



The Council

In consideration of the upcoming bill introduction deadline, the Legislative Council staff will do its best to complete bill drafts received by noon TODAY, before the Monday, January 27 deadline.

From the Director

With most bills having been introduced, the focus of the Legislative Council staff turns more toward drafting amendments for individual legislators and standing committees. Earlier this week, my focus was on presentation of the legislative branch budget to the Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division.

The legislative branch budget is broken into 2 sections--the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The assembly portion generally applies to legislative session related expenses such as legislator and temporary staff pay. The estimated daily cost to operate the assembly is about \$95,000. The council portion of the budget accounts for the council staff and the interim process. When legislators attend interim committee meetings, the costs are paid from the council budget.

During the last interim, the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee studied the impact of term limits and how term limits may affect legislative staffing needs. The committee recommended including in the council budget the addition of 25 full-time employees. Most of the proposed additional employees would be in 3 areas--policy analysis, program evaluation, and information technology. The goal of the staff expansion is to better prepare legislators who will have less experience and to ensure the only part-time branch of government has the tools and support necessary to remain a co-equal branch of government.

The legislative branch appropriation bill is [Senate Bill No. 2001](#). You can find more details regarding the contents of the budget request in the [testimony I provided to the committee](#). Also included with the testimony is a chart illustrating the proposed new positions. If you have any questions or would like additional details, we are happy to help.

John Bjornson, Director

Employee Spotlight



Caleb Hauck joined the Legislative Council as a temporary front desk specialist/legislative messenger for the 2025 session. Caleb grew up on his family's farm near Forbes. He recently graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Caleb looks forward to welcoming legislators and visitors to the Legislative Council office and learning about the legislative process during the session. He plans to attend law school in the fall.

Outside of professional and academic endeavors, Caleb enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and playing golf.



*Except study resolutions and amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota

983 Bills Introduced
628 House
355 Senate

1,670 Bills and Resolutions Requested

744 Bills Heard in Committee

93 Bills Passed in the House

80 Bills Passed in the Senate

2 Bills Enrolled

Important Dates

Jan. 27: Final Bill Intro Deadline for Senators

Jan. 30: Resolution Intro Deadline*

Photos from the Floor



Employee Spotlight



Kayla Seifert has worked for the state since 2008. She began working at the Legislative Council in October 2014, and has been a front desk specialist since August 2018. She loves welcoming people to the office and enjoys talking with and getting to know the legislators and visitors. Kayla graduated from Bismarck State College with an AAS in Business Management.

Kayla has two daughters, Taylor (14) and Sadie (9). She loves watching her girls play sports and being a taxi to all their practices and tournaments. She spends her free time with friends and family, walking, jogging, and going on fun adventures with her girls. Kayla has a goal to hike all North Dakota state parks by the winter of 2025.