

The Council

Legislative Council

Agriculture and Water Management Committee

The Agriculture and Water Management Committee held its first meeting on September 11. The committee received testimony on its study of wetland regulations and the taxation of inundated lands. The testimony addressed the nuances of riparian ownership, valuation methods for inundated lands, the role of county tax directors, the dramatic rise of Devils Lake since the early 1990s, and the restrictive nature of federal perpetual wetland easements in North Dakota. The committee also received information on its study of the feasibility and desirability of creating a program that would allow a farmer or rancher to complete a safety course to receive a discount on insurance relating to the individual's farming or ranching operation. Those testifying asserted a premium discount program would incentivize farmers and ranchers to complete a safety course because of the costs associated with obtaining insurance. The committee's next meeting is tentatively planned for mid-November.

Effective Dates of Legislation

As a general rule, a law enacted during a regular session of the Legislative Assembly takes effect on August 1 following the law's filing with the Secretary of State. However, there are exceptions to this general rule. An appropriation measure for the support and maintenance of state departments and institutions, as well as a measure that changes a tax rate or imposes a fee, takes effect on July 1 after its filing with the Secretary of State. A bill also may specify an effective date that applies to the entire measure or to designated sections. A bill containing an emergency clause allows the bill to become effective on a date earlier than it would become effective as a matter of law. In the absence of a specified effective date, an emergency measure takes effect upon its filing with the Secretary of State, provided it was approved by a two-thirds vote of the members-elect of each legislative chamber. For a list of the effective dates of bills approved by the 69th Legislative Assembly, see [Effective Dates of 2025 Legislation](#), available on the legislative branch website.

Employee Spotlight



Jessica Rockeman joined the Legislative Council on September 8, 2025, as a Policy Analyst/Communications Specialist for the Legislative Council's new Policy and Program Evaluation Division.

She brings over 15 years of communications and marketing experience working with United States, Canadian, and Australian government and nonprofits.

Jessica moved to North Dakota in 2004 and graduated from Dickinson State University with a bachelor's degree in history and has taken coursework toward a Masters in Education in curriculum and instruction at Minot State University. She commutes from Richardton with her husband Karl to Bismarck. In her free time Jessica enjoys travel and the outdoors and creating web comics.



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Upcoming Meetings

September

- 18 Water Topics Overview
- 23 Legislative Procedure and Arrangements
Tax Reform and Relief Advisory
- 24 Budget Section (including all subdivisions)
Child Custody Review Task Force
- 25 Government Finance
- 30 Protection and Victim Services

October

- 22 Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund
Advisory Board
- 30 Employee Benefits Programs

November

- 18 Health Care

Representative Klemin Receives National Award

Representative Lawrence R. Klemin was awarded the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators Inspiration Innovation Award. According to the organization, the Inspirational Innovation Award celebrates individuals who demonstrate visionary thinking, impactful solutions, collaborative leadership, and resilience in the face of



challenges. Recipients are recognized for their ability to reimagine juvenile justice systems to better serve youth, families, and communities across the nation. The award was presented to Representative Klemin at the Summer Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum held in Denver in August.

New Name

Congratulations are in order on recent nuptials! Natalie Rindlisbacher is now Natalie Henes. She's still the same Natalie you've all come to know!

Oh Baby!

Legislative Council staff IT Specialist Adam Roeder and his wife Stephanie welcomed a baby girl in July. Sophia Marie was born July 23, weighed in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and measured 20 inches.

