities.

That is how we rebuild our fiscal foundation. And those are the solutions I'm working to enact in Washington.

North Dakota is proof that fiscal responsibility, pro-business policies, and common-sense leadership work. Our state runs efficiently. Our state budget is balanced. Well, maybe not at this point in the session—but it will be!! We invest in our future without mortgaging it. These are the commonsense principles I am advancing in Washington. North Dakotans don't wait for Washington to fix our problems, we lead.

We don't rely on government handouts, we build, innovate, and grow. We turn food products into fuel.

We don't let uncertainty define us, we embrace opportunity and move forward.

We turn waste products like CO2 into commodities.

When other states struggle with out-of-control spending, we build a world class business climate and grow our economy. When Washington gets tangled in bureaucracy, North Dakota cuts red tape and gets things done.

North Dakota is powering the nation—literally and figuratively.

Our energy industry fuels homes and businesses across America. Our farmers and ranchers feed the world. Our businesses prove that entrepreneurship thrives where government steps aside.

We are a state of doers, problem-solvers, and leaders.

We believe in hard work, personal responsibility, and community.

We take care of our own, we support our neighbors, and we never back down from a

challenge. The rest of the country could learn a lot from North Dakota. And actually, they are! Dakota commonsense is in high demand.

The Dakotas are home to two cabinet secretaries, two nominated assistant secretaries, and the Senate Majority leader.

And another thing I've come to appreciate, our Governor Kelly Armstrong could very well have been speaker of the House if he had so desired. He was respected and adored by everyone.

As your representative in Congress, I could not be more honored, nor more motivated to work my heart out to advance our values and our industries, and see that North Dakota people are protected, respected, and prioritized because when North Dakota succeeds, America succeeds.

I take this responsibility very seriously. I will never stop fighting for North Dakota, because this isn't just a job for me.

North Dakota is my home. You are my family. And I will do everything in my power to make certain that our state and nation remain strong, prosperous, and free.

The road ahead is challenging. But I believe in North Dakota. I believe in our people.

And I know that if we seize this opportunity to make strong choices, restore power to the people and to the states, and stand together, our state and nation will be stronger than ever and a beacon of hope and opportunity for the world.

Thank you for your time, for your service, and for your commitment to this great state.

May God bless North Dakota, and our beloved United States of America.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the remarks of Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak be printed in the Journal, which motion prevailed.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the Senate resolve itself into a Confirmation Session, which motion prevailed.

#### **REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE**

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** Your **Select Committee (Sen. Paulson, Chairman)** appointed to consider the nomination to North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, do advise and consent to the appointment of Donald Campbell.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. CLEARY MOVED** that the report be adopted.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The question being, "will the Senate advise and consent to the appointment of Donald Campbell to North Dakota State Board of Higher Education," the roll was called and there were 46 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Marcellais; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Wobbema

The Senate advises and consents to the appointment of Donald Campbell to North Dakota State Board of Higher Education.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the Confirmation Session be dissolved, which motion prevailed.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2069, as engrossed: SEN. SICKLER (Appropriations Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.8065.02001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2317: SEN. ROERS (State and Local Government Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.1086.01001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO NOT PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2180: SEN. CASTANEDA (State and Local Government Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0269.01003](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2001: SEN. SICKLER (Appropriations Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0168.01002](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2156: SEN. ROERS (State and Local Government Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0330.05003](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2156:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 16.1-08.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to campaign disclosure statements; to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-08, 15.1-09-19, 16.1-01-12, and 16.1-10-04.1, and subdivision f of subsection 8 of section 51-28-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to campaign disclosure statements; and to provide a penalty.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 45 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Wobbema

Engrossed SB 2156 passed.

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**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2332: SEN. LEE (State and Local Government Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.1208.02001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2247: SEN. CORY (Transportation Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0604.01001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2019: SEN. SCHAIBLE (Appropriations Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0186.01003](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2323: SEN. RUMMEL (Appropriations Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0911.02003](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2323:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-51 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an energy impact grant fund; to amend and reenact sections 57-51-15 and 57-51.1-07.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to oil and gas gross production tax allocations and the state share of oil and gas tax allocations; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an exemption; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration date.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 45 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Wobbema

Engrossed SB 2323 passed.

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**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2330: SEN. AXTMAN (Education Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0551.05005](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2269: SEN. CASTANEDA (State and Local Government Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.1278.01001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2105: SEN. BEARD (Education Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0489.02001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2241: SEN. AXTMAN (Education Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.0799.01001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2351: SEN. BEARD (Education Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.1342.01003](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS**

**SB 2362: SEN. LEMM (Education Committee) MOVED** that the amendments ([25.1049.01001](#)) be adopted and then be placed on the Eleventh order with **DO PASS**, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2382:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 28 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to vexatious litigation; and to provide a penalty.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 45 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Wobbema

Engrossed SB 2382 passed.

