

**2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1408**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1408  
2/7/2024

Relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.
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9:42 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

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

Members absent: Representatives, Brown, Christy

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Strategic and effective governance
- Continuity of standing committees

9:42 a.m. Representative Bahl, District 17, introduced the bill, and submitted testimony, #36114.

9:49 a.m. Representative Louser, District 5, testified in favor.

10:01 a.m. Felipe Vasquez, North Dakota Young Republicans Region Chairman, testified in opposition.

### **Additional Written Testimony:**

Josiah Kuntz, Private Citizen, submitted testimony in opposition, #35333.

10:04 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

I write in opposition of HB1408 that seeks to move the legislature to an annual process. It is bad enough having to check up on what you people are trying to ban or regulate or in some other way annoy me as a citizen of the state every other year, let alone making that something to look forward to every single January.

The citizens of the state need that gap year breather in between our lovely legislators coming in to decide how we need to live our lives differently this time. Please keep the legislature as it is and enjoy your time off away from Bismarck. If it's that important you can call emergency sessions. Vote yourselves a pay raise if that's what this is about, just take the money and please stay home.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Landon Bahl

District 17  
701-340-7732  
[lbahl@ndlegis.gov](mailto:lbahl@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

Chairman and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Landon Bahl, and I have the honor of representing the citizens of District 17 in the North Dakota House of Representatives.

I stand before you today to introduce House Bill 1408, a bill that proposes transitioning the North Dakota Legislature to annual sessions beginning in 2027. This bill represents a proactive approach to modernizing our legislative process while preserving the integrity of our existing framework, I firmly believe that with House Bill 1408, the following objectives would occur:

- HB 1408 would enhance fiscal and economic responsiveness by our legislature in terms of decision making. More frequent legislative sessions will allow us to better manage the state budget, respond to economic shifts in real-time, and provide necessary adjustments without delays.
- HB 1408 maintains the 80-Day Legislative Limit. This bill does not increase the total number of legislative days. Instead, it strategically distributes the existing 80 days over two years, ensuring efficiency without extending government operations.
- As this committee has heard often, the people voted for term limits. Now we need to address the challenges that term limits are bringing. To ensure we remain an equal branch of government, we will need to preserve institutional knowledge held by the legislative branch and annual sessions will allow new lawmakers to gain experience more efficiently, fostering better-informed decision-making and continuity of governance, ultimately enhancing the knowledge of our legislators.
- Interim committees will have the opportunity to conduct more meaningful research, analysis, and public engagement, ensuring that policies are better developed, reviewed, and refined before final legislative action. This will increase the effectiveness of policy decisions and reduce rushed legislation.
- Truly one of the most important objectives of this house bill is the ability to attract high-quality legislative candidates. By implementing annual sessions, we provide greater flexibility and accessibility for individuals who wish to serve, encouraging a broader, more experienced, and diverse pool of candidates to step forward and serve our great state who normally would not be able to commit to four months at one time

HB 1408 is more than just a change in our meeting schedule, it's a strategic step toward more effective governance. This forward-thinking initiative ensures North Dakota remains competitive, responsive, and well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of our citizens and economy. By granting legislative management the flexibility to determine the structure of annual sessions, this bill enhances adaptability and efficiency in lawmaking. Crafted with input from many legislators who recognize the importance of this moment, HB 1408 reflects a shared commitment to progress. If passed, annual legislative sessions would begin in 2027, paving the way for a more citizen-focused, dynamic, and resilient legislative future for North Dakota.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Government & Veterans Affairs Committee, I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of House Bill 1408. This legislation will help us build a stronger, more efficient, and more accountable government for the people of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time, and I will stand for any questions.

Regards,  
Landon Bahl

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1408  
2/7/2025

Relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.

3:24 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

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

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

3:30 p.m. Representative Schneider moved a Do Pass and rerefer to appropriations.

3:30 p.m. Representative McLeod seconded the motion.

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

3:32 p.m. Motion passed 11-2-1.

Representative Bahl will carry the bill.

3:32 p.m. Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1408 ([25.0902.02000](#))**

**Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1408 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1408**



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## **Appropriations Committee** Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1408  
2/18/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.

11:15 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chair Kempenich Representatives: Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Annual Legislative Sessions
- Fiscal impacts for Legislative Sessions

11:16 a.m. Representative Sauer Introduces the bill 1408 and submitted testimony #37990.

11:26 a.m. Representative Bahl answers questions for committee.

11:30 a.m. Representative Vigesaa closed the meeting

*Risa Berube, Committee Clerk*

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Appropriations committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, District 13, West Fargo.

**House Bill 1408** is a major change in North Dakota government.

**HB 1408** calls for annual sessions beginning in **2027**.

This bill represents a proactive approach to modernizing our legislative process while preserving the integrity of our existing framework.

**Here are the objectives of this bill.**

**1. HB 1408 would enhance fiscal and economic responsiveness by our legislature in terms of decision making.**

More frequent legislative sessions will allow us to better manage the state budget, respond to economic shifts in real-time, and provide necessary adjustments without delays.

**2. HB 1408 maintains the 80-Day Legislative Limit.**

This bill does not increase the total number of legislative days. Instead, it strategically distributes the existing 80 days over two years, ensuring efficiency without extending government operations.

**3. HB 1408 responds to term limits.**

With term limits comes the reduction of institutional knowledge potentially creating more power to State office holders, agency heads, and lobbyists.

Annual session ensures (as best as possible) equal branches of government. New lawmakers can gain more experience and knowledge to make better decisions on public policy and fiscal challenges.

**4. Under HB 1408, interim committees will have the opportunity to conduct more meaningful research, analysis, and public engagement, ensuring that policies are better developed, reviewed, and refined before final legislative action.**

This will increase the effectiveness of policy decisions and reduce rushed legislation.

**5. HB 1408 will help attract high-quality legislative candidates.**

By implementing annual sessions, we provide greater flexibility and accessibility for individuals who wish to serve while still actively employed.

Instead of four months every two years, it would be two-plus months each year.

**HB 1408** is more than a change in our meeting schedule. It's a strategic step toward more **effective governance**.

It ensures North Dakota remains competitive, responsive, and well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of our citizens and economy.

By granting legislative management the flexibility to determine the structure of annual sessions, this bill enhances adaptability and efficiency in lawmaking.

Crafted with input from many legislators who recognize the importance of this moment, **HB 1408** reflects a shared commitment to progress.

By a **12-2** vote, your **GVA** committee gave a **DO PASS** to **HB 1408**. We now ask for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand open to questions.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1408  
2/18/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.

7:38 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chair Kempenich Representatives: Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Wagner.

Member Absent: Swiontek.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

7:38 p.m Representative Mitskog moved a Do Pass.

7:38 p.m. Representative Stemen seconded the motion.

7:40 p.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	N
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	N
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	N
Representative David Monson	N
Representative Eric J. Murphy	N
Representative Mike Nathe	N
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y

Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	AB
Representative Scott Wagner	N

7:40 p.m. Motion passed 13-9-1

Representative Bahl will carry the bill.

7:42 p.m. Representative Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Krystal Eberle for Risa Berube - Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1408 ([25.0902.02000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 9 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1408 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**HB 1408**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee  
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1408  
3/28/2025

Relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.
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9:30 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

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

## Discussion Topics:

- Annual sessions
- Strengthens process
- Long term efficiency
- 2027 start date
- Interim Committees effectiveness

9:30 a.m. Representative Bahl, District #17, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44248.

9:46 a.m. Representative Louser, District #5, testified in favor.

10:03 a.m. Geoffrey Simon, Western Dakota Energy Association, testified in favor.

10:04 a.m. Jim Mehlhaff, Senator Majority Leader Legislative Assembly South Dakota District #24, testified neutral and submitted testimony #44375.

10:17 a.m. Pete Hanebutt, Director ND Farm Bureau, testified in opposition.

## Additional written testimony:

Ben Kappel, citizen, submitted testimony in favor #44323.

Danielle Kappel, citizen, submitted neutral testimony #44352.

10:23 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

## Testimony in Support HB 1408 — with Recommendations

Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Ben Kappel, a lifelong North Dakotan, real estate professional, and someone who hopes to serve this great state in elected office one day. I'm writing in **general support of House Bill 1408**, which proposes an annual legislative session structure. I believe this bill moves us in the right direction by encouraging a more responsive, agile legislature that can address emerging challenges in real time, rather than waiting two years for the next opportunity.

That said, I offer this testimony not only in support, but with a few **critical concerns and constructive recommendations**.

### Balance Responsiveness with Responsibility

While annual sessions may improve responsiveness, they must not lead to **legislative bloat**. North Dakota is a **majority-Republican state**, and our party stands for **limited government**. That principle should not be abandoned simply because we're meeting more frequently.

There must be intentional guardrails to ensure we are not doubling the number of bills introduced simply because we meet twice as often. **More time should not mean more legislation**, especially when much of it is duplicative or unlikely to pass.

### Stop the Endless Reintroduction of Failed Bills

One major concern is the **recycling of legislation**. Annual sessions could unintentionally become an avenue for special interests — often from out of state — to **resurrect failed or unpopular bills**, hoping that the public isn't watching as closely the second or third time around.

Take, for example, the repeated proposals to change **time zones or daylight saving time**. These bills come back year after year, despite widespread public confusion and concern. Do we need to stress our constituents annually with the same controversial topics that have already been decided?

We must consider incorporating **a cooling-off period or reintroduction limits** for bills that have failed decisively, especially if they carry no significant new data or public demand.

### Reduce Public Stress and Protect Trust

When the legislature is in session, **the public pays attention — and feels the stress**. Our residents worry about how proposed laws will affect their schools, jobs, healthcare, and personal lives. **We owe them a process that is streamlined, thoughtful, and respectful of their peace of mind.**

Increased frequency should not mean **increased anxiety**, and that's something we, as future and current public servants, need to take seriously.

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In closing, I believe HB 1408 has great potential — but only **if paired with reforms** that protect transparency, reduce redundancy, and uphold our conservative values of small, effective government. Let's make North Dakota's legislature more agile, **not more bloated**. And above all, let's honor the trust of the people we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ben Kappel  
Manan, ND



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Landon Bahl

District 17  
701-340-7732  
[lbahl@ndlegis.gov](mailto:lbahl@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

Madam Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, For the record, my name is Landon Bahl, and I have the honor of representing the citizens of District 17 in the North Dakota House of Representatives.

I stand before you today to introduce House Bill 1408, which proposes transitioning the North Dakota Legislature to annual sessions beginning in 2027. This bill takes a proactive approach to modernizing our legislative process while preserving the integrity of our existing framework.

### Key Provisions of House Bill 1408:

- Maintains the 80-day legislative limit, this bill does not increase total session days but instead distributes them more effectively over two years.
- Shifts the legislature to annual sessions starting in 2027.
- Limits each year's session to 70 calendar days, with adjournment likely by early March.
- Provides flexibility in structuring sessions under the jurisdiction of legislative management per the amendment passed out with my testimony.
- Results in a fiscal note reduction for the biennium.

### Broader Positive Impacts of House Bill 1408:

- Enhances fiscal and economic responsiveness by allowing more timely decision-making.
- Addresses the challenges of term limits by helping legislators gain experience more efficiently, ensuring continuity of governance.
- Strengthens the legislative branch to ensure it remains an equal branch of government, which would further preserve institutional knowledge and improve policymaking.
- Improves interim committee effectiveness through enhanced research, analysis, and public engagement, leading to more well-developed and thoroughly vetted policies.
- Attracts high-quality legislative candidates by making public service more accessible. Annual sessions would allow more North Dakotans, especially those unable to commit to four months at a time to serve, fostering a more experienced, diverse, and representative legislature.

Madam Chair Roers and members of the committee, House Bill 1408 strengthens our legislative process, improves decision-making, and ensures long-term efficiency in government. I urge you to support this effort to build a more effective and accountable legislature for the people of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

Regards,  
Landon Bahl

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1408

Introduced by

Representatives Bahl, Lefor, Louser, D. Ruby, Schauer, Weisz, Hagert

Senators Bekkedahl, Roers, Schaible, Sickler, Davison

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~  
2 ~~relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective~~  
3 ~~date.~~ for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective  
5 date.

### 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

7 ~~SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
8 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

9 ~~54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.~~

10 ~~1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of~~  
11 ~~December following the election of the its members thereof for organizational and~~  
12 ~~orientation purposes and shall thereafter recess until the time provided in~~  
13 ~~subsection 2.~~

14 ~~2. The legislative assembly shall reconvene at twelve noon annually for a number of days~~  
15 ~~to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the number of days must be~~  
16 ~~scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each year, subject to subsection 3.~~

17 ~~a. Each year, the legislative assembly shall convene on the first TuesdayMonday~~  
18 ~~after the third day in January of the year following the organizational session as~~  
19 ~~provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date selected by the legislative~~  
20 ~~management but not earlier than January second nor later than January eleventh~~

of the year following the organizational session and, following. ~~At the close of business of the regular session, the legislative assembly shall adjourn recess subject to subsection 3.~~

~~b. The first week of each year the legislative assembly is convened, it shall convene on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Thereafter, the legislative assembly shall primarily convene on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The legislative assembly shall convene on Friday only as determined by the legislative management with prior notice to the legislative assembly. A standing committee of the legislative assembly may meet on a Friday with prior notice to the presiding officer of the chamber.~~

~~3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under subsection 2.~~

~~4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the legislative session.~~

~~**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.~~

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**

1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of December following the election of ~~the~~its members ~~thereof~~ for organizational and orientation purposes and shall ~~thereafter~~ recess until the time provided in subsection 2.
2. The legislative assembly shall ~~reconvene at twelve noon on the first Tuesday after the third day in January of the year following the organizational session as provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date selected by the legislative management but not earlier than January second nor~~reconvene annually at a date and time determined by the legislative management, but not later than January eleventh of ~~the~~each year

~~following the organizational session and, following the close of business of the regular session, shall adjourn.~~ subject to subsection 3.

3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under subsection 2.

4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the legislative session.

