



The Council



Legislative Management

The Legislative Management met on August 17 to consider an appeal of the voiding of a proposed administrative rule amendment and to prepare for the special legislative session called by the Governor to convene on September 2.

The State Gaming Commission appealed the action of the Administrative Rules Committee whereby the committee voided a proposed rule amendment relating to entry fees for poker tournaments. Under North Dakota Century Code Section 28-32-18, if the Administrative Rules Committee voids a proposed rule amendment, the proposing agency may appeal to the Legislative Management, which has 60 days to take up the appeal. If the Legislative Management does not

take up the appeal or take action to overturn the action of the Administrative Rules Committee, the voiding of the rule is sustained. After receiving testimony from representatives of the State Gaming Commission and the Gaming Division of the Attorney General's office, the Legislative Management took no action to overturn the voiding of the rule amendment.

Twenty bill and resolution drafts were submitted to the Legislative Management for consideration for introduction during the special session. After reviewing the bill and resolution drafts, the Legislative Management approved five bill drafts for introduction. Those bill drafts related to:

- Scheduling of mitragynine synthetic derivatives as a Schedule I controlled substance.
- Regulation of kratom products.
- An appropriation to the State Historical Society for the Military Museum.
- State reimbursement under the primary residence credit.
- Prohibiting nondisclosure agreements for data centers and industrial projects.

The Legislative Management also approved special session rules and the first day agendas for the House and Senate.



Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee

The Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee met for its final meeting on August 19 to conclude its study of advanced nuclear energy. The committee received an update regarding the United States Department of Energy's request for information for states interested in hosting Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses and information regarding approaches used in other states to support community engagement and education for advanced nuclear energy. The committee welcomed Senator Cale Case to provide insight into Wyoming's legislative experience with advanced nuclear energy deployment and received information from a representative of TerraPower regarding development of the company's Natrium Technology in Wyoming. Representatives from North Dakota State University and Bismarck State College provided information regarding available educational programs to support the current and future nuclear workforce.

The committee formally accepted the final report of its consultant, Nucleon Energy, Inc., and discussed potential legislative proposals, including proposals related to the membership and duties of the High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council and the state's general prohibition on the placement, storage, exploration, testing, or disposal of high-level radioactive waste. After deliberation, the committee elected not to recommend a bill to the Legislative Management, instead deferring to private sponsors to introduce legislation related to advanced nuclear energy in the next legislative session.

Judiciary Committee

The Judiciary Committee held its final meeting of the interim on August 18 to receive information regarding its studies of the state's sentencing, correctional, and parole systems and the costs associated with pretrial services. The committee also received reports regarding the effectiveness of the Peace Officer and Correctional Officer Appreciation Grant Program, legislative recommendations from the Commission on Uniform State Laws, and the driver's license points system and traffic fee schedule.

The committee received information from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Attorney General's office, and Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents regarding the inmate population, the classification of the department's correctional facilities, and the placement of offenders sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

The committee approved and recommended to the Legislative Management a bill providing technical corrections to the Century Code and a bill to expand the reporting requirements of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation regarding its inmate population.

Higher Education Funding Review Committee

The Higher Education Funding Review Committee met on August 19 to receive information regarding low-completion programs at North Dakota University System institutions, funding for dual credit in the state, and workforce development grants awarded to tribally controlled community colleges; and to discuss potential enhancements or alternatives to the current higher education funding formula. The committee considered but made no recommendation regarding a bill draft to enact a new funding formula based primarily on full-time equivalent student enrollment, degree completions, and research expenditures.

Upcoming Meetings

August

- 26** Tax Reform and Relief Advisory
- 31** Artificial Intelligence and Data Center

September

- 1** Special Ad Hoc Policy
- 2** Special Session convenes
- 8** Agriculture and Water Management
- 9** Human Services
- 14** Administrative Rules
Legislative Procedure and Arrangements
- 15** Education
- 16** Special Education Funding
- 17** Water Topics Overview
- 21-22** Higher Education Institutions
- 22** Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 24** Information Technology
- 29** Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency