

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1257

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1257
1/23/2025

Relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

10:57 a.m. Chairman Satrom opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Benefits for newly elected legislators.
- State office holder's presentation

10:57 a.m. Representative Hendrix, District 10, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30933.

11:12 a.m. Jon Godfread, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner, testified in favor.

11:19 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

HB 1257 — *Expanding the Organizational Session*

Mr Chairman and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

My name is Jared Hendrix, and I represent District 10 in the State House. It's been an exciting process so far to learn as a freshman legislator, and I listen intently every day to those who have knowledge and experience in this process. We learn a lot through our mentors, the organization session, and through information presented to us by our party caucuses. That said, there is a need for more education on the lawmaking process itself prior to the beginning of session in January. HB 1257 seeks to fill this gap. With the passage of this bill, the organizational session will accomplish three goals:

Better Explain Rules & Procedures

During organizational session, freshmen vote on rules and a process which they have never actually utilized in practice, nor have many witnessed in practice. HB 1257 requires legislative council to provide a presentation on floor and committee rules and procedures.

Better Explain the Budget Process

Given the fact that very few freshmen are assigned to Appropriations Committees (a practice that will have to change in the term limits era), this bill also provides for a presentation on the appropriations / budgeting process. This will better prepare legislators with an understanding of these bills before they come to the floor. Otherwise, the current process is such that some legislators may never witness the appropriations process even once before the end of session.

Provide Reports by Statewide Constitutional Officeholders

The Governor delivers his budget address to a joint session in December. This bill gives each of our statewide officeholders the same opportunity to explain issues affecting their offices and lay out priorities. They each run a separate office and are elected directly by the people. By doing so in December, we will give legislators more time to consider legislation relating to these offices prior to the start of session, instead of waiting for the mad rush of bill deadlines. In turn, these elected officials can find willing partners for bills much more easily.

Freshmen legislators are expected to hit the ground running at the start of session. Unless you are an experienced citizen lobbyist or grassroots activist, freshmen legislators can be at a significant disadvantage. It is impossible to know everything, but we must make sure lawmakers are as ready as possible to be effective on day one, not day seven or fourteen. I commend Legislative Council and our legislative mentors for their work to prepare us all for success. With a Do Pass on HB 1257, we can strengthen this foundation for our incoming freshmen legislative class.

The second page of my testimony is a little history on the organization session, which began with legislation passed in 1965, courtesy of Legislative Council.

Thank you all for your consideration.

Jared Hendrix

Representative Hendrix,

In 1965, the Legislative Assembly passed legislation to create an organizational session, which included the following statement:

As a result of the growth of modern government and the increasingly complex problems with which the legislative assembly must deal in almost one thousand measures placed before it in every session, it has become apparent that insufficient time exists in a hurried and limited sixty-day session to give full and adequate consideration to each bill and problem with which the legislative assembly is confronted. In order that the beginning days of the legislative assembly can be more profitably and fully utilized there is hereby created a pre-session legislative conference.

The legislation also specified this pre-session would take place in each even-numbered year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month of December. ([S.L. 1965, ch. 342](#)).

In 1969, the Legislative Assembly replaced the phrase "pre-session legislative conference" with the term "organizational session" ([S.L. 1969, ch. 427](#)). In 1984, voters approved Measure No. 2 on the primary election ballot, which required the Legislative Assembly to meet at the seat of government in the month of December following the election of the members thereof for organizational and orientation purposes as provided by law . . . ([S.L. 1985, ch. 706](#)). In 1999, the Legislative Assembly amended the statutory language to provide the organizational session could alternatively start on a date selected by the Legislative [Management] not earlier than December 1 nor later than December 15 ([S.L. 1999, ch. 444](#)). In 2005, the Legislative Assembly further amended this language to provide a starting date in each even-numbered year on the first Monday in the month of December or the alternative described above ([S.L. 2005, ch. 473](#)).

The heading "Organizational and Orientation Session" first appeared in the journals of the House of Representatives and the Senate in 1968, although activities of what are now termed "organizational sessions", such as certification of members by the Secretary of State, appeared in earlier journals under the business of a session's first legislative day.¹ While it is not entirely clear why this structure was not implemented for the 1967 legislative session, one reason may have been that the 1965 legislation referenced above included the following contingency which, as specified in the excerpt below, was not on the ballot until November 1966:

Provided, however, if the amendments to the Constitution of the state of North Dakota as contained in Senate Concurrent Resolution "A"* authorizing a meeting of the legislative assembly for organizational and orientation purposes shall be approved by the electorate at the general election held in November 1966, then and in that event the legislative assembly shall convene at nine o'clock a.m. on the eighth day of December 1966 for not more than three calendar days for organizational and orientation purposes as provided in the Constitution.

From 1968 forward, the organizational session lasted for three legislative days, with an exception in 1986, when the organizational session was combined with a special session and lasted for four legislative days.

Please let us know if you would like any additional information relating to your inquiry.

¹It is worth noting the practical definition of what constitutes a legislative day changed after voters approved [Measure No. 2](#) on the 1976 primary election ballot. This measure limited each regular session of the Legislative Assembly to 80 natural days during the biennium and defined a natural day as a period of 24 consecutive hours. Prior to this amendment, a single legislative day sometimes comprised multiple calendar days.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1257
2/13/2025

Relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

10:33 a.m. Chairman Satrom opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Possible Amendment

10:33 a.m. Representative Wolff States that Legislative Council is still working on amendments.

10:34 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1257
2/14/2025

Relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

10:29 a.m. Chairman Satrom opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Possible Amendment

10:30 a.m. Representative Wolff States that she is still working on amendments.

10:30 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1257
2/20/2025

Relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

10:39 a.m. Chairman Satrom opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter
Members absent: Representative Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action
- Proposed amendments relating to the adoption of rules, and the length of the organizational session.

10:44 a.m. Representative Vetter introduced amendments LC#25.0775.01001, #45369.

11:05 a.m. Representative Schneider moved amendments relating to the organizational session.

11:06 a.m. Representative Karls seconded the motion.

11:13 a.m. Representative Schneider rescinded the motion.

11:14 a.m. Representative Vetter moved to amend the bill LC#25.0775.01001 and to strike lines 29-30

11:23 a.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	N
Representative Collette Brown	N
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	AB

11:23 a.m. Motion passed 10-2-1.

11:24 a.m. Representative Vetter moved a Do Pass as amended.

11:24 a.m. Representative VanWinkle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	N
Representative Collette Brown	N
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	AB

11:25 a.m. Motion passed 7-5-1.

Representative Vetter will carry the bill.

11:26 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1257

Introduced by

Representatives Hendrix, Ista, Kasper, Koppelman, Christianson, D. Ruby

Senators Hogue, Walen, Weston, Enget

2.20.25

Jim 1062

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-03.1-02 and 54-03.1-03 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **54-03.1-02. Time and place of meeting - Who must attend.**

- 7 1. In each even-numbered year on the first Monday in the month of December or on a
8 date selected by the legislative management but not earlier than December first nor
9 later than December fifteenth, all ~~persons~~individuals elected at the previous November
10 general election as members of the succeeding legislative session, and members
11 whose terms do not expire until the first day of December following the next November
12 general election, shall meet in the state capitol in the city of Bismarck, or at such other
13 place as may be designated, at a time designated by the legislative management for
14 the purpose of conducting an organizational session.
- 15 2. The legislative management shall call the organizational session and the legislative
16 council shall make such arrangements as may be necessary for operation of the
17 session.
- 18 3. The organizational session ~~must~~may be conducted over a period of ~~at least~~up to five
19 business days.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 54-03.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-03.1-03. Agenda - Adoption of rules.

The agenda of the organizational session must include the following:

1. ~~Orientation classes upon legislative rules and procedure~~ for new legislators;
regarding:

- a. Floor session and standing committee procedures, including adopted legislative rules and common practices;

- b. Appropriations committees procedures;

- c. Use of tools, equipment, and technology relating to the legislative process; and

- d. Constitutional law, statutes of limitations, due process, and other general legal principles as arranged by legislative council;

2. Presentation of reports by legislative interim committees or commissions;

3. Party caucuses to review proposed legislative rules and committee assignments, as appropriate;

4. Appointment of procedural committees;

5. A joint session including:

- a. Presentation of the budget and revenue proposals recommended by the governor as provided in section 54-44.1-07; and

- b. A report, as directed by legislative management, presented by each constitutional officeholder; and

6. ~~Presentation by the legislative council on floor session and standing committee procedures, including adopted rules and common practices;~~

- ~~7. Presentation of the procedures of the appropriations committees;~~

- ~~8. A report presented by each constitutional office during a joint session; and~~

- ~~9. All other similar matters, in order that so the legislative assembly be~~ fully organized and ready to begin its business by the first day of the regular session.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1257**

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0775.01002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1257 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.0775.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Hendrix
February 18, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1257

Introduced by

Representatives Hendrix, Ista, Kasper, Koppelman, Christianson, D. Ruby

Senators Hogue, Walen, Weston, Enget

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-03.1-02 and 54-03.1-03 of the North
- 2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
- 5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **54-03.1-02. Time and place of meeting - Who must attend.**

- 7 1. In each even-numbered year on the first Monday in the month of December or on a
- 8 date selected by the legislative management but not earlier than December first nor
- 9 later than December fifteenth, all persons~~individuals~~ elected at the previous November
- 10 general election as members of the succeeding legislative session, and members
- 11 whose terms do not expire until the first day of December following the next November
- 12 general election, shall meet in the state capitol in the city of Bismarck, or at such other
- 13 place as may be designated, at a time designated by the legislative management for
- 14 the purpose of conducting an organizational session.
- 15 2. The legislative management shall call the organizational session and the legislative
- 16 council shall make such arrangements as may be necessary for operation of the
- 17 session.
- 18 3. The organizational session ~~must~~may be conducted over a period of ~~at least~~up to five
- 19 business days. *including orientation for new legislators*

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **54-03.1-03. Agenda - Adoption of rules.**

4 1. The agenda of the organizational session must include ^{but is not limited to;} the following:

5 ~~1. a.~~ Orientation classes ~~upon on legislative rules and procedure~~ for new legislators;
6 regarding:

7 (1) Floor session and standing committee procedures, including adopted
8 legislative rules and common practices;

9 (2) Appropriations committees procedures;

10 (3) Use of tools, equipment, and technology relating to the legislative process;
11 and

12 (4) Constitutional law, statutes of limitations, due process, and other general
13 legal principles presented by a ^{as arranged x LC} representative of the university of North

14 Dakota school of law;

15 ~~2. b.~~ ^{5) 1-4 may be in video format} Presentation of reports by legislative interim committees or commissions;

16 ~~3. c.~~ Party caucuses to review proposed legislative rules and committee assignments,
17 as appropriate;

18 ~~4. d.~~ Appointment of procedural committees;

19 ~~5. e.~~ A joint session including:

20 (1) Presentation of the budget and revenue proposals recommended by the
21 governor as provided in section 54-44.1-07; and

22 (2) A report presented by each constitutional officeholder; ^{as determined in} and

23 ~~6. Presentation by the legislative council on floor session and standing committee~~
24 ~~procedures, including adopted rules and common practices;~~

25 ~~7. Presentation of the procedures of the appropriations committees;~~

26 ~~8. A report presented by each constitutional office during a joint session; and~~

27 ~~6.9. f.~~ All other similar matters, ~~in order that~~ so the legislative assembly beis fully
28 organized and ready to begin its business by the first day of the regular session.

29 2. The adoption of legislative rules must take place after all new legislator orientation is
30 complete.

2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1257

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1257
3/13/2025

Relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

9:02 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Time and place for meeting
- Who must attend
- Detailed process
- Orientation class
- Adoption of rules

9:02 a.m. Representative Hendrix, District #10, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #41275 and #41353.

9:16 a.m. Brian Johnson, Public Service Commission attorney, testified neutral.

9:21 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

HB 1257 — *Expanding the Organizational Session*

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

I'm Jared Hendrix, and I represent District 10 in the State House. As a freshman legislator, I listen intently every day to those who have knowledge and experience in this process. We learn a lot through our mentors, the organization session, and through information presented to us by our party caucuses. That said, there is a need for more education on the lawmaking process itself prior to the beginning of session in January. HB 1257 seeks to fill this gap.

Better Explain Rules & Procedures

During organizational session, freshmen vote on rules and a process which they have never actually utilized in practice, nor have many witnessed in practice. HB 1257 requires legislative council to provide a presentation on floor and committee rules and procedures.

Better Explain the Budget Process

Given the fact that very few freshmen are assigned to Appropriations Committees, this bill also provides for a presentation on the appropriations / budgeting process. This will better prepare legislators with an understanding of these bills before they come to the floor. Otherwise, the current process is such that some legislators may never witness the appropriations process even once before the end of session.

Provide a Crash Course on Law

A very small number of legislators are attorneys, yet we craft law. This bill will provide specific training on basic principles of constitutional law and basic legal terminology and principles. This can be done through legislative council staff attorneys, or in consultation with outside experts.

Provide Reports by Statewide Constitutional Officeholders

The Governor delivers his budget address to a joint session in December. This bill gives each of our statewide officeholders the same opportunity to explain issues affecting their offices and lay out priorities. They each run a separate office and are elected directly by the people. By doing so in December, we will give legislators more time to consider legislation relating to these offices prior to the start of session, instead of waiting for the mad rush of bill deadlines. In turn, these elected officials can find willing partners for bills much more easily.

In Conclusion

Freshmen legislators are expected to hit the ground running at the start of session. Unless you are an experienced citizen lobbyist or grassroots activist, freshmen legislators can be at a significant disadvantage. It is impossible to know everything, but we must make sure lawmakers are as ready as possible to be effective on day one, not day seven or fourteen. I commend Legislative Council and our mentors for their work to prepare us all for success. With a Do Pass on HB 1257, we will strengthen this foundation for our incoming freshmen legislative class.

The second page of my testimony is a little history on the organization session, which began with legislation passed in 1965, courtesy of Legislative Council.

Thank you all for your consideration.

Jared Hendrix

Background / History from Legislative Council:

In 1965, the Legislative Assembly passed legislation to create an organizational session, which included the following statement:

As a result of the growth of modern government and the increasingly complex problems with which the legislative assembly must deal in almost one thousand measures placed before it in every session, it has become apparent that insufficient time exists in a hurried and limited sixty-day session to give full and adequate consideration to each bill and problem with which the legislative assembly is confronted. In order that the beginning days of the legislative assembly can be more profitably and fully utilized there is hereby created a pre-session legislative conference.

The legislation also specified this pre-session would take place in each even-numbered year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month of December. ([S.L. 1965, ch. 342](#)).

In 1969, the Legislative Assembly replaced the phrase "pre-session legislative conference" with the term "organizational session" ([S.L. 1969, ch. 427](#)). In 1984, voters approved Measure No. 2 on the primary election ballot, which required the Legislative Assembly to meet at the seat of government in the month of December following the election of the members thereof for organizational and orientation purposes as provided by law ([S.L. 1985, ch. 706](#)). In 1999, the Legislative Assembly amended the statutory language to provide the organizational session could alternatively start on a date selected by the Legislative [Management] not earlier than December 1 nor later than December 15 ([S.L. 1999, ch. 444](#)). In 2005, the Legislative Assembly further amended this language to provide a starting date in each even-numbered year on the first Monday in the month of December or the alternative described above ([S.L. 2005, ch. 473](#)).

The heading "Organizational and Orientation Session" first appeared in the journals of the House of Representatives and the Senate in 1968, although activities of what are now termed "organizational sessions", such as certification of members by the Secretary of State, appeared in earlier journals under the business of a session's first legislative day.¹ While it is not entirely clear why this structure was not implemented for the 1967 legislative session, one reason may have been that the 1965 legislation referenced above included the following contingency which, as specified in the excerpt below, was not on the ballot until November 1966:

Provided, however, if the amendments to the Constitution of the state of North Dakota as contained in Senate Concurrent Resolution "A"* authorizing a meeting of the legislative assembly for organizational and orientation purposes shall be approved by the electorate at the general election held in November 1966, then and in that event the legislative assembly shall convene at nine o'clock a.m. on the eighth day of December 1966 for not more than three calendar days for organizational and orientation purposes as provided in the Constitution.

From 1968 forward, the organizational session lasted for three legislative days, with an exception in 1986, when the organizational session was combined with a special session and lasted for four legislative days.

Please let us know if you would like any additional information relating to your inquiry.

¹It is worth noting the practical definition of what constitutes a legislative day changed after voters approved [Measure No. 2](#) on the 1976 primary election ballot. This measure limited each regular session of the Legislative Assembly to 80 natural days during the biennium and defined a natural day as a period of 24 consecutive hours. Prior to this amendment, a single legislative day sometimes comprised multiple calendar days.

25.0775.02003
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Hendrix
March 7, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1257

Introduced by

Representatives Hendrix, Ista, Kasper, Koppelman, Christianson, D. Ruby

Senators Hogue, Walen, Weston, Enget

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-03.1-02 and 54-03.1-03 of the North
- 2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
- 5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 54-03.1-02. Time and place of meeting - Who must attend.

- 7 1. In each even-numbered year on the first Monday in the month of December or on a
- 8 date selected by the legislative management but not earlier than December first nor
- 9 later than December fifteenth, all persons~~individuals~~ elected at the previous November
- 10 general election as members of the succeeding legislative session, and members
- 11 whose terms do not expire until the first day of December following the next November
- 12 general election, shall meet in the state capitol in the city of Bismarck, or at such other
- 13 place as may be designated, at a time designated by the legislative management for
- 14 the purpose of conducting an organizational session.
- 15 2. The legislative management shall call the organizational session and the legislative
- 16 council shall make such arrangements as may be necessary for operation of the
- 17 session.
- 18 3. The organizational session may be conducted over a period of up to five business
- 19 days.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **54-03.1-03. Agenda - Adoption of rules.**

4 1. The agenda of the organizational session must include the following:

5 ~~1.~~ a. Orientation classes ~~upon legislative rules and procedure~~ for new legislators;
6 regarding:

7 ~~a.~~ (1) Floor session and standing committee procedures, including adopted
8 legislative rules and common practices;

9 ~~b.~~ (2) Appropriations committees procedures;

10 ~~c.~~ (3) Use of tools, equipment, and technology relating to the legislative process;
11 and

12 ~~d.~~ (4) Constitutional law, statutes of limitations, due process, and other general
13 legal principles as arranged by legislative council;

14 ~~2.~~ b. Presentation of reports by legislative interim committees or commissions;

15 ~~3.~~ c. Party caucuses to review proposed legislative rules and committee assignments,
16 as appropriate;

17 ~~4.~~ d. Appointment of procedural committees;

18 ~~5.~~ e. A joint session including:

19 ~~a.~~ (1) Presentation of the budget and revenue proposals recommended by the
20 governor as provided in section 54-44.1-07; and

21 ~~b.~~ (2) A report, as directed by legislative management, presented by each
22 constitutional officeholder; and

23 ~~6.~~ f. All other similar matters, ~~in order that so~~ the legislative assembly ~~be~~ fully
24 organized and ready to begin its business by the first day of the regular session.

25 2. Except for the adoption of temporary legislative rules at the beginning of the
26 organizational session, the adoption of legislative rules must take place after all new
27 legislator orientation is complete.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1257
3/13/2025

Relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

11:05 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Correct numbering
- Committee Action

11:07 a.m. Senator Walen suggested a verbal amendment changing line 17 and 18 to state "as directed and".

11:08 a.m. Senator Castaneda suggested a verbal amendment to state removing lines 14, 17 and 18 and correct numbering.

11:12 a.m. Senator Castaneda moved Amendment LC #25.0775.02004.

11:12 a.m. Senator Walen seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

11:15 a.m. Senator Braunberger moved Do Not Pass as amended

11:15 a.m. Senator Barta seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	N

Motion Passed 5-1-0

Senator Lee will carry the bill.

11:16 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1257

Introduced by

Representatives Hendrix, Ista, Kasper, Koppelman, Christianson, D. Ruby

Senators Hogue, Walen, Weston, Enget

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-03.1-02 and 54-03.1-03 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the organizational session of the legislative assembly.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **54-03.1-02. Time and place of meeting - Who must attend.**

- 7 1. In each even-numbered year on the first Monday in the month of December or on a
8 date selected by the legislative management but not earlier than December first nor
9 later than December fifteenth, all ~~persons~~individuals elected at the previous November
10 general election as members of the succeeding legislative session, and members
11 whose terms do not expire until the first day of December following the next November
12 general election, shall meet in the state capitol in the city of Bismarck, or at such other
13 place as may be designated, at a time designated by the legislative management for
14 the purpose of conducting an organizational session.
- 15 2. The legislative management shall call the organizational session and the legislative
16 council shall make such arrangements as may be necessary for operation of the
17 session.
- 18 3. The organizational session may be conducted over a period of up to five business
19 days.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **54-03.1-03. Agenda - Adoption of rules.**

4 The agenda of the organizational session must include the following:

- 5 1. Orientation classes ~~upon legislative rules and procedure~~ for new legislators; regarding:
6 a. Floor session and standing committee procedures, including adopted legislative
7 rules and common practices;
8 b. Appropriations committees procedures;
9 c. Use of tools, equipment, and technology relating to the legislative process; and
10 d. Constitutional law, statutes of limitations, due process, and other general legal
11 principles as arranged by legislative council;
12 2. Presentation of reports by legislative interim committees or commissions;
13 3. Party caucuses to review proposed legislative rules and committee assignments, as
14 appropriate;
15 4. Appointment of procedural committees;
16 5. A joint session including:
17 ~~a.~~ Presentation of the budget and revenue proposals recommended by the
18 governor as provided in section 54-44.1-07; and
19 ~~b. A report, as directed by legislative management, presented by each constitutional~~
20 ~~officeholder; and~~
21 6. All other similar matters, ~~in order that so~~ the legislative assembly ~~be~~ fully organized
22 and ready to begin its business by the first day of the regular session.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1257**

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.0775.02004)** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1257 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.