

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

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Bismarck, April 29, 2025

The Senate convened at 8:00 a.m., with President Pro Tempore Davison presiding.

The prayer was offered by Pastor Rich Wyatt, Living Hope of the Nazarene, Bismarck.

The roll was called and all members were present.

A quorum was declared by the President Pro Tempore.

CORRECTION AND REVISION OF THE JOURNAL

MR. PRESIDENT: Your **Committee on Correction and Revision of the Journal (Sen. Beard, Chairman)** has carefully examined the Journal of the Sixty-seventh Day and recommends that it be corrected as follows and when so corrected, recommends that it be approved:

Page 1171, line 11, replace "Reengrossed" with "Engrossed"

Page 1171, line 13, replace "Reengrossed" with "Engrossed"

Page 1171, line 34, replace "Reengrossed" with "Engrossed"

Page 1171, line 36, replace "Reengrossed" with "Engrossed"

SEN. BEARD MOVED that the report be adopted, which motion prevailed.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2009**

Your conference committee (Sens. Thomas, Conley, Meyer and Reps. Nathe, Martinson, Swiontek) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0176.02002](#) adopted by the House, Engrossed SB 2009 is amended by amendment [25.0176.02003](#).

Engrossed SB 2009 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2015**

Your conference committee (Sens. Cleary, Dever, Magrum and Reps. Stemen, Berg, Wagner) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0182.03009](#) adopted by the House, Engrossed SB 2015 is amended by amendment [25.0182.03016](#).

Engrossed SB 2015 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2019**

Your conference committee (Sens. Schaible, Conley, Meyer and Reps. Richter, Sanford, Martinson) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0186.02004](#) adopted by the House, Engrossed SB 2019 is amended by amendment [25.0186.02005](#).

Engrossed SB 2019 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
REENGROSSED SB 2354**

Your conference committee (Sens. Axtman, Wobbema, Lemm and Reps. Jonas, Novak, Osowski) recommends that in place of amendment [25.1182.04002](#) adopted by the House,

Reengrossed SB 2354 is amended by amendment [25.1182.04004](#).

Reengrossed SB 2354 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
REENGROSSED SB 2390**

Your conference committee (Sens. Dwyer, Magrum, Luick and Reps. Louser, Fisher, Longmuir) recommends that in place of amendment [25.1355.03002](#) adopted by the House, Reengrossed SB 2390 is amended by amendment [25.1355.03003](#).

Reengrossed SB 2390 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1018**

Your conference committee (Sens. Meyer, Conley, Thomas and Reps. Louser, Martinson, Hanson) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0162.02002](#) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed HB 1018 is amended by amendment [25.0162.02004](#).

Engrossed HB 1018 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1214**

Your conference committee (Sens. Schaible, Conley, Meyer and Reps. Richter, Hanson, Schreiber-Beck) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0752.02001](#) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed HB 1214 is amended by amendment [25.0752.02003](#).

Engrossed HB 1214 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SEN. KLEIN MOVED that the President appoint a committee of three to act with a like committee from the House as a Conference Committee on Engrossed HB 1005, which motion prevailed.

THE PRESIDENT APPOINTED as a Conference Committee on:

Engrossed HB 1005: Sens. Burckhard, Sickler, Wanzek

VETO MEASURE

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 2160 and return it to the Senate.

Senate Bill 2160 permanently closes the door on a grandfathered health insurance plan for state employees. If we repeal our current health plan, an Affordable Care Act compliant, non-grandfathered plan must take its place. This new plan contained in Senate Bill 2160 includes mandatory added benefits that will result in increased costs passed on to our public employees as an out-of-pocket expense. Public employees did not ask for this. In fact, surveys conducted by OMB's Human Resource Management Services (HRMS) in 2022 and 2024 showed the current state health plan is the most valued benefit by our state employees, and one of the state's strongest and most useful recruitment and retention tools. Senate Bill 2160 disposes of that tool and replaces it with a more expensive alternative.

Senate Bill 2160's effective date of January 1, 2027, also underscores the cost of the new plan. By having a January 1, 2027, effective date, the \$6.5 million fiscal note for the 2025-2027 biennium is only for the last six months of the biennium. The cost for the full 2027-2029 biennium and subsequent biennia is an estimated \$25.8 million or more every two years. This higher price tag would either be passed on to the state or its employees.