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I would like to start by disclosing, I am currently a North Dakota state government employee, but I am speaking as a North Dakota citizen in regard to this testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer neutral testimony on the proposed amendment to Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to annually reconvened sessions of the Legislative Assembly.

As you consider this bill, I urge the committee to ensure that any change in the legislative schedule continues to reflect the foundational principle of limited, responsible government—a value central to the North Dakota Republican Party platform and widely supported by the citizens of this state.

My concerns surround the amount of bills being filed, and the return of failed legislation biennium after biennium.

There needs to be assurance that meeting every year will not just double the amount of bills seen in a biennium. In this session there were 620 bills filed by the House and 400 filed by the Senate. I am concerned the legislature will now file around 1000 bills every year and have a limited amount of time to review and amend them. This will lead to sloppy legislation and legislatures making uninformed decisions.

Another concern I have is consistency of the similar legislation returning biennium after biennium. An easy example of this is time-zone legislation. The public takes time to inform and testify to the legislature, and a piece of legislation does not pass, only to have similar legislation be proposed the next biennium. I am concerned that failed legislation will return year after year which would just cause more of a burden to the public.

To align with the principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and legislative accountability, I respectfully ask the committee to consider amendments or internal rules that preserve deliberation and prevent legislative bloat under this new calendar.

Thank you for your time and commitment to good governance.

Danielle Kappel



# 100<sup>th</sup> SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR

## 2025 38 Legislative Days



Please refer to the Joint Rules, Chapter 17 for complete information.

	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
January 2025	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
	12	13	14 Session Opens 12 Noon(CST) State of the State LD 1	15 State of the Judiciary 10:00am State of the Tribes 1:00pm LD 2	16 LD 3	17 LD 4	18
	19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 Executive orders filed (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8) LD 5	22 LD 6	23 Jt. Memorial Service 3:00pm LD 7	24 LD 8	25
	26	27 LD 9	28 Bill and resolution draft requests due to LRC by 5:00pm (for unlimited introduction) LD 10	29 LD 11	30 Last day for unlimited bill and resolution introduction (JR 6B-3) (TWO HOURS prior to session) LD 12	31	1
	2	3 All bill and resolution draft requests due to LRC by 5:00pm LD 13	4 Committee bill and resolution draft requests due to LRC by 5:00pm LD 14	5 Last day for introduction of individual bills and resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session) LD 15	6 Last day for introduction of committee bills and resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session) LD 16	7 LD 17	8
February 2025	9	10 LD 18	11 LD 19	12 LD 20	13 Last day for JCA selection of general fund revenue targets (JR 7-11.1) LD 21	14	15
	16	17 Presidents' Day	18 LD 22	19 LD 23	20 LD 24	21 LD 25	22
	23	24 Last day to move required delivery of bills or resolutions by a committee to the house of origin, and Last day to use JR 5-17 LD 26	25 Last day to pass bills or joint resolutions by the house of origin (Crossover Day), and Last day to invoke JR 7-7 in the house of origin LD 27	26 LD 28	27 Last day for JCA to move required delivery of special appropriation bills to house of origin (JR 17-1) LD 29	28	1
	2	3 Last day for house of origin to pass special appropriation bills referred from JCA (JR 17-1), and Commemoration requests due to LRC by 5:00pm LD 30	4 LD 31	5 JR 5-13 in effect, and Last day for introduction of commemorations (TWO HOURS prior to session) LD 32	6 Last day to move required delivery of bills or joint resolutions by a committee to the second house LD 33	7	8
March 2025	9	10 Last day for a bill or joint resolution to pass both houses, and Last day to invoke JR 7-7 in the second house LD 34	11 LD 35	12 LD 36	13 LD 37	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
April 2025	30	31 Reserved for consideration of gubernatorial vetoes LD 38	1	2	3	4	5

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1408  
4/3/2025

Relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.

9:11 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

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

### Discussion Topics:

- Rules committee
- Alleviate length of time
- Value of hearings
- Committee recommendations
- Eliminate duplication

9:20 a.m. Senator Walen moved to adopt amendment LC #25.0902.02003.

9:20 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	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

9:35 a.m. Senator Braunberger moved Do Pass as amended rerefer to Appropriations.

9:35 a.m. Senator Castaneda 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	N
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 5-1-0

Senate State and Local Government Committee  
HB 1408  
4/03/2025  
Page 2

Senator Roers will carry the bill.