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**SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2216:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 20.1-02 and a new section to chapter 20.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to waterfowl habitat restoration stamp fees and the waterfowl habitat improvement fund.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 39 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Mathern; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Sickler; Sorvaag; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston

**NAYS:** Cory; Enget; Magrum; Meyer; Schaible; Thomas

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Wobbema

Reengrossed SB 2216 passed.

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**SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2328:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a life science research council; to repeal section 4.1-01-20.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the bioscience innovation grant program; to provide a report; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to declare an emergency.

**MOTION**

**SEN. CLEARY MOVED** that Reengrossed SB 2328 be amended ([25.1162.03001](#)), which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**SB 2328:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a life science research council; to repeal section 4.1-01-20.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the bioscience innovation grant program; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to declare an emergency.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 21 YEAS, 24 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Boschee; Burckhard; Conley; Cory; Dever; Dwyer; Erbele; Kessel; Klein; Lee; Mathern; Meyer; Patten; Roers; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas;

Wanzek

**NAYS:** Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Braunberger; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Davison; Enget; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Larson; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Myrdal; Paulson; Powers; Rummel; Van Oosting; Walen; Weber; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Wobbema

Reengrossed SB 2328 failed.

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#### **SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2296:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 57-40.6-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to emergency services communications systems.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 45 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Wobbema

Engrossed SB 2296 passed.

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#### **SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2096:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for regional acute psychiatric treatment and residential supportive housing services.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. DAVISON MOVED** that Engrossed SB 2096 be amended ([25.0114.05001](#)).

#### **REQUEST**

**SEN. DAVISON REQUESTED** a verification vote on the motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Engrossed SB 2096, which request was granted.

The proposed amendments to Engrossed SB 2096 were adopted on a verification vote.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 35 YEAS, 8 NAYS, 4 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Mathern; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Sickler; Sorvaag; Van Oosting; Wanzek

**NAYS:** Cory; Enget; Meyer; Myrdal; Schaible; Thomas; Walen; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Marcellais; Patten; Weber; Wobbema

Reengrossed SB 2096 passed.



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**SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL**

**SB 2025:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 42 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 5 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Axtman; Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weston

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING:** Boschee; Marcellais; Patten; Weber; Wobbema

Engrossed SB 2025 passed.

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**MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Senate has passed, and your favorable consideration is requested on: SB 2100, SB 2213, SB 2262, SB 2325, SB 2348, SB 2358, SB 2368, SB 2385.

**MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Senate has passed, and your favorable consideration is requested on: SCR 4018.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The House has passed, and your favorable consideration is requested on: HB 1009, HB 1014, HB 1017, HB 1022, HB 1023, HB 1105, HB 1183, HB 1225, HB 1252, HB 1255, HB 1269, HB 1328, HB 1338, HB 1393, HB 1423, HB 1447, HB 1474, HB 1545, HB 1562.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The House has passed, and your favorable consideration is requested on: HCR 3016, HCR 3019, HCR 3025.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The House has passed, the emergency clause carried, and your favorable consideration is requested on: HB 1442.

**COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR KELLY ARMSTRONG**

This is to inform you that on February 18, 2025, I have signed the following: SB 2201.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the absent members be excused, which motion prevailed.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the Senate be on the Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Thirteenth orders of business and at the conclusion of those orders, the Senate stand adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 19, 2025, which motion prevailed.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2030 ([25.0377.03000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2030 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2036**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0324.03002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 3 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2036 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2097**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0231.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2097 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2231 ([25.0532.02000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2231 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2256**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0792.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2256 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2271**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1225.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2271 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2281 ([25.0684.02000](#))**

**Finance and Taxation Committee (Sen. Weber, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2281 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2297**

**Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1234.01002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2297 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2305**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0909.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2305 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2313**

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.1310.01002)** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (4 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2313 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2352 (25.1336.02000)**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2352 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2354**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.1182.03001)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2354 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2373**

**Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.1348.02001)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2373 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2374**

**Industry and Business Committee (Sen. Barta, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.1236.01001)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2374 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2377**

**Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.1366.01004)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2377 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2378 (25.0369.01000)**

**Finance and Taxation Committee (Sen. Weber, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (4 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2378 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2380**

**Industry and Business Committee (Sen. Barta, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.1138.02004)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2380 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2383**

**Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.0774.02001)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0

ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2383 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2394 ([25.1130.01000](#))**

**Industry and Business Committee (Sen. Barta, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2394 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2396**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1372.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2396 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2399 ([25.1375.02000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2399 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**FIRST READING OF HOUSE BILLS**

**HB 1009:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture commissioner; to amend and reenact section 4.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the salary of the agriculture commissioner; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**HB 1014:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the protection and advocacy project.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**HB 1017:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**HB 1022:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the retirement and investment office.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**HB 1023:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the public employees retirement system.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**HB 1105:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-07-25.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a school district's virtual learning policies.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Education Committee**.

