



# The Council



## Prefiled Bills Will Post Soon

The bill prefiling deadline for the 2025 legislative session is today. Bills must be prefiled using the Legislator Requests Application. By logging into your Requests Application ([full user guide linked here](#)), you can see all the bill drafts you requested during the interim under your “Draft Requests” tab on your dashboard. Bill drafts that are complete will have a hyperlinked blue LC number.

If you miss the prefiling deadline, you may resume filing bills on the first day of the legislative session. More on prefiling can be found in last week’s edition of *The Council*.

Prefiled bills will be posted to the legislative branch website and LAWS next week. The LAWS application has the most up-to-date information for legislators. Once session begins, legislators have access to unreleased testimony not yet posted on the website for the public and a dashboard with information on committees, conference committees, sponsored and cosponsored measures, committee voting, and more.


**As of Thursday, December 19, 241 bills have been prefiled.** This is similar to the final number of bills prefiled for the 2023 session, when a total of 247 bills were prefiled. Committee hearings on prefiled bills will begin the first week of session. Hearing schedules will be posted on the legislative branch website the week before session.


## Social Media Launch

On Monday, December 16, the Legislative Council launched social media pages for North Dakota’s legislative branch on Instagram and Facebook. With these pages, the Legislative Council aims to provide North Dakotans with important news and information relating to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and how to engage in the legislative process as a citizen of North Dakota.

This endeavor was made possible by the addition of a communications specialist to the Legislative Council’s staff, which was one of the three positions approved by the Budget Section and the Emergency Commission.

## Follow Us!

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## Employee Spotlight



**Yasmine Outlaw** started as the Legislative Council’s first policy analyst earlier this month. Although new to the Legislative Council, Yasmine brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role. She earned a Master of Public Administration from DePaul University and served as a public administrative professional and unbiased research advocate throughout her previous 5 years of public service.

Yasmine is new to North Dakota, but is a Midwesterner through and through, hailing from Wisconsin. When she’s not working, Yasmine enjoys traveling and cooking. She is looking forward to making North Dakota her new home!

## Important Dates

**TODAY:** Prefile Deadline

**Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1:** Holidays

**Jan. 7:** Session Begins

## From the Director

Season’s greetings!

Although the holidays are always busy, for the Legislative Council staff, the time between the organizational session and the convening of the Legislative Assembly is among the busiest of times during the biennium.

Fiscal staff members are analyzing and summarizing the executive budget proposals and drafting bills; members of the legal staff are conducting research, drafting bills, and reviewing agency bills submitted by executive branch agencies and the judicial branch; the information technology staff and administrative staff members are preparing committee rooms and the chambers and training temporary session staff; and administrative staff are also preparing, editing, and proofreading all the bill drafts and other documents.

When January 7 arrives, we likely will be exhausted, but ready to go!

In our first newsletter last week, our employee spotlight focused on the two old guys. In this and the next few newsletters, we will focus on some of our new employees, beginning with one of the new positions recently added to the staff.

John Bjornson, Director