

The Council

Rural Health Transformation Committee

The Rural Health Transformation Committee held its first meeting on October 14-15. The committee consists of members of the standing House and Senate Human Services Committees and the Human Resources Divisions of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the Speaker of the House. The committee has been assigned the duty to review the federal Rural Health Transformation Program and provide input to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding items to include in the state's grant application. The federal Rural Health Transformation Program is providing \$50 billion to states over 5 years. Half of the funding is to be distributed equally to all states as baseline funding which equals \$100 million per state per year. The other half of the funding is to be distributed to states as workload funding with various weighted factors affecting a state's score to receive additional funding.

The committee reviewed program requirements and the allowable and unallowable uses of funds. The committee provided 24 recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding items to be included in the state's grant application. The committee also requested the Legislative Council staff to prepare bill drafts proposing policy changes that, if approved, could improve the state's application scoring.

The committee is scheduled to meet on October 21, 2025, to consider the bill drafts and continue to review the status of the state's grant application. The committee also will likely meet again after January 1, 2026, to review the results of the state's grant application and to consider any legislation necessary to implement approved programs and to appropriate any federal funds received.

Upcoming Meetings

October

- 21** Rural Health Transformation
- 22** Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board
- 23** Emergency Response Services
- 24** Tribal and State Relations
- 28-29** Higher Education Institutions
- 30** Employee Benefits Programs

November

- 5** Special Education Funding
- 6** Energy Development and Transmission
- 12** Higher Education Funding Review
- 13** Agriculture and Water Management
- 18** Health Care
- 19** Human Services

December

- 3** Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency
- 9** Water Topics Overview Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 11** Child Custody Review Task Force

NEW BABY SPOTLIGHT

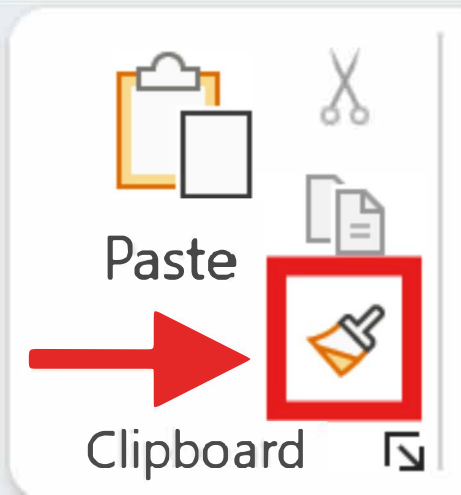
Please join us in extending the warmest congratulations to Legislative Council's Austin Gunderson and his wife Alandra on the arrival of their new baby, Henry.



TECH TIP Format Painter Tool

You can use **Format Painter** to copy the text formatting, such as font style, color, spacing, and size, and apply it to multiple lines of text.

1. **Using your cursor, select the text or graphic** with the formatting you would like to mirror elsewhere in your document.
2. **Click the Format Painter icon** in the Home tab, which changes the cursor to a paintbrush icon.
3. **Click and drag** over the text or graphic you want to apply the formatting to.



Cybersecurity Reminder

Don't get tricked this Halloween. Complete your cybersecurity training for October.



Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency

On October 16, 2025, the Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency held its third meeting of the interim and received information from the Legislative Council and the State Auditor's office regarding the results of a survey related to state workforce programs. The State Auditor noted what is considered a workforce program differs between agencies and program performance metrics should be established before a program is funded so the program can be evaluated after implementation.

The task force received information from Dr. Douglas Jensen, former Bismarck State College president, regarding strategic evaluation strategies to measure program outcomes and realize program efficiencies. The testimony included information on how to implement a model to evaluate state agency programs and reduce the per unit cost of the programs.

The Bank of North Dakota provided the task force with information regarding loans provided to private businesses under each loan program administered by the Bank including commercial partnership in assisting community expansion, agriculture, student loans, and other legislatively directed loan programs.

The task force also received information from the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and from the Utah Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst regarding Utah's executive branch process and the Utah State Legislature's process of evaluating state programs, establishing performance measures, and creating efficiencies in state government.

Education Committee

The Education Committee held its first meeting on October 15, 2025. The committee received information relating to its study of dual-credit courses from the North Dakota University System, the Bank of North Dakota, and the Department of Public Instruction. Presentations included information regarding institutions offering dual-credit; BND financial assistance for students enrolled in dual-credit courses; the impact of dual-credit on the K-12 funding formula; other choice ready programs; and dual-credit funding, enrollment, and scholarships.

In addition to the dual-credit study, the Education Committee has been assigned to receive several reports during the interim. The committee received reports regarding school accreditation rule waivers, education statute waivers, the innovative education program, alternative curriculum proposals, and reports from several agencies and others regarding updates to the strategic vision and a collaborative report of the strategic plans of each steering committee member entity receiving state education funds.

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