PERS solicits bids for the new health insurance contract every six years. The next bid process will begin in the summer of 2026 for use in the 2027-2029 biennium. The bid process includes estimates for continuation of the current grandfathered plan, as well as non-grandfathered plans. The better route would be to compare the 2026 estimates for continuation of the current plan versus a non-grandfathered plan, so the 70th Legislative

Assembly may make a better-informed decision for the future of North Dakota's public employees.

The current health plan is better for state employees and employees of political subdivisions. Currently, they pool together in the same grandfathered plan. If Senate Bill 2160 passes as enrolled, state employees and employees of political subdivisions will be in separate pools, resulting in higher costs for both. This is unacceptable.

For the reasons said above, Senate Bill 2160 is vetoed.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. BARTA MOVED that the conference committee report on Engrossed HB 1448 as printed on SJ page 1224 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Engrossed HB 1448, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order of business.

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL

HB 1448: A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to the development of advanced technologies.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, the roll was called and there were 47 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 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; Wobbema

Engrossed HB 1448 passed.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. DWYER MOVED that the conference committee report on Reengrossed HB 1524 as printed on SJ page 1224 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. SCHAIBLE MOVED that the conference committee report on Engrossed SB 2019 as printed on SJ page 1227 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Engrossed SB 2019, as amended, was placed on the Eleventh order of business.

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2019: A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of career and technical education; to provide an exemption; and to declare an emergency.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, the roll was called and there were 47 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 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; Wobbema

Reengrossed SB 2019 passed and the emergency clause was declared carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. DWYER MOVED that the conference committee report on Reengrossed SB 2390 as printed on SJ page 1228 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Reengrossed SB 2390, as amended, was placed on the Eleventh order of business.

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2390: A BILL for an Act to create and enact three new sections to chapter 54-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a rural catalyst committee, grant program, and fund; to amend and reenact section 54-40.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to definitions for regional planning councils; to provide an appropriation; and to provide for a transfer.

ROLL CALL

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

YEAS: Axtman; Barta; Bekkedahl; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Erbele; 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; Wobbema

NAYS: Beard; Boehm; Clemens; Enget; Gerhardt

Reengrossed SB 2390 passed.

MOTION

SEN. KLEIN MOVED that the Senate stand in recess until 12:30 p.m., which motion prevailed.

THE SENATE RECONVENED pursuant to recess taken, with President Pro Tempore Davison presiding.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. AXTMAN MOVED that the conference committee report on Engrossed SB 2354 as printed on SJ pages 1227-1228 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Engrossed SB 2354, as amended, was placed on the Eleventh order of business.

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2354: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact the new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code as created by House Bill No. 1160, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, relating to the use of personal electronic devices in schools providing prekindergarten, elementary, or secondary education.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, the roll was called and there were 45 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 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; Luick; Magrum; Marcellais; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Powers; Roers; Rummel; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston; Wobbema

NAYS: Lemm; Schaible

Reengrossed SB 2354 passed.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. THOMAS MOVED that the conference committee report on Reengrossed SB 2009 as printed on SJ page 1227 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Reengrossed SB 2009, as amended, was placed on the Eleventh order of business.

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILL

SB 2009: A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state fair association; to repeal section 4.1-45-22.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to state fair facility operations and maintenance costs; and to declare an emergency.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, the roll was called and there were 44 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 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; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Magrum; Marcellais; Mathern; Meyer; Myrdal; Patten; Paulson; Roers; Rummel; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Van Oosting; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston; Wobbema

NAYS: Larson; Powers; Schaible

Reengrossed SB 2009 passed and the emergency clause was declared carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. MEYER MOVED that the conference committee report on Engrossed HB 1018 as printed on SJ page 1228 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Engrossed HB 1018, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order of business.

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL

HB 1018: A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state historical society; to amend and reenact section 55-01-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to jurisdiction of the heritage center; to authorize a Bank of North Dakota line of credit; and to declare an emergency.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, the roll was called and there were 43 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

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

NAYS: Boehm; Enget; Powers; Weston

Engrossed HB 1018, as amended, passed and the emergency clause was declared carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. SCHAIBLE MOVED that the conference committee report on Engrossed HB 1214 as printed on SJ page 1228 be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Engrossed HB 1214, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order of business.

