

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

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**Bismarck, January 23, 2026**

The Senate convened at 8:30 a.m., with President Strinden presiding.

The prayer was offered by Senator Kathy Hogan, District 21, Fargo.

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

A quorum was declared by the President.

**THE SENATE RECOGNIZED THE PRESENCE OF:**

Governor Kelly Armstrong and First Lady Kjersti Armstrong

**SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL**

**HB 1621:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 15.1-21-01 and section 15.1-21-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to requiring the presidential physical fitness test in physical education courses in elementary, middle, and high schools and providing exceptions to the test; and to provide an effective date.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 43 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Barta; Beard; Bekkedahl; Boehm; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; 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; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston; van Oosting

**NAYS:** Boschee; Clemens; Wobbema

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

Engrossed HB 1621 passed.

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**SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL**

**HB 1623:** A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for federal rural health transformation program grant funds; to provide an appropriation to the Bank of North Dakota to administer a loan program; to provide a transfer; to amend and reenact section 6-09-47 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a rural health loan program under the medical facility infrastructure loan fund; to provide an exemption; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide for application; to provide a report; and to provide an effective date.

**ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 46 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** 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; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston; Wobbema; van Oosting

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

Engrossed HB 1623 passed.

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#### **SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL**

**HB 1624:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to offering school breakfast and lunch at no cost and the school meals fund; to provide an appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an effective date.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. MAGRUM MOVED** that Engrossed HB 1624 be amended ([25.1395.05001](#)).

#### **REQUEST**

**SEN. MAGRUM REQUESTED** a recorded roll call vote on the motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Engrossed HB 1624, which request was granted.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The question being on the motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Engrossed HB 1624, the roll was called and there were 14 YEAS, 32 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Beard; Boehm; Clemens; Enget; Gerhardt; Magrum; Meyer; Myrdal; Paulson; Powers; Walen; Weston; Wobbema; van Oosting

**NAYS:** Barta; Bekkedahl; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Castaneda; Cleary; Conley; Cory; Davison; Dever; Dwyer; Erbele; Hogan; Hogue; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Lemm; Luick; Marcellais; Mathern; Patten; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sickler; Sorvaag; Thomas; Wanzek; Weber

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

The proposed amendments to Engrossed HB 1624 failed on a recorded roll call vote.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 22 YEAS, 24 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** Barta; Bekkedahl; Boschee; Braunberger; Burckhard; Cleary; Davison; Dever; Hogan; Kessel; Klein; Larson; Lee; Luick; Marcellais; Mathern; Patten; Roers; Rummel; Schaible; Sorvaag; Weber

**NAYS:** Beard; Boehm; Castaneda; Clemens; Conley; Cory; Dwyer; Enget; Erbele; Gerhardt; Hogue; Lemm; Magrum; Meyer; Myrdal; Paulson; Powers; Sickler; Thomas; Walen; Wanzek; Weston; Wobbema; van Oosting

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

Engrossed HB 1624 failed.

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#### **THE SENATE RECOGNIZED THE PRESENCE OF:**

Former Senator Tim Flakoll

#### **SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL**

**HB 1622:** A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 43-17.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the physician assistant licensure compact; to amend and reenact

section 43-17-01, subsection 1 of section 43-17-02.1, and sections 43-17-02.2 and 43-17-46 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the requirements of physician assistants privileged to practice under the physician assistant licensure compact; and to provide an effective date.

#### ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 46 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** 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; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston; Wobbema; van Oosting

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

HB 1622 passed.

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#### SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL

**HB 1625:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15-10-64 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the sale of the Ray Richards golf course; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

#### ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 46 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

**YEAS:** 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; Walen; Wanzek; Weber; Weston; Wobbema; van Oosting

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

HB 1625 passed.

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#### SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL

**HB 1626:** A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subdivision d of subsection 1 of section 57-02-08.9, section 57-20-09, and subsection 1 of section 57-55-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to application of the primary residence credit and discount for early payment of tax; and to provide an effective date.

#### ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the bill, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS, the roll was called and there were 40 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING.

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

**NAYS:** Braunberger; Dever; Dwyer; Hogan; Rummel; Schaible

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

HB 1626 passed.

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**SECOND READING OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**HCR 3038:** A concurrent resolution to recognize and congratulate the Young Men's Christian Association on its 175th anniversary.

The question being on the final adoption of the resolution, which has been read, and has committee recommendation of DO PASS.

HCR 3038 was declared adopted on a voice vote.

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**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of three be appointed to notify the House that the Senate has completed its business and is about to adjourn sine die, which motion prevailed.

**PRESIDENT STRINDEN APPOINTED** Sens. Hogan, Sickler, and Lemm.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of three be appointed to notify the Governor that the Senate has completed its business and is about to adjourn sine die, which motion prevailed.

**PRESIDENT STRINDEN APPOINTED** Sens. Castaneda, Powers, and Beard.

**MOTION**

**PRESIDENT STRINDEN ANNOUNCED** that the Senate will stand in recess.

**THE SENATE RECONVENED** pursuant to recess taken, with President Strinden presiding.

**REQUEST**

**SEN. CASTANEDA REQUESTED** that the committee appointed to notify the Governor that the Senate has completed its business is about to adjourn be discharged, as the Senate has completed its task, which request was granted.

**REQUEST**

**SEN. HOGAN REQUESTED** that the committee appointed to notify the House that the Senate has completed its business and is about to adjourn be discharged, as the Senate has completed its task, which request was granted.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Senate has passed, unchanged: HB 1621, HB 1622, HB 1623, HB 1625, HB 1626.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Senate has passed, unchanged: HCR 3038.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Senate has failed to pass, unchanged: HB 1624.

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

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The House has passed, unchanged: SB 2401, SB 2402, SB 2403, SB 2404.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your signature is respectfully requested on: SB 2401, SB 2402, SB 2403, SB 2404.

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

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** Your signature is respectfully requested on: HB 1621, HB 1622, HB 1623, HB 1625, HB 1626.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**  
**MADAM PRESIDENT:** Your signature is respectfully requested on: HCR 3038.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**  
**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The Speaker has signed: SB 2401, SB 2402, SB 2403, SB 2404.

**MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)**  
**MR. SPEAKER:** The President has signed: SB 2401, SB 2402, SB 2403, SB 2404.

**MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)**  
**MR. SPEAKER:** The President has signed: HB 1621, HB 1622, HB 1623, HB 1625, HB 1626.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**  
**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The Speaker has signed: HB 1621, HB 1622, HB 1623, HB 1625, HB 1626.

**MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE FROM THE SENATE (SHANDA MORGAN, SECRETARY)**  
**MR. SPEAKER:** The President has signed: HCR 3038.

**MESSAGE TO THE SENATE FROM THE HOUSE (BUELL J. REICH, CHIEF CLERK)**  
**MADAM PRESIDENT:** The Speaker has signed: HCR 3038.

**DELIVERY OF ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

The following bills were delivered to the Governor for approval on January 23, 2026: SB 2401, SB 2402, SB 2403, SB 2404.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the Senate be on the Fourth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth orders of business and at the conclusion of those orders, the Senate stand adjourned sine die, which motion prevailed.

**COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR KELLY ARMSTRONG**

This is to inform you that on January 23, 2026, I have signed the following: SB 2401, SB 2402, SB 2403, and SB 2404.

Pursuant to Senator Klein's motion, the Senate stood adjourned sine die.

**Shanda Morgan, Secretary**

