

Action This Day



Before the 2001 legislative session, more than 10 session employees were responsible for answering phone calls and relaying messages to legislators. Those positions were eliminated for the 2001 session when the Legislative Assembly contracted for telephone messaging services. In the 2001 session, nearly 20,000 calls were received through the legislative phone service. By the

2019 session, largely as a result of technological innovations and the ease of contacting legislators by email and other methods, fewer than 500 calls were received.

An additional innovation was the implementation of the constituent views application, through which citizens can directly contact their legislators and leave messages that will be delivered in the legislators' LAWS application. During the 2021 legislative session, 1,026 messages were delivered through constituent views. The number of messages increased to 1,905 during the 2023 session. As of March 25th, 2,889 messages have been submitted to legislators through constituent views during this session.

Another recent change allowing for more engagement in the legislative process is the ability for individuals to submit written testimony online. When the online testimony submission application was implemented during the 2021 session, 11,305 pieces of written testimony were submitted. During the 2023 session, that number increased to 14,780 testimony submissions. As of March 25th, the number of submissions this session already has exceeded 15,078.

Taking into consideration the ease of contacting legislators through email and the fact many legislators list personal cell phone numbers on the legislative branch website, it has never been easier for citizens to express their opinions on legislation in a timely manner and have an impact on the action of the day.

Employee Spotlight



Cliff Kapustka began working for the state in 2018 as a member of the Information Technology Department working with legislative systems. In 2021, he joined the Legislative Council staff as a software developer. Cliff's role as a software developer includes analyzing, designing, and implementing web applications that serve legislators, Legislative Council staff, and members of the public interacting with the legislative branch. His work has been instrumental in the development of several major projects, including the Legislator Requests system, a legislative data repository and static web content manager for the NDLEGIS site, the chamber calendar, and

budget status. His contributions have helped streamline processes and improve accessibility to legislative information.

Cliff grew up in Pennsylvania, but spent much of his childhood in the upper peninsula of Michigan. He graduated from the University of Minnesota - Duluth with a bachelor's degree in computer science. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Shannon, and their four boys: Karsen, Kameron, and twins Kashton and Kayson. He loves watching and attending sports games, playing video games, and playing the drums. He currently is working on learning the guitar and piano.

Session Statistics

380 Bills Awaiting Final Action
250 Bills in Committee
316 Bills Enrolled
228 Bills Signed by Governor
1,017 Amendments Requested

Important Dates

Apr. 4: Deadline for Rereferrals of Bills in Second House to Appropriations Committees

Apr. 16: Deadline to Report Bills and Resolutions Out of Committee

Photos from the Floor



Employee Spotlight



Sheila Sandness joined the Legislative Council in 2008 as a fiscal analyst. Before joining the Legislative Council, she worked for 6 years in public accounting in the areas of tax and audit and for 6 years in the private sector at North American Coal and Falkirk Mine.

Sheila grew up on a farm near Hazelton, North Dakota. She graduated from Mary College (now the University of Mary) and is a Certified Public Accountant. In her free time, Sheila enjoys traveling, attending her grandchildren's activities, spending time with friends and family, and spending summers on the water with her husband, children, and grandchildren.