9:37 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

4/3/25 VC  
1 of 3

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1408**

Introduced by

Representatives Bahl, Lefor, Louser, D. Ruby, Schauer, Weisz, Hagert

Senators Bekkedahl, Roers, Schaible, Sickler, Davison

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

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12 ~~orientation purposes and shall thereafter recess until the time provided in~~  
13 ~~subsection 2.~~

14 ~~— 2. The legislative assembly shall reconvene at twelve noon annually for a number of days~~  
15 ~~to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the number of days must be~~  
16 ~~scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each year, subject to subsection 3.~~

17 ~~— a. Each year, the legislative assembly shall convene on the first Tuesday~~ ~~Monday~~  
18 ~~after the third day in January of the year following the organizational session as~~  
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20 ~~management but not earlier than January second nor later than January eleventh~~



of the year following the organizational session and, following, ~~At the close of~~  
business of the regular session, ~~the legislative assembly shall adjourn~~ recess  
subject to subsection 3.

~~b. The first week of each year the legislative assembly is convened, it shall convene~~  
~~on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Thereafter, the~~  
~~legislative assembly shall primarily convene on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,~~  
~~and Thursday. The legislative assembly shall convene on Friday only as~~  
~~determined by the legislative management with prior notice to the legislative~~  
~~assembly. A standing committee of the legislative assembly may meet on a~~  
~~Friday with prior notice to the presiding officer of the chamber.~~

~~3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene~~  
~~as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may~~  
~~not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not~~  
~~been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under~~  
~~subsection 2.~~

~~4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the~~  
~~legislative session.~~

~~SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.~~

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**

1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of  
December following the election of ~~the~~its members ~~thereof~~ for organizational and  
orientation purposes and shall ~~thereafter~~ recess until the time provided in  
subsection 2.
2. The legislative assembly shall reconvene ~~at twelve noon on the first Tuesday after the~~  
~~third day in January of the year following the organizational session as provided in~~  
~~subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date selected by the legislative management but~~  
~~not earlier than January second nor~~annually at a date and time determined by the  
legislative management, but not later than January eleventh of ~~the~~each year ~~following~~

- 1 ~~the organizational session and, following the close of business of the regular session,~~  
2 ~~shall adjourn.~~ subject to subsection 3.
- 3 3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene  
4 as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may  
5 not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not  
6 been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under  
7 subsection 2.
- 8 4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the  
9 legislative session.

10 **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1408**

**State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0902.02003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1408 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1408**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Government Operations Division Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1408  
4/9/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date

9:45 a.m. Chairman Wanzek opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Wanzek, Vice-Chair Dwyer, Senator Burckhard, Senator Erbele, and Senator Sickler.

### Discussion Topics:

- Fiscal note reduction
- Research analysis
- Accessibility of service
- Demographics of Legislature now serving
- South Dakota legislative session experience
- Institutional experience and knowledge continuity
- Forty legislative days within 70 calendar days
- Definition of organizational session
- Impact of annual sessions upon interim committees
- Proposed reduction in number of interim committees
- Annual sessions
- Effects from employer and from young family standpoint for legislators

9:45 a.m. Brady Larson, Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst, distributed testimony #44819, Proposed Amendments, 25.0902.02005.

9:46 a.m. Representative Bahl, District 17, testified in favor, responded to many committee questions and referenced testimony #44818.

10:08 a.m. Representative Louser, District 5, testified in favor, responded to many committee questions and referenced testimony #44819.

10:29 a.m. Senator Sickler moved to Adopt the Amendments, 25.0902.02005, for HB 1408.

10:29 a.m. Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y

Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

10:31 a.m. Senator Sickler moved a Do Pass as Amended for HB 1408.

10:31 a.m. Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	N
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	N
Senator Robert Erbele	N
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y

Motion failed 2-3-0.

10:41 a.m. Senator Dwyer a Do Not Pass Recommendation for HB 1408.

10:41 a.m. Senator Erbele seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	N
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	N

Motion passed 3-2-0.

Senator Dwyer will carry this bill.

10:43 a.m. Chairman Wanzek closed the hearing.

*Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk*



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Landon Bahl

District 17  
701-340-7732  
[lbahl@ndlegis.gov](mailto:lbahl@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, For the record, my name is Landon Bahl, and I have the honor of representing the citizens of District 17 in the North Dakota House of Representatives.

I stand before you today to introduce House Bill 1408, which proposes transitioning the North Dakota Legislature to annual sessions beginning in 2027. This bill takes a proactive approach to modernizing our legislative process while preserving the integrity of our existing framework.

### Key Provisions of House Bill 1408:

- Results in a fiscal note reduction for the biennium. I am not sure how many bonus points this should give me, but today your job on this bill should be simple with no appropriation needed. However, I will continue to discuss the policy part of this bill as I know some of you may be interested in learning more about this approach.
- Maintains the 80-day legislative limit, this bill does not increase total session days but instead distributes them more effectively over two years, we are not changing the constitution.
- Shifts the legislature to annual sessions starting in 2027.
- Limits each year's session to 70 calendar days, with adjournment likely by early March.
- Provides flexibility in structuring sessions under the jurisdiction of legislative management per the amendment passed out with my testimony.

