



The Council

The Next Phase of the Legislative Session



Legislators returned to the Capitol this week after the crossover recess. During the next phase of the legislative session, legislators will turn their focus to reviewing, holding public hearings for, and voting on bills that originated in the other chamber. Some mistakenly may think this means session is now half finished, and being that today is legislative day number 35, that would be a very welcome prospect!

More accurately, the session is now in its second of three phases, the first entailing the House and Senate each voting on measures introduced in their own chamber; the second entailing the House and Senate voting on measures introduced in the other chamber; and the third entailing holding conference committees to attempt to sort out any differences between the chambers on measures.



The Legislative Assembly is allotted 80 legislative days to complete its work each biennium. Generally, legislators attempt to save a minimum of 3 of the allotted 80 legislative days to address unexpected issues that may arise after the regular session ends or a veto by the Governor. (Per the Constitution of North Dakota, a minimum of 3 legislative days is required to hear and pass a bill). If the Legislative Assembly were to gavel in for a floor session every business day until the end of the legislative session, the 80th day would fall on Friday, May 9.



As of today, 45 of the allotted 80 legislative days remain during which the Legislative Assembly may take action on its remaining 705 bills.

Employee Spotlight



Natalie Rindlisbacher joined the Legislative Council in 2024 as a legislative administrative officer. She previously worked for the state at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Burleigh County State's Attorney's Office. Natalie's work with the Legislative Council includes processing vouchers and fiscal notes, assisting with payroll, and entering accounts payable.

Originally from Michigan, Natalie graduated from Baker College with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Natalie relocated to North Dakota in 2018. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, reading, playing board games, and rock hunting. She stays active by curling and playing pickleball.

Employee Spotlight



Lori Ziegler joined the Legislative Council in 2010 as a legislative administrative officer. Lori has a multitude of duties and responsibilities ranging from human resources and payroll to a variety of logistical and planning tasks essential to the smooth operation of the legislative branch.

North Dakota raised, Lori grew up in Beulah and graduated from the University of Mary with an accounting and business administration degree. She earned her master's degree from Minot State University. When she isn't in the office, Lori enjoys traveling, going to the lake, reading, and spending time on her parents' farm with her husband Chris and son Ethan. She also keeps busy driving Ethan to his activities and traveling for his soccer games. One of her current adventures is preparing Ethan to get his license this summer.

710 Bills Passed in First Chamber

4 Bills Enrolled

3 Bills Signed into Law

705 Bills Awaiting Final Action

Important Dates

Mar. 14: Deadline to Report Constitutional Amendments and Study Resolutions Out of Committee

Mar. 19: Crossover Date for Resolutions

Photos from the Floor

