

# **NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**

## **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

### **2025-26 Interim**

## **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**

**(17 members) statutory committee (54-35-01)**

**Chairman:** Senator David Hogue

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Mike Lefor

**Legislative Council Staff:** John Bjornson

**Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Frelich, Kathy
- Hager, LaurieBeth
- Hagert, Jared C.
- Hauck, Dori
- Ista, Zachary
- Lefor, Mike
- Warrey, Jonathan
- Weisz, Robin

**Senators:**

- Bekkedahl, Brad
- Boschee, Josh
- Davison, Kyle
- Hogan, Kathy
- Hogue, David
- Klein, Jerry
- Myrdal, Janne
- Sorvaag, Ronald

# ADMINISTRATIVE RULES COMMITTEE

(18 members) statutory committee (54-35-02.5)

## **Duties and Studies**

Study and review administrative rules and related statutes. (NDCC § 54-35-02.6)

Approve extension of time for administrative agencies to adopt rules. (NDCC § 28-32-07)

Establish standard procedures for administrative agency compliance with notice requirements of proposed rulemaking. (NDCC § 28-32-10)

Establish a procedure to distribute copies of administrative agency filings of notice of proposed rulemaking. (NDCC § 28-32-10)

Determine whether an administrative rule is void. (NDCC § 28-32-18)

Receive notice of appeal of an administrative agency's rulemaking action. (NDCC § 28-32-42)

Approve, with the State Personnel Board, rules adopted by Human Resource Management Services authorizing service awards to employees in the classified service. (NDCC § 54-06-32)

Approve, with the State Personnel Board, rules adopted by Human Resource Management Services authorizing state agencies to provide employer-paid costs of training or educational courses to employees in the classified service. (NDCC § 54-06-33)

**Chairman:** Senator Bob Paulson

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Brandy L. Pyle

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Fegley, Clayton
- Henderson, Donna
- Ista, Zachary
- Johnston, Daniel
- Longmuir, Donald W.
- Marschall, Andrew
- McLeod, Carrie
- Pyle, Brandy L.
- Ruby, Dan
- Satrom, Bernie
- Steiner, Vicky
- Wolff, Christina

### **Senators:**

- Beard, Todd
- Klein, Jerry
- Myrdal, Janne
- Paulson, Bob
- Roers, Kristin
- Wobbema, Mike

# ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMITTEE

(11 members)

## **Studies**

(1025 § 1) Study the feasibility, siting, and deployment of advanced nuclear power plants in the state. The study must include evaluation of siting locations, including potential greenfield and brownfield sites, the identification and assessment of undeveloped land suitable for construction, developed land suitable for rehabilitation and reuse, geographical locations, environmental impacts, proximity to infrastructure, and community acceptance; electric grid connectivity, including the capacity of the electrical grid and integration of a nuclear power plant to the state, necessary upgrades and expansions to ensure reliability, and recommendations adhering to national and state electric standards and regulations; land use considerations, including long-term sustainability of proposed sites, environmental and social factors, land use patterns and zoning regulations, potential impacts on local land use, and proposed mitigation strategies; economic impacts, including potential tax revenue, job creation during construction and operation of a nuclear facility, economic impacts on local and state economies, and investor appeal; temporary and permanent nuclear waste storage, including in-state and out-of-state siting locations; small modular and micro nuclear reactors, including the feasibility of constructing and operating small modular and micro reactors to generate power in the state; and provisions of North Dakota Century Code that place restrictions on advanced nuclear energy development, if any. The study must invite participation from an institution of higher education for assistance in evaluating social interests and community acceptance of potential siting locations. Section 2 appropriates \$300,000 from the general fund, and up to \$300,000 from special funds derived from grants or donations from nonstate sources, to the Legislative Council for purposes of contracting for consulting services for the study.

