



# The Council

## Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee

The Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee held its fifth meeting on June 10. The committee reviewed a proposed legislative rule amendment relating to bills providing for health insurance mandates. The committee also discussed legislator security issues, including reviewing a revised bill draft relating to the confidentiality of legislator address information and receiving information on the Legislator Security Fund created by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The committee discussed arrangements for the 2027 legislative session, including the dates for the State of the State address, Tribal-State Relationship Message, State of the Judiciary address, and the delivery of various reports. The committee reviewed a memorandum regarding Legislative Assembly staff positions and compensation and received organizational charts for proposed 2027 House and Senate Legislative Assembly session staff.

## Employee Spotlight



**Tyler Austin** joined the Legislative Council as a Policy Analyst in the Policy and Program Evaluation Division. He previously worked as a Policy Analyst with the Colorado House of Representatives and completed internships with a California legislator and the United States Department of State.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Tyler earned his bachelor's degree in economics and international relations from California State University, Chico. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and watching movies.



**Breck L. Graves** joined the Legislative Council as a Fiscal Analyst in the Fiscal Division. Before joining the Legislative Council, she spent 7 years as an auditor with the State Auditor's office.

Breck grew up in Minot and moved to Bismarck while in high school. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Mary and is a Certified Public Accountant. Outside of work, she enjoys volunteering with the North Dakota CPA Society. She also takes advantage of Bismarck's trail system and enjoys attending events throughout the community.

Although Flag Day, observed annually on June 14, celebrates the adoption of the United States flag, each state has also adopted its own banner to represent its history and identity. The North Dakota flag was adopted by the Legislative Assembly in March 1911. Its design mirrors the regimental flag carried by the First North Dakota Infantry Regiment during the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars. Representative John Fraine, who commanded North Dakota troops in the Philippines, introduced House Bill No. 152 during the 1911 legislative session to designate the banner as the official state flag.

## Upcoming Meetings

### June

- 16** Advanced Nuclear Energy
- 17** Agriculture and Water Management  
Judiciary  
Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 18-19** Higher Education Institutions
- 23** Tax Reform and Relief Advisory
- 24** Budget Section  
(including divisions)  
Tax Reform and Relief Advisory  
Subcommittee
- 25** Government Finance
- 30** Legislative Task Force on Government  
Efficiency

### July

- 1** Information Technology
- 15** Health Care

## Legislative Management

The Legislative Management met on June 11 to fulfill its statutory responsibility to coordinate the determination of the estimated fiscal impact of initiated measures under North Dakota Century Code Section 16.1-01-17, which requires the Legislative Management to hold hearings, receive public testimony, and gather information on the estimated fiscal impact of initiated measures.

The Secretary of State notified the Legislative Management that one initiated constitutional amendment has been approved for the November general election ballot. That measure relates to the funding of school breakfasts and lunches (Measure No. 3). If approved, the measure would constitutionally mandate all public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools to provide breakfast and lunch to students at no cost to the students or their parents or guardians. The provision of free meals would be optional for nonpublic schools, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools. The measure would not apply to schools of higher education.

The Department of Public Instruction prepared the fiscal impact estimate. The department determined the fiscal impact of the measure, if approved, would be \$124 million to \$134 million per biennium, plus \$300,000 in administrative costs to the department related to training, technical assistance, technology updates, and program oversight.

The Legislative Council will forward the fiscal impact statement to the Secretary of State who is required to include a notice within the Secretary of State's analysis of the measure published in columns to enable the electors to become familiar with the effect of the proposed constitutional amendment and also to specify where copies of the statement of the estimated fiscal impact can be obtained.

## Administrative Rules Committee

The Administrative Rules Committee met on June 11 for its quarterly review of proposed administrative rules. The committee reviewed the July 2026 rules of the Office of Management and Budget, North Dakota Lottery, Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, State Electrical Board, Geological Survey Division of the Department of Mineral Resources, Public Employees Retirement System, Department of Health and Human Services, and the State Gaming Commission. The committee approved a request from the Board of Medicine for an extension to adopt rules to implement House Bill No. 1622 (2025). The committee found the Gaming Commission's proposed rule change related to poker tournament fees in North Dakota Administrative Code Section 99-01.3-09-01 void for an absence of statutory authority.

The committee took notice of the Ethics Commission's adopted rules relating to travel disclosure. The travel disclosure rules will affect members of the Legislative Assembly and all employees of the legislative branch. Registration information for informational presentations by Ethics Commission staff regarding the new rules can be found on the Ethics Commission's website under "[Upcoming Events](#)." [See June 16, 2026 Dakota Dilemmas | Ethics Commission, North Dakota; June 17, 2026 Learning Session | Ethics Commission, North Dakota.](#)

## Water Topics Overview

The Water Topics Overview Committee held its fourth meeting of the interim to receive information on the committee's studies of watershed management and funding for storm water and wastewater projects, the final reports from the Department of Water Resources regarding recommendations from the State Water Commission's studies of regional water systems governance and finance, the commission's cost-share policy and financial planning, and information regarding water project requests that are estimated to cost \$10 million or more.

The committee received information from the Department of Water Resources regarding the State Water Commission's preliminary 2027 water development plan. As of June 2026, the department reported there were 648 new water projects that may be eligible for up to \$1.5 billion in state cost-share funding during the 2027-29 biennium. Of these projects, 15 projects are estimated to cost \$10 million or more.

The Department of Water Resources reported oil extraction tax revenue deposited in the Resources Trust Fund was \$8.5 million more than forecast as of June 2026. The department reported of the \$570.1 million of carryover funding continued from the 2023-25 biennium into the 2025-27 biennium, \$229.5 million has been spent, and of the \$340.6 million remaining, \$305.9 million has been obligated for water projects and \$34.7 million is unobligated.

The committee received information from the Walsh County Water Resource District, Crystal Springs Watershed Initiative, and Lower Heart River Water Resource District regarding requests for state cost-share funding for water projects estimated to cost \$10 million or more. The cost of the projects is estimated to total \$90 million, of which approximately \$31 million may be requested from the State Water Commission for cost-share funding.