

The Show Must Go On



In an article around the crossover break, we compared the legislative session to a basketball game that likely will go into overtime. Another comparison may be a Broadway show with three acts. With

the last bills being moved from the standing committees, the third act - conference committees - has begun! Although only three of the last nine regular sessions have ended on a Saturday or Sunday, weekend and evening committee work and floor sessions are inevitable during the final weeks of the session.

It is not uncommon to hear references to actions in other states and historical instances in our state where the allotted number of days for a session has been extended by covering a clock or a calendar. In 1976, by a slim margin of 442 votes, the voters of the state approved a constitutional amendment to increase the maximum length of a legislative session from 60 to 80 natural days. Since that change, the length of a regular session of the Legislative Assembly has reached 78 days twice, 79 days twice, and 80 days once (2013).

Under our constitution, a natural day is defined as "a period of twenty-four consecutive hours." Legislative rules provide a legislative

Session Statistics

170 Bills Awaiting Final Action
60 Bills in Committee
474 Bills Enrolled
372 Bills Signed by Governor
1,313 Amendments Requested

day begins at 7:00 a.m. and a legislative day may not be shorter than a natural day - thus, a legislative day continues through the night until 7:00 a.m. of the next day. The 2013 legislative session adjourned sine die at 4:35 a.m., the closest we have come to the end of the 80th natural day. During the final day of the 2013 session, the two chambers combined for 21 separate floor sessions.

While we all hope, and expect, the work of the Legislative Assembly will be done before the end of the 80th legislative day, which under the current schedule would be Friday, May 9th, we also understand much work is left to be done. Long hours likely will ensue during these last weeks and days before the curtain comes down on the 69th Legislative Assembly, but until the clock runs out, the show must go on!

Employee Spotlight



Dustin Richard joined the Legislative Council in 2022 as counsel. His areas of expertise include agriculture, elections, property, uniform laws, and water development. As part of his role as counsel, Dustin was appointed to serve as a commissioner on the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws. Before joining the Legislative Council, Dustin worked in private practice, assisting clients in civil matters such as estate planning, probate, real estate transactions, divorce, and child custody disputes.

Dustin was raised in West Fargo and earned an undergraduate degree in political science with a minor in emergency management from North Dakota State University. He earned his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law, while also working as a law clerk for a private law firm. Dustin and his wife, Kendra, live in Mandan, where they enjoy spending time with family and friends. In his free time, he also enjoys skiing, traveling, and playing hockey and golf.

Employee Spotlight



Brady Mueller joined the Legislative Council in 2011 as an information technology specialist. During the legislative session, he often can be seen throughout the Capitol providing technical assistance to ensure the legislative process runs smoothly.

Brady was born and raised in Bismarck and graduated from the University of Mary with an MBA and degrees in Business Administration and Management Information Systems. Brady and his wife, Heather, have an 11-year-old daughter, Briella, and 7-year-old twins, Josie and Jaden. Outside of work, he is an avid sports fan, specifically (and disappointingly) of Minnesota sports teams. Brady also enjoys traveling, training for half marathons, attending his kids' events, and attending summer concerts.