

The Council

Higher Education Institutions Committee

On October 28 and 29, the interim Higher Education Institutions Committee met on the campuses of Valley City State University and Mayville State University. The committee received information from representatives of the two universities regarding enrollment, new and expanding academic programs, and institution partnerships with other campuses and the community. Valley City State University has established new programs for data analytics and visualization, addiction studies, and unmanned aircraft systems. At Mayville State University, new degrees are being added for nursing, leadership, and health care informatics.

The committee received a report from the Commissioner of Higher Education regarding higher education trends, including enrollment. Full-time equivalent enrollment has increased 3.9 percent from the fall 2024 semester to the fall 2025 semester across the North Dakota University System.

The Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences presented information regarding strategies to increase resident student enrollment in the school's medical and physician assistant programs. Because less than 6 percent of applications to the medical school are from resident students, the school is engaging in outreach efforts to connect with high school students and undergraduate students enrolled at higher education institutions in the state.

Upcoming Meetings

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
- 20** Judiciary

December

- 2** Information Technology
- 3** Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency
- 9** Water Topics Overview Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 10** Budget Section
- 11** Child Custody Review Task Force



COSTUMES FOR A CAUSE

The Legislative Council staff got into the spirit for Halloween and raised \$300 for the United Way with a costume contest.



TECH TIP Find Function Ctrl+F

Use the **Find Function** to help you locate specific words or phrases quickly.

Ctrl+F works with internet browsers, word docs, and PDFs.

1. Open a word document, PDF, or webpage.
2. Type **Ctrl+F** on the keyboard and a search box appears.



Open Enrollment Reminder

We *pecan't* stress
this enough.
Benefits are sweet.



Employee Benefits Programs Committee

On October 30, the Employee Benefits Programs Committee held its first meeting of the interim and received information from the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company Holdings, Inc., (GRS) regarding actuarial valuations of the PERS Fund, the Highway Patrol Troopers' Retirement System Fund, public safety funds, the Job Service North Dakota Retirement System Fund, and the Retiree Health Insurance Credit Program Fund. The Main System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan was 71.3 percent funded on July 1, 2025, compared to 67.7 percent funded on July 1, 2024. The plan had an unfunded liability of \$1.731 billion at the end of fiscal year 2025, a decrease of \$148 million from the unfunded liability of \$1.879 billion at the end of fiscal year 2024.

The committee received information from the Retirement and Investment Office and GRS regarding the actuarial valuation of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement (TFFR). The TFFR plan was 73.4 percent funded on July 1, 2025, compared to 71.6 percent funded on July 1, 2024. The plan had an unfunded liability of \$1.31 billion at the end of fiscal year 2025 compared to an unfunded liability of \$1.35 billion at the end of fiscal year 2024.

The committee approved a motion to establish an April 1, 2026, deadline for legislators, Legislative Management interim committees, and state agencies with bill introduction privileges to submit to the Legislative Council legislative proposals that affect state retirement system and health benefits programs.

The committee also received information regarding the study of PERS Uniform Group Insurance Program prior authorization and the study of state employee compensation, reviewed health insurance mandate requirements, and received statutorily required reports related to bonuses and service awards provided to state employees.



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