### Broader Positive Impacts of House Bill 1408:

- Enhances fiscal and economic responsiveness by allowing more timely decision-making.
- Addresses the challenges of term limits by helping legislators gain experience more efficiently, ensuring continuity of governance.
- Strengthens the legislative branch to ensure it remains an equal branch of government, which would further preserve institutional knowledge and improve policymaking.
- Improves interim committee effectiveness through enhanced research, analysis, and public engagement, leading to more well-developed and thoroughly vetted policies.
- Attracts high-quality legislative candidates by making public service more accessible. Annual sessions would allow more North Dakotans, especially those unable to commit to four months at a time to serve, fostering a more experienced, diverse, and representative legislature.
  - To further underscore the importance of the statement I just made and how important it is to get well qualified and diverse individuals in the legislature, here are a few facts about our legislative assembly makeup today:
    - 60% of the legislative assembly can be classified into as little as three groups in terms of occupation, the first one in this grouping being farmer and ranchers, the second one being self employed and the largest in this group being retirees.

House Bill is another annual sessions bill however it may be the right one at the right time. The citizens voted for term limits and we need to do our best to adjust how we do business because the impacts of term limits are in sight. We cannot sit here and wait for those impacts to begin before we take action. If this assembly does not take action, we truly are going to impact the citizens of North Dakota, and how we do business in a negative way, there is no doubt about that. You do not need to take this from me, rather look at the study performed last interim, reach out to legislative council and ask their expert thoughts, or if you are a veteran in this assembly, ask yourself. A few very interesting or, some may say alarming facts about the future of our assemblies are as follows:

- In the 70<sup>th</sup> legislative assembly, there will be a maximum of 48.94% freshmen legislators.
- In the 71<sup>st</sup> legislative assembly, there will be a minimum of 36.88% freshmen legislators, and with the potential for a maximum of 51.06% freshmen legislators in the 71<sup>st</sup> legislative assembly. This maximum would then remain the maximum for every session moving forward.

I recognize that change, especially change initiated in the House, can face resistance. That's why we brought in Senate Majority Leader Jim Mehlhaff from South Dakota to share his experience with annual sessions during the Senate Policy Committee hearing. His testimony was compelling. South Dakota has long operated with annual sessions, and they've done so with efficiency and success. I encourage each of you to view that video testimony before taking committee action on HB 1408.

Chairman Wanzek and members of the committee, House Bill 1408 strengthens our legislative process, improves decision-making, and ensures long-term efficiency in government. I urge you to support this effort to build a more effective and accountable legislature for the people of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

Regards,  
Landon Bahl

25.0902.02005  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative Bahl  
April 8, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1408

Introduced by

Representatives Bahl, Lefor, Louser, D. Ruby, Schauer, Weisz, Hagert

Senators Bekkedahl, Roers, Schaible, Sickler, Davison

1 *In place of amendments (25.0902.02003) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1408 is*  
2 *amended by amendment (25.0902.02004) as follows:*

3 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~  
4 ~~relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective~~  
5 ~~date;~~ for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
6 relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; to provide an effective  
7 date; and to provide an expiration date.

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

9 ~~— **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
10 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

11 ~~— **54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**~~

12 ~~— 1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of~~  
13 ~~December following the election of the its members thereof for organizational and~~  
14 ~~orientation purposes and shall thereafter recess until the time provided in~~  
15 ~~subsection 2.~~

16 ~~— 2. The legislative assembly shall reconvene at twelve noon annually for a number of days~~  
17 ~~to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the number of days must be~~  
18 ~~scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each year, subject to subsection 3.~~

19 ~~— a. Each year, the legislative assembly shall convene on the first Tuesday Monday~~  
20 ~~after the third day in January of the year following the organizational session as~~  
21 ~~provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date selected by the legislative~~  
22 ~~management but not earlier than January second nor later than January eleventh.~~

of the year following the organizational session and, following ~~At the close of~~  
~~business of the regular session, the legislative assembly shall adjourn~~~~recess~~  
subject to subsection 3.

~~b. The first week of each year the legislative assembly is convened, it shall convene~~  
~~on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Thereafter, the~~  
~~legislative assembly shall primarily convene on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,~~  
~~and Thursday. The legislative assembly shall convene on Friday only as~~  
~~determined by the legislative management with prior notice to the legislative~~  
~~assembly. A standing committee of the legislative assembly may meet on a~~  
~~Friday with prior notice to the presiding officer of the chamber.~~

~~3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene~~  
~~as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may~~  
~~not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not~~  
~~been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under~~  
~~subsection 2.~~

~~4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the~~  
~~legislative session.~~

~~**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.~~

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**

1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of  
December following the election of ~~the~~its members ~~thereof~~ for organizational and  
orientation purposes and shall ~~thereafter~~ recess until the time provided in  
subsection 2.