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL

HB 1214: A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 15.1-27-31.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to transportation weighted student unit equivalents; to amend and reenact section 15.1-31-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to open enrollment transportation; to repeal sections 15.1-27-26.1, 15.1-27-27.1, 15.1-27-28.1, 15.1-27-30.1, and 15.1-27-31.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to payments for school district transportation of students, special education students, and career and technical education students, the distribution of transportation payments in the event of school district closure, and state transportation payments to school districts; and to provide an effective date.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, the roll was called and there were 47 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 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; Wobbema

Engrossed HB 1214, as amended, passed.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SEN. CLEARY MOVED that the conference committee report on Engrossed SB 2015 as printed on SJ page 1227 be adopted.

REQUEST

SEN. SICKLER REQUESTED a verification vote, which request was granted.

The question being on the motion to adopt the conference committee report on Engrossed SB 2015, the conference committee report on Engrossed SB 2015 was rejected on a verification vote.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has appointed as a conference committee to act with a like committee from the House on:

HB 1005: Sens. Burckhard; Sickler; Wanzek

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has not adopted the conference committee report on: SB 2015.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report on: HB 1524.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: SB 2354.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: SB 2390.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: HB 1214.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report and

subsequently passed: HB 1448.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report, subsequently passed, and the emergency clause carried: SB 2009.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report, subsequently passed, and the emergency clause carried: SB 2019.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Senate has adopted the conference committee report, subsequently passed, and the emergency clause carried: HB 1018.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: HB 1003.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: HB 1214.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: SB 2010, SB 2188, SB 2308.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report and subsequently passed: SB 2390.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report, subsequently passed, and the emergency clause carried: HB 1018.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report, subsequently passed, and the emergency clause carried: HB 1577.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: The House has adopted the conference committee report, subsequently passed, and the emergency clause carried: SB 2019.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Your signature is respectfully requested on: SB 2020, SB 2029, SB 2033, SB 2113, SB 2147, SB 2265, SB 2370.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: Your signature is respectfully requested on: HB 1009, HB 1010, HB 1144, HB 1229.

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

MADAM PRESIDENT: Your signature is respectfully requested on: HB 1448, HB 1524.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: SB 2001, SB 2007, SB 2011, SB 2013, SB 2070, SB 2112, SB 2133, SB 2180, SB 2213, SB 2271, SB 2282, SB 2330, SB 2374, SB 2396, SB 2399.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: SCR 4007.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: HB 1009, HB 1010, HB 1144, HB 1229, HB 1448, HB 1524.

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)
MADAM PRESIDENT: The Speaker has signed: HB 1448.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: The President has signed: HB 1022, HB 1029, HB 1143, HB 1199, HB 1218, HB 1363, HB 1454, HB 1485.

DELIVERY OF ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following bills were delivered to the Governor for approval on April 29, 2025: SB 2001, SB 2007, SB 2011, SB 2013, SB 2070, SB 2112, SB 2133, SB 2180, SB 2213, SB 2271, SB 2282, SB 2330, SB 2374, SB 2396, SB 2399.

DELIVERY OF ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following bill was delivered to the Secretary of State for filing on April 29, 2025: SB 2307.

DELIVERY OF ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was delivered to the Secretary of State for filing on April 29, 2025: SCR 4007.

MOTION

SEN. KLEIN MOVED that the Senate be on the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixteenth orders of business and at the conclusion of those orders, the Senate stand adjourned until 8:00 a.m., Thursday, May 1, 2025, which motion prevailed.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2093

Your conference committee (Sens. Weber, Rummel, Patten and Reps. Hagert, Grueneich, Steiner) recommends the **SENATE ACCEPT** the House amendments ([25.0009.02003](#)) to Engrossed SB 2093.

Engrossed SB 2093 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
SB 2397

Your conference committee (Sens. Patten, Rummel, Sickler and Reps. Dockter, Porter, J. Olson) recommends that in place of amendment [25.1360.01005](#) adopted by the House, SB 2397 is amended by amendment [25.1360.01008](#).

SB 2397 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)
MR. SPEAKER: Your signature is respectfully requested on: SB 2010, SB 2188, SB 2308.

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

Shanda Morgan, Secretary