

The Council

National Conference of State Legislatures - Winter Executive Committee Meeting

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) held its first Executive Committee Meeting of 2026 on January 17. The committee reaffirmed NCSL's mission to support the work of legislators and legislative staff by providing research assistance, training, and professional development opportunities. The committee reviewed [NCSL's 2025 Annual Report](#), which highlighted the organization's work in the past year. The report indicated the organization provided research on 2,505 research requests, held 186 professional development training seminars reaching over 10,000 members, and saw record-breaking attendance at the annual summit in Boston, with over 9,000 individuals attending. The committee also discussed the newly established [Legislator Security Fund](#), which consists of funding provided by private donors to support legislator safety needs. The committee noted legislatures will be able to apply for funding by chamber or jointly. Further guidelines regarding the program and eligible expenses will be available later this month.

Upcoming Meetings

February

- 11 Human Services
- 12 Health Care
- 23 Child Custody Review Task Force
- 25 Emergency Response Services

March

- 24 Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 26 Water Topics Overview
- 31 Agriculture and Water Management





PET SPOTLIGHT

Cooper specializes in retrieval. Accepts payment in treats. He loves walks and car rides (circulation assistant), and chasing birds/squirrels, which is his version of an interlibrary loan.

Can you guess my human?

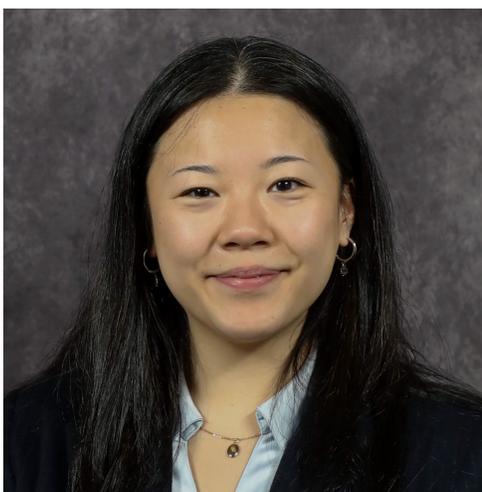
Melissa Ingram, Library and Records Assistant

Legislative Management

The Legislative Management met on January 27 to review options for the Legislative Assembly to respond to a lawsuit filed with respect to the passing of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4008 (2025). The 2025 Legislative Assembly passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4008 to place on the 2026 general election ballot a proposal to amend legislative term limits which were imposed by an initiated constitutional measure in 2022. Included within the measure was a provision that seeks to prohibit the Legislative Assembly from proposing an amendment to the Constitution of North Dakota which would alter or repeal the term limitations.

The lawsuit requests the Supreme Court to declare Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4008 unconstitutional and enjoin the Secretary of State from placing the proposed measure on the 2026 general election ballot. Under North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-17, the Legislative Management has the power to authorize the Legislative Council to appoint or retain legal counsel to defend the Legislative Assembly in any action when determined necessary or advisable to protect the official interests of the legislative branch. After meeting in executive session to discuss the legal strategy, the Legislative Management voted to request the Legislative Council to seek outside counsel to represent the Legislative Assembly.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Kimberly Yang

Kim Yang joined the Legislative Council as a Policy Analyst. She recently obtained her master's in public policy and administration from New York University and worked as a teachers aid for the policy department. She also graduated from Syracuse University with dual degrees in policy studies and political science. In her free time, Kim enjoys Pilates classes and taking her 2-year-old golden retriever on hikes and adventures.

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