



Child Custody Review Task Force

The Child Custody Review Task Force held its final meeting on April 13, during which it considered legislative proposals related to task force directives and approved four proposals for recommendation to the Legislative Management. The recommended proposals provide for: the creation of a legislative committee to study the establishment and implementation of a family court; a requirement that parents participate in a parenting education course in contested custody proceedings; the establishment of an expedited enforcement timeline that requires courts to more promptly address allegations of interference with parenting time; and the development of standardized forms for use in contempt proceedings involving allegations of interference with parenting time. The task force requested the Legislative Council staff to prepare the final report and adjourned sine die.

Upcoming Meetings

April

- 21-22 Advanced Nuclear Energy
- 22 Legislative Procedure and Arrangements

May

- 6 Special Education Funding
- 7 Employee Benefits Programs
- 13 Protection and Victim Services
Tribal and State Relations
- 27 Human Services

June

- 3 Higher Education Funding Review
- 10 Water Topics Overview
- 17 Agriculture and Water Management
Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 24 Budget Section

**BUILDING
A
BETTER NORTH DAKOTA**

**DID YOU KNOW?
88,567
MILES OF ROADWAY
KEEP NORTH DAKOTA
MOVING FORWARD.**

**NORTH
Dakota
LEGENDARY**

It's said April showers bring May flowers. In North Dakota, April brings road construction season. Orange flowers are in full bloom and continuing to pop up across the state. The Reason Foundation's [Annual Highway Report](#) ranks North Dakota's highway system sixth in the nation in terms of overall cost-effectiveness and condition. Each biennium, the Legislative Assembly appropriates funding for the Department of Transportation, including funding for highway projects and maintenance. North Dakota has a total of 88,567 miles of roadway in the state, of which 7,415 miles make up the state highway system. For the 2025-27 biennium, the Legislative Assembly appropriated approximately \$2.4 billion to the Department of Transportation: \$1.3 billion from federal funding, \$874 million from state highway funding, and \$262 million from other state funding.

Fun fact: In 2024, the cost to grade and asphalt a two-lane road was \$1.9 million per mile, compared to \$3.5 million per mile to concrete pave two lanes in one direction on the interstate. More information on transportation statistics, including Highway Tax Distribution Fund allocations, highway and bridge conditions, and motor fuels taxes is available on pages 35-37 of the [2025 Finance Facts](#).

Tribal and State Relations Committee

The Tribal and State Relations Committee held its third meeting of the interim on April 13 to meet with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The committee received information from Tribal Chairman Jamie Azure and members of the Tribal Council regarding the tribe and tribal-state issues.

The committee also received information from a representative of the National Health Law Program regarding Section 1115 Medicaid waivers and access to mental health services for individuals with substance abuse disorders. The committee discussed a bill draft relating to implementing Medicaid plan amendments and applying for Medicaid waivers.

The committee received information from the Tax Commissioner and representatives of Rolette County regarding state taxation issues related to taxation of land owned by an enrolled tribal member. The committee received a report from the Governor regarding the negotiations and terms of any agreement between the Governor and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation relating to taxation and regulation of oil and gas exploration.



Serving the Community

Members of the Legislative Council staff gathered to serve meals at the Dream Center in Bismarck last week. The Dream Center provides free meals and a food pantry to the Bismarck-Mandan community through the Adopt-a-Block Program.



Did You Know?

Legislative Branch Website: Constitution, Laws, and Administrative Code

The legislative branch website is the official source for the the Constitution of North Dakota, the North Dakota Century Code, and North Dakota Administrative Code.

The constitution is updated only after an election if the voters of North Dakota approve a constitutional measure.

The North Dakota Century Code, which is the official name for the state's statutes, is updated on a regular basis. The largest update occurs July 1 of odd-numbered years after a regular legislative session. Other updates include monthly maintenance to remove outdated effective date language and expired statutes or to make changes reflecting any statutory changes approved by the voters after an election.

The North Dakota Administrative Code is the codification of rules of state administrative agencies. Agencies hold meetings to receive testimony from the public on proposed changes to administrative rules. Once the agency has received public testimony and has implemented any changes, the agency presents the proposed changes to the Administrative Rules Committee at its quarterly meeting. If approved by the committee, Administrative Code is updated with the changes.

