



The Council

Agriculture and Water Management Committee

The Agriculture and Water Management Committee held its second meeting on November 14. The committee received testimony from North Dakota Agricultural Mitigation, the North Dakota Water Users Association, and Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak on wetland mitigation, wetland management, and federal wetland policies and programs as part of the committee's study of wetland regulations. As part of the committee's study of inundated lands in the state, the committee received testimony from a representative of the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board and from residents of Ramsey County. The testimony discussed the continuous flooding caused by rising water levels in Devils Lake and its effects on agriculture. The committee heard testimony from the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Commission, the North Dakota Water Users Association, the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association, and Ellingson Companies about the final study regarding the formula for conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects and the projected cost threshold for conducting economic analyses. The committee also received a report from a BNSF Railway representative on a proposed merger between Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railway and its potential effects on the agriculture industry.

Upcoming Meetings

November

18 Health Care

19 Human Services

December

2 Information Technology
Judiciary

3 Legislative Task Force on
Government Efficiency
Administrative Rules
Tax Reform and Relief Advisory

4 Rural Health Transformation

9 Water Topics Overview
Legislative Audit and
Fiscal Review

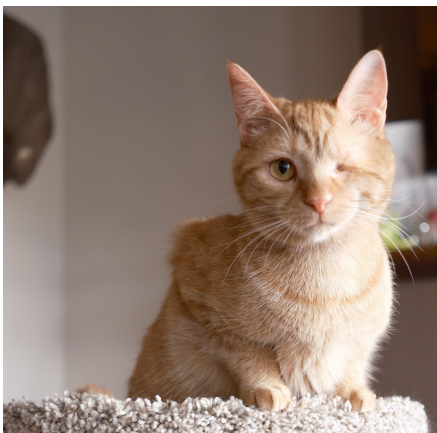
10 Budget Section

11 Child Custody Review Task Force
Government Finance

15 Advanced Nuclear Energy

16 Protection and Victim Services

17 Emergency Response Services



PET SPOTLIGHT

Jefferson the pint-sized pirate has only one eye, but twice the personality. When he is not busy making strange noises at the TV, he enjoys jumping, sitting in the sink, being pampered with a hairbrush, taking short walks on the deck or on his leash, and even boating. His tastes are unconventional. Pumpkin and cobwebs are delicacies, but don't even try to give him a pup-cup, gross. Can you guess my human?

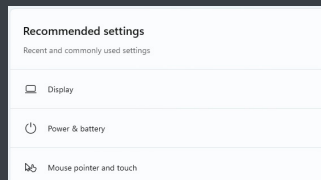


Windows key

TECH TIP WINDOWS+I

Press the **WINDOWS+I** shortcut to open your settings quickly.

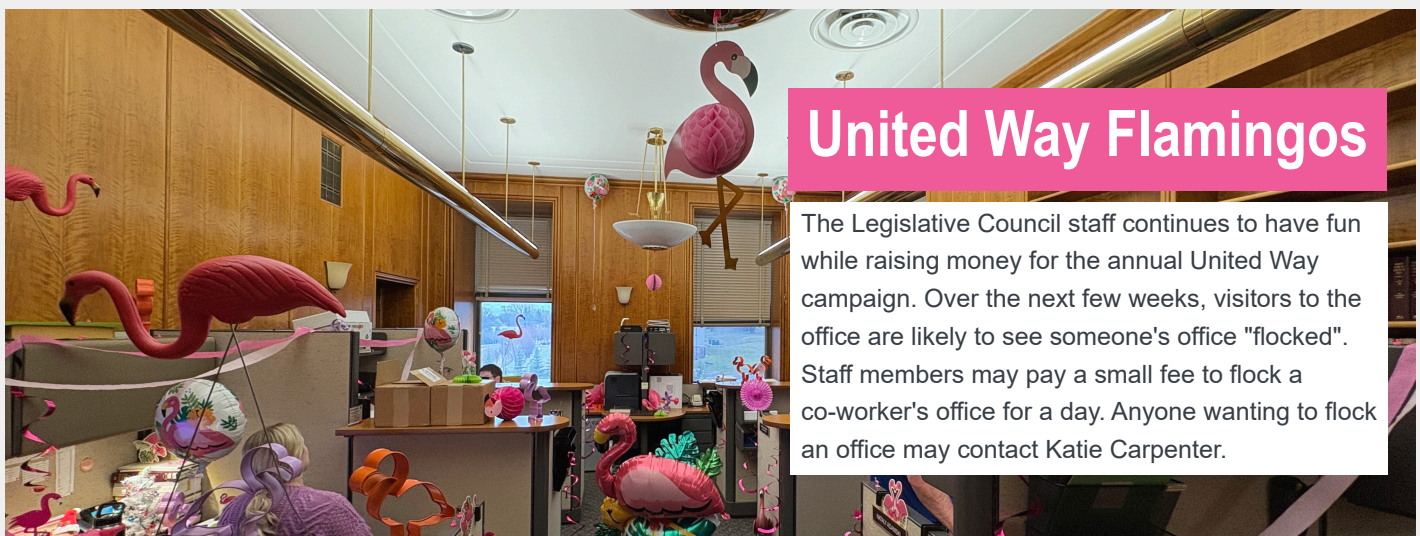
1. Press WINDOWS+I on the keyboard.
2. The settings window for your system appears.



Higher Education Funding Review Committee

On November 12, the interim Higher Education Funding Review Committee held its second meeting of the interim to receive information regarding higher education funding in other states and the impact of out-of-state online students on the state. The committee learned North Dakota is the only state in the Midwest with a performance-based funding formula that does not incentivize universities for the number of credentials awarded, the number of STEM and health professions credentials awarded, or the enrollment of students from under-represented groups.

The committee received information from representatives of the North Dakota University System regarding online education. The University System has defined an out-of-state online student as a student who completes all coursework online, is not a legal resident of, or has no address in North Dakota, and is not affiliated with the military. The estimated impact of out-of-state online students, excluding those in contiguous states, on the higher education funding formula for the 2025-27 biennium is approximately \$22 million. Representatives of Bismarck State College and the University of North Dakota noted the enrollment of out-of-state online students provides for improved relationships with industry, allows the institutions to offer academic programs that would not be economical if only resident online students were enrolled, and helps to improve the reputation of the institutions on a national and global scale.



United Way Flamingos

The Legislative Council staff continues to have fun while raising money for the annual United Way campaign. Over the next few weeks, visitors to the office are likely to see someone's office "flocked". Staff members may pay a small fee to flock a co-worker's office for a day. Anyone wanting to flock an office may contact Katie Carpenter.

CONTACT ndlegis.gov

600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

701-328-2916
lcouncil@ndlegis.gov

