



# North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff  
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March 2025

## NUMBER OF PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE STAFF BY STATE

The following table includes data collected by the National Conference of State Legislatures during its most recently completed legislative staff census in 2021 regarding the number of permanent legislative staff in each state. The breakpoints in the table mark each incremental increase of 100 permanent staff or, for the last two breakpoints, each incremental increase of 1,000 permanent staff.

State	Number of Legislators	Permanent Legislative Staff <sup>1</sup>	State	Number of Legislators	Permanent Legislative Staff <sup>1</sup>
North Dakota	141	34 <sup>2</sup>	Alaska	60	322
Wyoming	93	44	Virginia	140	351
South Dakota	105	61 <sup>3</sup>	Kentucky	138	363
Vermont	180	72	Alabama	140	379
Delaware	62	87	Oregon	90	405
Idaho	105	89	Missouri	197	408
New Mexico	112	122	Connecticut	187	427
Mississippi	174	129	Arkansas	135	432
New Hampshire	424	139	Ohio	132	436
Montana	150	143	North Carolina	170	493
Kansas	165	152	Wisconsin	132	592
Utah	104	165	Minnesota	201	600
Maine	186	178	New Jersey	120	605
West Virginia	134	189	Arizona	90	621
Iowa	150	192	Washington	147	627
Oklahoma	149	202	Maryland	188	644
Georgia	236	221	Louisiana	144	735
Nebraska	49	228	Massachusetts	200	791
Colorado	100	262	Michigan	148	810
South Carolina	170	269	Illinois	177	984
Indiana	150	270	Florida	160	1,448
Hawaii	76	273	Texas	181	1,619
Nevada	63	291	Pennsylvania	253	2,323
Rhode Island	113	294	California	120	2,751
Tennessee	132	304	New York	213	2,850

<sup>1</sup>Permanent staff counts are based on the 2021 legislative staff census performed by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

<sup>2</sup>The number of funded permanent staff positions in the North Dakota Legislative Council increased to 45 following the 2023 legislative session. Three additional staff positions also were added by the Emergency Commission in September 2024.

<sup>3</sup>The number of permanent legislative staff listed includes the staff from South Dakota's Department of Legislative Audit.



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## COMPARISON OF NORTH DAKOTA AND MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES

The service agency for the legislative branch in North Dakota is the North Dakota Legislative Council, which is authorized for 45 permanent staff positions ([Appendix A](#)). The legislative branch in Montana is staffed by three separate service agencies. These agencies are the Legislative Services Division, comprised of 81 permanent staff positions; the Legislative Fiscal Division, comprised of 24 permanent staff positions; and the Legislative Audit Division, comprised of 47 permanent staff positions; for a total of 152 permanent staff positions ([Appendix B](#)).

The following table provides a comparison of relevant statistical information for each state:

	Montana	North Dakota
Frequency of legislative sessions	Biennial	Biennial
Maximum days allowed per regular legislative session	90	80
Term limits imposed	Yes	Yes
Population (2020 Census)	1,085,407	779,702
Gross domestic product (2023)	\$67.1 billion	\$72.7 billion
Enacted budget (FY 2024 and 2025)	\$19.3 billion	\$19.6 billion
Legislators	150	141
Permanent legislative staff	152	45
Bills and resolutions drafted (2011-23 average)	2,988	1,294
Bills and resolutions introduced (2011-23 average)	1,296	929
Bills and resolutions passed (2011-23 average)	659	558
Interim committees (2023-24 interim)	33	27