

**2025 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION**

**HB 1502**

## 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1502  
2/3/2025

Relating to the growth of the state general fund budget.
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11:52 a.m. Chairman Headland opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Vice Chairman Hagert, Representatives Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Ista, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Porter, Steiner, Toman

**Discussion Topics:**

- Self-imposed limit
- Local subdivisions

11:53 a.m. Representative Christina Wolff introduced the bill and submitted testimony #33870.

11:55 a.m. Mike Blessum testified in favor and submitted testimony #33590.

12:03 p.m. Chairman Headland adjourned the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance & Taxation committee. My name is Mike Blessum. I am a Minot resident. I'm here today to testify in support of HB1502 and ask you for a do pass recommendation.

The ongoing property tax discussion you are having is incredibly complex. The decisions you will make will likely impact the lives of the residents of our great state in profound ways for many years to come. It appears that a package of increased buydowns coupled with caps on local subdivision levy authority will be the most likely outcome. My hope is that you continue to explore additional reform ideas that lead to increased transparency and lower spending levels.

House bill HB1502 gives legislators the opportunity to impose the same type of spending authority caps at the state level. The bill is designed to match the same general idea as HB1176 - a 3% cap on state general fund spending with 5 years of rolling savings allowed to be carried forward. The bill also allows for the spending authority cap to be waived for a session with a 2/3 vote in each chamber. The intent is to have this bill match the final version of the local subdivision caps, so I would encourage you to amend it to match before you send both bills to the floor.

There is one important distinction between this bill and the local subdivision caps you are contemplating. This bill asks you to self impose the caps. Your property tax caps impose the caps on other levels of government. This isn't without logic when coupled with the huge sum of money that will flow to the local subdivisions with the proposed plans.

The people of North Dakota foot the bill for everything we do at the federal, state, and local level. If we believe that caps are the right approach, they should apply to all levels of government. You have that opportunity with HB1502. I would respectfully ask you for a do pass recommendation.

Mike Blessum

[mblessum@min.midco.net](mailto:mblessum@min.midco.net)

701-818-2000

Chairman Headland and members of the Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Christina Wolff I represent District 38 which covers parts of Minot, Burlington, De Lacs, Foxholm and part of the Minot Air Force Base.

Today I am introducing HB1502 that was requested by Mike Blessum a constituent from Minot, and he is here to testify on his own behalf.

The bill says first that the State appropriations for the general budget in a biennium be restricted to 3% of the last approved general budget appropriation.

Second it allows for any of the 3% that is not used in a biennium to be carried over for a maximum 3 bienniums.

Third to allow for an increase above the 3% if approved by a 2/3 vote of both chambers.

My understanding is that the intention of this bill is to match any restrictions that are placed on political subdivisions in other property tax bills being proposed in this session, However I believe that we owe it to our taxpayers to be more responsible in our spending and if a 3% cap is the best we can do then we should do it.

Thank you for your time Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I stand for questions.

## 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Finance and Taxation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1502  
2/4/2025

Relating to the growth of the state general fund budget.
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4:07 p.m. Chairman Headland opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Headland, Vice Chairman Hagert, Representatives Anderson, Dockter, Dressler, Foss, Grueneich, Motschenbacher, Nehring, Olson, Porter, Steiner, Toman

Members Absent: Representative Ista

#### **Discussion Topics:**

- Committee action

4:10 p.m. Representative Dockter moved a Do Not Pass.

4:10 p.m. Representative J. Olson seconded the motion.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	AB

4:11 p.m. Motion passed 13-0-1.

4:11 p.m. Representative Motschenbacher will carry the bill.

4:12 p.m. Chairman Headland closed the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1502 ([25.1246.01000](#))**

**Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Headland, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1502 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.