

**Legislative Council  
Budget No. 160  
Senate Bill No. 2001; House Bill Nos. 1012, 1025, and 1322**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2025-27 legislative appropriation	70.00	\$27,738,820 <sup>1</sup>	\$538,000	\$28,276,820
2023-25 legislative appropriation	<u>45.00</u>	<u>19,910,209</u>	<u>88,000</u>	<u>19,998,209</u>
2025-27 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriation	25.00	\$7,828,611	\$450,000	\$8,278,611

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$1,200,000 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing General Fund appropriation is \$26,538,820.

**Item Description**

**Full-time equivalent changes** - The Legislative Assembly approved 70 FTE positions for the Legislative Council for the 2025-27 biennium, an increase of 25 FTE positions from the 2023-25 biennium authorized level of 45 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly added policy analyst, program evaluator, legal counsel, fiscal analyst, information technology (IT) support, human resources, and administrative support positions.

**Status/Result**

The status of the Legislative Council's new FTE positions is summarized below:

Policy analysts and program evaluators	The Legislative Council filled the Policy and Program Evaluation Division Director position in August 2025 and through March 2026 hired 9 policy analysts and 3 program evaluators. The agency anticipates filling 1 FTE policy analyst position in June 2026 and the remaining 1 FTE policy analyst and program evaluation position in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of the biennium.
Legal counsel	The Legislative Council filled 1 FTE legal counsel position in January 2026.
Fiscal analyst	The Legislative Council anticipates filling 1 FTE fiscal analyst position in June 2026.
IT support	The Legislative Council filled 1 FTE IT specialist position in October 2025 and 1 FTE IT assistant director position in December 2025. The agency anticipates filling 1 FTE IT quality assurance analyst position and 1 FTE IT developer position in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of the biennium.
Human resources and administrative support	The Legislative Council filled 1 FTE public information officer position, 1 FTE administrative specialist position, and 1 FTE front desk specialist position by February 2026 and 1 FTE human resources position in March 2026.

**New and vacant FTE pool** - The Legislative Assembly transferred \$5,088,515 for the new and vacant FTE pool line item for the Legislative Council for 25 new FTE positions (\$4,445,067) and estimated savings from vacant positions (\$643,448).

Through February 2026, the Legislative Council estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$218,391. The agency used savings of \$6,629 for accrued leave payouts. Excluding the new FTE positions, the Legislative Council had between 1 and 5 vacant FTE positions from July 2025 through February 2026 with an average vacant position rate of 3 FTE positions. Through March 2026, the Legislative Council has transferred \$2.55 million from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item for new FTE positions filled through February 2026.

**One-time funding** - The Legislative Assembly, in Section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2001, Section 52 of House Bill No. 1012, Section 2 of House Bill No. 1025, and Section 5 of House Bill No. 1322, identified a total of \$1.65 million from the General Fund, Community Health Trust Fund, and grants and donations for one-time funding items as follows:

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Costs related to new positions	\$375,000		\$375,000
IT equipment	280,000		280,000
Legislative term limit study	225,000		225,000
Disabilities services study (Community Health Trust Fund)		\$150,000	150,000
Advanced nuclear power study (grants or donations)	300,000	300,000	600,000
Ambulance delinquent billing reimbursement study	20,000		20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>

The following is a summary of the Legislative Council's one-time funding items:

Costs related to new positions	<p>Through March 31, 2026, the Legislative Council spent \$162,662 on furniture and \$66,115 on IT equipment. The Legislative Council anticipates additional furniture costs of \$178,634 during the 2025-27 biennium.</p> <p>To accommodate additional staff, the Legislative Council used available general fund carryover to renovate the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the Capitol tower. Through March 31, 2026, the Legislative Council spent \$289,141 and estimates additional renovation costs will total \$793,880. The project is substantially completed and Policy and Program Evaluation Division staff and certain administrative staff began occupying the space in May 2026.</p>
IT equipment	<p>Through March 31, 2026, the Legislative Council spent \$270,822 for storage area network port licenses, IBM storage, video encoders, and encoder riser cards. The Legislative Council anticipates the remaining funding will be spent on IT equipment during the 2025-27 biennium.</p>
Legislative term limit study	<p>The Legislative Council issued a contract for \$220,000 to Garty Consulting, LLC, to provide consulting services related to the legislative term limit study. Through March 31, 2026, the Legislative Council paid \$93,500 for consulting services. A final report was presented to the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee in April 2026 and the remaining contract amount of \$126,500 was paid in May 2026.</p>
Disabilities services study	<p>This study was not prioritized by Legislative Management, so the funding will not be spent.</p>
Advanced nuclear power study	<p>The Legislative Council issued a contract for \$275,000 to Nucleon Energy, Inc., to provide consulting services related to the advanced nuclear power study. Through March 31, 2026, the Legislative Council paid \$135,000 from the General Fund for consulting services. A final report will be presented to the Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee in August 2026 and the remaining \$140,000 is anticipated to be paid from the General Fund during the 2025-27 biennium.</p>
Ambulance delinquent billing reimbursement study	<p>The Legislative Council issued a contract for \$19,451 to PWW Advisory Group, LLC, to provide consulting services related to the ambulance delinquent billing reimbursement study. A final report was presented to the Emergency Response Services Committee in February 2026, and as of March 31, 2026, the Legislative Council paid the full contract amount of \$19,451.</p>

**Public printing** - The Legislative Assembly, in House Bill No. 1002 (2025), provided the statutory changes to transfer the publication of any session laws, compilations, or codifications from the Secretary of State to the Legislative Council. In addition, the Legislative Assembly, in Senate Bill No. 2001, provided \$290,000 from the General Fund for public printing costs.

**Legislative intent - Chamber accessibility** - The Legislative Assembly, in Section 10 of Senate Bill No. 2001, provided legislative intent that the Legislative Management gather additional information regarding chamber access.

Through April 30, 2026, public printing costs totaled \$227,156. The Legislative Council anticipates additional public printing costs related to North Dakota Century Code replacement volumes and special session will be paid during the 2025-27 biennium.

An architectural study was conducted in 2024 which provided cost estimates for three structurally viable options to meet accessibility standards for each chamber. The Legislative Management has not received further information regarding chamber accessibility.