2. ~~The~~Subject to subsection 3, the legislative assembly shall reconvene ~~at twelve noon~~  
~~on the first Tuesday after the third day in January of the year following the~~  
~~organizational session as provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date~~  
~~selected by the legislative management but not earlier than January second nor~~

a. Annually at a date and time determined by the legislative management, but not  
later than January eleventh of ~~the~~each year ~~following the organizational session~~

and, following the close of business of the regular session, shall adjourn subject to subsection 3.

b. For a number of days to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the number of days must be scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each year.

3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under subsection 2.

4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the legislative session.

5. The legislative management shall promulgate legislative rules to accommodate annual legislative sessions, which must be adopted as the temporary rules of the seventieth legislative assembly during the organizational session, subject to any further amendments proposed during the organizational session for adoption of the permanent rules.

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on August 1, 2026.

**SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** Subsection 5 of section 1 of this Act is effective through December 31, 2026, and after that date is ineffective.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1408  
4/10/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective date.

8:59 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

### Discussion Topics:

- 70 Calendar Days Clarification
- Fiscal Note Change
- Effective Date
- Annual Session Benefits and Disadvantages

8:59 a.m. Senator Dwyer introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44886.

9:00 a.m. Senator Dwyer moved amendment LC 25.0902.02005.

9:00 a.m. Senator Wanzek seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.



9:10 a.m. Senator Dwyer moved a Do Not Pass as Amended.

9:10 a.m. Senator Wanzek seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	N
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	N
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	N
Senator Kyle Davison	N
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	N
Senator Scott Meyer	N
Senator Donald Schaible	N
Senator Jonathan Sickler	N
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Failed 7-9-0.

9:20 a.m. Senator Davison moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:21 a.m. Senator Magrum seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	N
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	N
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	N
Senator Michael Dwyer	N
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	N
Senator Paul J. Thomas	N
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	N

Motion Passed 9-7-0.

Senator Roers will carry the bill.

9:24 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk*

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1408**

Introduced by

Representatives Bahl, Lefor, Louser, D. Ruby, Schauer, Weisz, Hagert

Senators Bekkedahl, Roers, Schaible, Sickler, Davison

CO  
1/10/25  
10f3

1 *In place of amendments (25.0902.02003) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1408 is*  
2 *amended by amendment (25.0902.02004) as follows:*

3 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~  
4 ~~relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective~~  
5 ~~date.~~ for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
6 relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; to provide an effective  
7 date; and to provide an expiration date.

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

9 ~~**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
10 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~  
11 ~~**54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**~~  
12 ~~1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of~~  
13 ~~December following the election of the its members thereof for organizational and~~  
14 ~~orientation purposes and shall thereafter recess until the time provided in~~  
15 ~~subsection 2.~~  
16 ~~2. The legislative assembly shall reconvene at twelve noon annually for a number of days~~  
17 ~~to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the number of days must be~~  
18 ~~scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each year, subject to subsection 3.~~  
19 ~~a. Each year, the legislative assembly shall convene on the first Tuesday~~ Monday  
20 ~~after the third day in January of the year following the organizational session as~~  
21 ~~provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date selected by the legislative~~  
22 ~~management but not earlier than January second nor later than January eleventh~~



of the year following the organizational session and, following. ~~At the close of~~  
~~business of the regular session, the legislative assembly shall adjourn~~~~recess~~  
~~subject to subsection 3.~~

~~b. The first week of each year the legislative assembly is convened, it shall convene~~  
~~on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Thereafter, the~~  
~~legislative assembly shall primarily convene on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,~~  
~~and Thursday. The legislative assembly shall convene on Friday only as~~  
~~determined by the legislative management with prior notice to the legislative~~  
~~assembly. A standing committee of the legislative assembly may meet on a~~  
~~Friday with prior notice to the presiding officer of the chamber.~~

~~3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene~~  
~~as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may~~  
~~not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not~~  
~~been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under~~  
~~subsection 2.~~

~~4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the~~  
~~legislative session.~~

~~SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.~~

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**

1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of  
December following the election of the members ~~thereof~~ for organizational and  
orientation purposes and shall ~~thereafter~~ recess until the time provided in  
subsection 2.

2. ~~The~~ Subject to subsection 3, the legislative assembly shall reconvene ~~at twelve noon~~  
~~on the first Tuesday after the third day in January of the year following the~~  
~~organizational session as provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date~~  
~~selected by the legislative management but not earlier than January second nor;~~

a. Annually at a date and time determined by the legislative management, but not  
later than January eleventh of the each year ~~following the organizational session~~



1 ~~and, following the close of business of the regular session, shall adjourn subject~~  
2 ~~to subsection 3.~~

3 b. For a number of days to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the  
4 number of days must be scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each  
5 year.

