

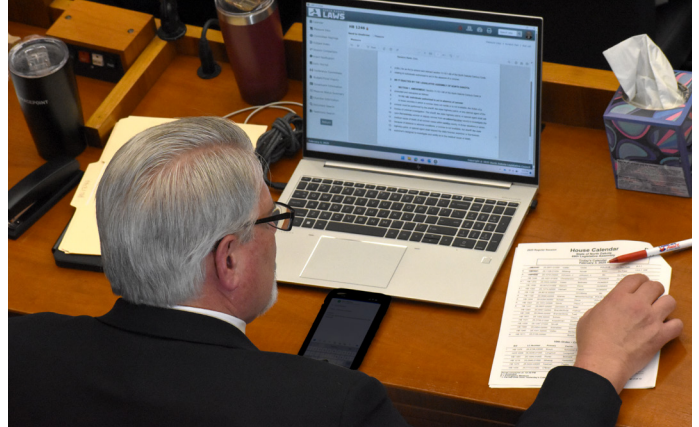


# The Council

## Governor's Vetoes

Under the Constitution of North Dakota, the judicial, executive, and legislative branches are coequal branches of state government. Each branch possesses separate powers to "check and balance" the powers granted to the other branches. One of these "checks" includes the Governor's veto power. The Constitution authorizes the Governor to veto a bill or items contained in an appropriations bill. To check the Governor's veto power, the Constitution authorizes the Legislative Assembly to override a veto if two-thirds of the Legislative Assembly votes to do so.

During the 2025 legislative session, Governor Kelly Armstrong vetoed the entirety of House Bill No. 1540 and Senate Bill Nos. 2160, 2261, and 2307. The Governor also vetoed portions of House Bill Nos. 1003 and 1019 and portions of Senate Bill Nos. 2001, 2004, 2014, and 2018.



On May 19, 2025, the Governor vetoed portions of Senate Bill No. 2014, which is the Industrial Commission budget for the 2025-27 biennium. Out of the 10 bills subject to a veto during the 2025 legislative session, the veto of portions of this bill are notable due to a discrepancy that exists between what the Governor marked as being subject to his veto on the face of the bill and what the Governor stated and described as being vetoed in his objection letter that accompanied the veto.

On the face of the bill, the Governor placed a large red "X" over the text of all of Sections 7 and 31. Section 7 of Senate Bill No. 2014 appropriates \$35 million to address homelessness issues in the state, of which \$150,000 was to be provided as a passthrough grant from the housing incentive fund to a Native American-focused organization to fund a homelessness liaison position. The Governor's objection letter stated he had "vetoed items in Section 7 and Section 31." Since issuing the veto, the Governor has characterized the markings on the face of the bill which removed the entirety of Section 7 as "an honest mistake" because he only intended to veto the \$150,000 passthrough grant for the Native American homelessness liaison position.

Although the Governor has characterized the veto as a mistake, the North Dakota Supreme Court has stated that once a veto is effectuated, "the Governor has no power to withdraw a veto." Since discovering the mistake, the Governor has requested the Attorney General to issue an opinion determining whether the veto markings on the bill or the statements in the objection letter are controlling. Precedent supports the position that the objection letter is not the controlling document, and the bill is the official veto document. (See "[Impact of Errors in Gubernatorial Vetoes](#)" for additional information and analysis regarding the veto).

## Employee Spotlight



**Grant Gader** started working for the state in 2022 as an auditor with the Gaming Division of the Attorney General's office before joining the Legislative Council in 2024 as a fiscal analyst. His portfolio includes the Department of Agriculture, North Dakota State University Research Extension Centers, Department of Labor, Workforce Safety and Insurance, Veteran Affairs Commission, Aeronautics Commission, and the Indian Affairs Commission.

Grant was born and raised in Bismarck, and attended North Dakota State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a minor in statistics. He earned his Certified Public Accountant license in 2023. In his free time, Grant enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Lindsey, playing disc golf, camping, backcountry snowmobiling, watersports, aviation, video games, and cooking his award-winning chili.

## Employee Spotlight



**Katie Carpenter** started working for the state in 2019 as a law clerk for the North Dakota Supreme Court and the Attorney General's office. She also worked for the federal courts and in private practice before she joined the Legislative Council in April 2025 as counsel. Her portfolio includes emergency management, environmental quality, labor and employment, Medicaid-Medicare, civil judicial procedure, and tribal relations.

Katie grew up in Moffit and attended the University of Jamestown where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science, history, and Spanish before completing her juris doctorate from the University of North Dakota School of Law. In her free time, Katie enjoys spending time with her husband, Jordan, and their two cats, Steve and Jeff, hanging out with friends, traveling, kayaking, volunteering, and singing with the Bismarck-Mandan civic chorus.



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