**Chairman:** Senator David Hogue

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Dick Anderson

## **Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Anderson, Dick
- Bolinske, Macy
- Koppelman, Ben
- Mitskog, Alisa
- Olson, SuAnn
- Vigesaa, Don

### **Senators:**

- Conley, Cole
- Cory, Claire
- Hogue, David
- Mathern, Tim
- Patten, Dale

# AGRICULTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(19 members)

## Studies

(1218 § 3) Study the formula for conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects and the projected cost threshold for conducting economic analyses.

(2157 § 1) Study the feasibility and desirability of creating a program that would allow a farmer or rancher to complete a safety course to receive a discount on insurance relating to the individual's farming or ranching operation. The study must include the development of a proposed safety course, the feasible amount of an insurance premium discount, and eligibility requirements for applicants seeking to participate in the discount program. The study must include input from the Insurance Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, the North Dakota State University Extension Service, and farm, livestock, and agricultural insurance agencies operating in the state.

(3018) Consider studying water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state. The study must include a review of the different methods to assess and document boundaries for wetlands; an examination of the regulation of water, wetlands, and inundated lands laws of other states; an inventory of all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies relating to the jurisdiction of water and wetlands; an analysis of the environmental protection and public health jurisdictional framework, including an identification of potential conflicts, overlaps, and gaps in authority; and recommendations for improving the clarity, consistency, and efficiency of the jurisdictional framework in water management. The study also must explore viable legal options to fill and drain nuisance areas, examine the impacts of seasonal wet areas on agriculture productivity and soil health, and identify the value of these areas to resident wildlife.

## Reports

Receive at least one report from the Agriculture Commissioner during the 2025-26 interim regarding autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities in the agriculture industry, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding. (2025 House Bill No. 1009 § 12)

Receive a report from the Agriculture Commissioner before July 1, 2026, regarding the findings and recommendations of the study to review the potential benefits of expanding irrigation throughout the state. (2025 House Bill No. 1531 § 1)

Receive a report from the Agriculture Commissioner regarding the status of the low-carbon fuels fund, including the revenues deposited in the fund, the low-carbon fuel incentives distributed from the fund, and the balance of the fund. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2333 § 1) (NDCC § 4.1-01-XX)

Receive a biennial report from the Agriculture Commissioner regarding environmental impact mitigation fund disbursements. (NDCC § 4.1-01-21.1(6))

Receive a report from the Model Zoning Review Task Force on the development of a new or updated model zoning ordinance related to animal feeding operations. (NDCC § 4.1-01-28)

Receive a report from the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education on its annual evaluation of research activities and expenditures. (NDCC § 15-12.1-17(8))

**Chairman:** Representative Dori Hauck

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Michelle Powers

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Anderson, Karen A.
- Beltz, Mike
- Brandenburg, Mike
- Finley-DeVille, Lisa
- Frelich, Kathy
- Hauck, Dori
- Hoverson, Jeff
- Kempenich, Keith
- Kiefert, Dwight
- Monson, David
- Nehring, Dennis

### **Senators:**

- Conley, Cole
- Dwyer, Michael
- Erbele, Robert
- Lemm, Randy D.
- Luick, Larry
- Powers, Michelle
- Wanzek, Terry M.
- Weber, Mark F.

# BUDGET SECTION

**(48 members) statutory committee (54-35-02.9)**

## Duties

Approve Emergency Commission authorization for the Governor to spend federal funds accepted by the Governor's office. (2025 Senate Bill No. 1001 § 4)

Approve any Department of Transportation project that utilizes more than \$10 million from the flexible transportation fund, except for projects that match federal or private funds and the amount utilized from the fund is 50 percent or less of total project costs. Any request considered by the Budget Section must comply with Section 54-35-02.9. (NDCC § 24-02-37.3)

Review and report on budget data prepared by the Director of the Budget.