**HB 1127:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 13-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the financial institution data security program; and to amend and reenact sections 6-01-04.1 and 6-01-04.2, subsection 7 of section 6-03-02, sections 13-04.1-01.1, 13-04.1-11.1, 13-05-07.1, 13-08-10, 13-08-11.1, and 13-09.1-14, subsection 3 of section 13-09.1-17, sections 13-09.1-38 and 13-10-05, subsection 1 of section 13-11-10, section 13-12-19, subsections 6, 21, and 22 of section 13-13-01, and sections 13-13-04 and 13-13-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the department of financial institutions, financial institutions, response to department requests, renewal of licenses, orders to cease and desist, issuance of licenses, revocation of licenses, and exemptions from licenses.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

**HB 1183:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-11 of the North

Dakota Century Code, relating to gold and silver investments; to provide a report; and to provide an effective date.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

**HB 1225:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12.1-17-03 and 12.1-32-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to reckless endangerment and habitual offenders; and to provide a penalty.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Judiciary Committee**.

**HB 1234:** A BILL for an Act to provide a transfer from the strategic investment and improvements fund to the public employees retirement system main plan.

Was read the first time and referred to the **State and Local Government Committee**.

**HB 1252:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 50-24.1-40 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the tribal health care coordination fund.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Human Services Committee**.

**HB 1255:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.

Was read the first time and referred to the **State and Local Government Committee**.

**HB 1267:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 43-13-01, 43-13-02, 43-13-05, 43-13-07, 43-13-08, 43-13-13, 43-13-13.2, 43-13-13.3, 43-13-15, 43-13-16, 43-13-17, and 43-13-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to optometrist licensure.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Workforce Development Committee**.

**HB 1269:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-44.4-02 and 54-44.6-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to procurement exemptions and an exemption from forms management requirements for the North Dakota center for distance education.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Education Committee**.

**HB 1328:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 27-20.4-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to delinquency referrals to juvenile court.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Education Committee**.

**HB 1330:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 21-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to divestment from legacy fund investments in Chinese companies; and to amend and reenact section 21-10-07.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the prudent investor rule.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

**HB 1331:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the North Dakota state college of science; and to declare an emergency.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Education Committee**.

**HB 1338:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-25.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect assessments.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Human Services Committee**.

**HB 1393:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to earned wage access providers; and to provide a penalty.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

**HB 1423:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 65-05-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to benefits for adaptations to real estate and motor vehicles; and to provide for application.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

**HB 1442:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-35 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of a legislative task force on

government efficiency; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.  
Was read the first time and referred to the **Finance and Taxation Committee**.

**HB 1447:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact sections 13-09.1-50, 13-09.1-51, 13-09.1-52, 13-09.1-53, and 13-09.1-54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to virtual-currency kiosks; and to amend and reenact section 13-09.1-44 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to virtual-currency kiosks.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

**HB 1474:** A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study of property tax reform for residential property.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Finance and Taxation Committee**.

**HB 1545:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 1-03-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to changing the name of First Nations Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**.

**HB 1562:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-07-34 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to training for mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect; and to repeal section 15.1-19-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to training for mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Human Services Committee**.

**HB 1610:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 47-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to prohibited lease provisions in a contract to lease real property.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Industry and Business Committee**.

#### **FIRST READING OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

**HCR 3016:** A concurrent resolution recognizing the benefits of enhanced oil recovery and encouraging the State of North Dakota and federal government to maintain favorable policies that support the development of carbon capture technology and utilization of carbon dioxide as a commodity for advancing energy security.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Energy and Natural Resources Committee**.

**HCR 3019:** A concurrent resolution congratulating Donald J. Trump on his inauguration as President of the United States.

Was read the first time and referred to the **Workforce Development Committee**.

**HCR 3025:** A concurrent resolution honoring the police and first responders of Fargo, North Dakota.

Was read the first time and referred to the **State and Local Government Committee**.

The Senate stood adjourned pursuant to Senator Klein's motion.

**Shanda Morgan, Secretary**