6 3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene  
7 as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may  
8 not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not  
9 been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under  
10 subsection 2.

11 4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the  
12 legislative session.

13 5. The legislative management shall promulgate legislative rules to accommodate annual  
14 legislative sessions, which must be adopted as the temporary rules of the seventieth  
15 legislative assembly during the organizational session, subject to any further  
16 amendments proposed during the organizational session for adoption of the  
17 permanent rules.

18 **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on August 1, 2026.

19 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** Subsection 5 of section 1 of this Act is effective through  
20 December 31, 2026, and after that date is ineffective.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
AMENDED HB 1408**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0902.02005](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (9 YEAS, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1408, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0902.02005  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative Bahl  
April 8, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1408

Introduced by

Representatives Bahl, Lefor, Louser, D. Ruby, Schauer, Weisz, Hagert

Senators Bekkedahl, Roers, Schaible, Sickler, Davison

1 *In place of amendments (25.0902.02003) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1408 is*  
2 *amended by amendment (25.0902.02004) as follows:*

3 ~~A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~  
4 ~~relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective~~  
5 ~~date; for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code.~~  
6 relating to annually reconvened sessions of the legislative assembly; to provide an effective  
7 date; and to provide an expiration date.

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

9 ~~— **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
10 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

11 ~~— **54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**~~

12 ~~— 1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of~~  
13 ~~December following the election of the its members thereof for organizational and~~  
14 ~~orientation purposes and shall thereafter recess until the time provided in~~  
15 ~~subsection 2.~~

16 ~~— 2. The legislative assembly shall reconvene at twelve noon annually for a number of days~~  
17 ~~to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the number of days must be~~  
18 ~~scheduled within a seventy calendar day period each year, subject to subsection 3.~~

19 ~~— a. Each year, the legislative assembly shall convene on the first Tuesday Monday~~  
20 ~~after the third day in January of the year following the organizational session as~~  
21 ~~provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date selected by the legislative~~  
22 ~~management but not earlier than January second nor later than January eleventh.~~



1 of the year following the organizational session and, following, ~~At the close of~~  
2 ~~business of the regular session, the legislative assembly shall adjourn recess~~  
3 ~~subject to subsection 3.~~

4 ~~b. The first week of each year the legislative assembly is convened, it shall convene~~  
5 ~~on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Thereafter, the~~  
6 ~~legislative assembly shall primarily convene on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,~~  
7 ~~and Thursday. The legislative assembly shall convene on Friday only as~~  
8 ~~determined by the legislative management with prior notice to the legislative~~  
9 ~~assembly. A standing committee of the legislative assembly may meet on a~~  
10 ~~Friday with prior notice to the presiding officer of the chamber.~~

11 ~~3. Notwithstanding a motion to adjourn sine die, the legislative assembly shall reconvene~~  
12 ~~as determined by the legislative management. The number of natural days used may~~  
13 ~~not exceed the number of natural days available under the constitution which have not~~  
14 ~~been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under~~  
15 ~~subsection 2.~~

16 ~~4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the~~  
17 ~~legislative session.~~

18 ~~SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective on January 1, 2027.~~

19 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **54-03-02. When legislative assembly meets.**

22 1. The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of  
23 December following the election of ~~the~~<sup>its</sup> members ~~thereof~~ for organizational and  
24 orientation purposes and shall ~~thereafter~~ recess until the time provided in  
25 subsection 2.

26 2. ~~The~~<sup>Subject to subsection 3, the</sup> legislative assembly shall reconvene ~~at twelve noon~~  
27 ~~on the first Tuesday after the third day in January of the year following the~~  
28 ~~organizational session as provided in subsection 1 or at twelve noon on a date~~  
29 ~~selected by the legislative management but not earlier than January second nor~~

1 ~~a. Annually at a date and time determined by the legislative management, but not~~  
2 ~~later than January eleventh of the~~<sup>each</sup> ~~year following the organizational session~~



1 ~~and, following the close of business of the regular session, shall adjourn subject~~  
2 ~~to subsection 3.~~

3 b. For a number of days to be determined by the legislative assembly, but the  
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9 been previously used by that legislative assembly in regular session under  
10 subsection 2.

11 4. The legislative management shall determine the structure and logistics of the  
12 legislative session.

13 5. The legislative management shall promulgate legislative rules to accommodate annual  
14 legislative sessions, which must be adopted as the temporary rules of the seventieth  
15 legislative assembly during the organizational session, subject to any further  
16 amendments proposed during the organizational session for adoption of the  
17 permanent rules.

18 **SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on August 1, 2026.

19 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** Subsection 5 of section 1 of this Act is effective through  
20 December 31, 2026, and after that date is ineffective.