Approve any purchase of commercial or residential property by the Board of University and School Lands as sole owner. (NDCC § 15-03-04)

Authorize the State Board of Higher Education to authorize building construction or campus improvements and building maintenance of more than \$700,000, if financed by donations. (NDCC § 15-10-12.1)

Approve a comprehensive statewide land acquisition plan established by the Director of the Game and Fish Department and every land acquisition of more than 10 acres or exceeding \$10,000 by the Game and Fish Department. (NDCC § 20.1-02-05.1)

Authorize the Game and Fish Department to spend money in the game and fish fund if the balance would be reduced below \$15 million. (NDCC § 20.1-02-16.1)

Authorize the Life Skills and Transition Center to provide services under contract with a governmental or nongovernmental person. (NDCC § 25-04-02.2)

Approve a waiver of exemption of state property in a city from special assessments levied for flood control purposes. (NDCC § 40-23-22.1)

Approve the change or expansion of, or any additional expenditure for, a state building construction project approved by the Legislative Assembly, but if within 3 months before or 3 months after a regular session the authorization is limited to changes in project scope and related expenditures resulting from an unforeseen emergency event. (NDCC § 48-01.2-25)

Approve the termination of the federal food stamp or energy assistance program. (NDCC § 50-06-05.1)

Approve the purchase or lease of an airworthy aircraft not otherwise replacing an aircraft with only insurance proceeds by a state agency or entity of state government, other than the Adjutant General or the University of North Dakota School of Aviation, if the Legislative Assembly is not in session. (NDCC § 54-06-37)

Approve transfers from one fund or line item to another. (NDCC § 54-16-04(2))

Approve, with the Emergency Commission, acceptance of any special or federal funds made available to the state which are not for a specific purpose or program and which are not required to be spent before the next regular legislative session for deposit in a special fund until the Legislative Assembly appropriates the funds. (NDCC § 54-16-04.1)

Approve, on the advice of the Office of Management and Budget and the recommendation of the Emergency Commission, a state officer to employ full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in addition to those authorized by the Legislative Assembly. (NDCC § 54-16-04.3)

Approve Emergency Commission authorization of transfer of general fund, special funds, or federal funds spending authority from the state contingencies appropriations if the transfer is not necessary to avoid an imminent threat to the safety of people or property due to a natural disaster or war crisis or an imminent financial loss to the state. (NDCC § 54-16-09)

Approve, with the Emergency Commission, an agency request to borrow funds from the Bank of North Dakota for responding to a disaster in the state declared by the Governor. (NDCC § 54-16-13)

Approve use of the preliminary planning revolving fund. (NDCC § 54-27-22)

Approve use of cashflow financing. (NDCC § 54-27-23)

Consider specific actions, projects, and transfers. (NDCC § 54-35-02.9)

Prescribe the form of budget information prepared by the Director of the Budget. (NDCC § 54-44.1-07)

Object to any allotment by the Director of the Budget, any expenditure of a budget unit, or any failure to make an allotment or expenditure if the action or failure to act is contrary to legislative intent. (NDCC § 54-44.1-12.1)

Approve the reduction of budgets due to initiative or referendum action. (NDCC § 54-44.1-13.1)

Approve execution by the Information Technology Department of proposed agreement to finance the purchase of software, equipment, or implementation of services in excess of \$1 million. (NDCC § 54-59-05(4))

Approve any donation from funds the donor has not designated or conditioned the use of for a specific purpose to the state parks gift fund in excess of \$50,000. (NDCC § 55-08-07.2)

Approve payment by the State Water Commission to the Bank of North Dakota in the amount of the default certified to the Budget Section by the Bank of North Dakota if the Western Area Water Supply Authority defaults on its payment of principal or interest on the infrastructure revolving loan. (NDCC § 61-40-09)

Authorize establishment of casualty insurance organization to provide extraterritorial workforce safety and insurance. (NDCC § 65-08.1-02)

Hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress. (2025 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4001)

## **Reports**

Receive a report from the Governor regarding the source, amount, and purpose of any additional income from other funds, excluding federal funds, which become available to the Governor's office during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. (2025 House Bill No. 1001 § 4).

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services after June 30, 2026, on any transfer made in excess of \$50,000 between line items within subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Section 1 of House Bill No. 1012 (2025). (2025 House Bill No. 1012 § 3)

Receive quarterly reports from the Department of Health and Human services during the 2025-26 interim regarding the status of its salaries and wages block grant and vacant positions and employee turnover. The report must include the legislative appropriation for salaries and wages allocated by the department to major department programs by funding source and the number of FTE positions the department is allocating to each major program based on the legislative appropriation; any changes to salaries and wages funding or FTE positions allocated to major department programs; any new FTE positions added, the cost of the position for the remainder of the biennium, and the cost to continue funding the position in the subsequent biennium by funding source; any FTE positions removed and related funding; the number of FTE positions that become vacant and the number filled each month; the number of vacant FTE positions at the end of each month; salaries and wages savings resulting from vacant positions and employee turnover each month by funding source; and the use of salaries and wages savings for other purposes for each month by funding source. (2025 House Bill No. 1012 § 5)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services during the 2025-26 interim regarding the award of grant funding to increase the number of behavioral health beds in the state. (2025 House Bill No. 1012 § 54)

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget on any transfer to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation of any uncommitted accumulated interest and earnings and any federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund appropriation authority amounts previously obligated but not anticipated to be expended from the state agency that received the appropriation. (2025 House Bill No. 1015 § 11)

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget at each meeting of the Budget Section regarding salaries and wages, vacant position information, and agencies' use of funding in new and vacant FTE pool line items. (2025 House Bill No. 1015 § 18).

Receive a report from the Director of the Department of Water Resources on the use of any additional federal funds or other amounts in the resources trust fund and water commission fund that become available to the department during the biennium. (2025 House Bill No. 1020 § 4)

Receive a report from the Director of the Department of Water Resources regarding any transfers made between the operations expenses and capital assets line items which were requested by the Director. (2025 House Bill No. 1020 § 23)

Receive a report from the Director of the Department of Water Resources regarding any unexpended obligated and unobligated funding from the 2023 legislative session, estimated to be \$600 million, which is continued into the 2025-27 biennium for grants or water-related projects included in the capital assets, water supply - grants, rural water supply - grants, flood control projects, discretionary funding, and general water - grants line items. (2025 House Bill No. 1020 § 24)

Receive at least one report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction during the 2025-26 interim regarding the status of the development of an integrated formula gap funding program. (2025 House Bill No. 1176 § 28)

Receive a report from the Legislative Council regarding the use of funding in the new and vacant FTE pool, including information on new FTE positions and the date hired; vacant FTE positions, including information on positions that become vacant and positions filled, salaries and wages savings resulting from vacant positions and employee turnover, and the use of salaries and wages savings for other purposes; and additional salaries and wages funding needed due to savings from vacant positions being less than anticipated. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2001 § 3)

Receive a report from the Supreme Court regarding the use of funding in the new and vacant FTE funding pool, including information on new FTE positions and the date hired; vacant FTE positions, including information regarding positions that become vacant and positions filled, salaries and wages savings resulting from vacant positions and employee turnover, and the use of salaries and wages savings for other purposes; and additional salaries and wages funding needed due to savings from vacant positions being less than anticipated. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2002 § 3)

Receive a report from the State Board of Higher Education regarding any transfer of appropriation authority from the operations to the capital assets line items within subdivisions 2 through 14 of Section 1. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2003 § 38)

Receive a report from the Council on the Arts after June 30, 2026, on any transfer made in excess of \$50,000 between line items in Section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2010. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2010 § 7)

Receive a report from the Department of Transportation regarding the costs and status of the environmental impact statement process relating to the construction of a four-lane highway for the remaining sections of the Theodore Roosevelt expressway. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2012 § 19)

Receive at least one report from the North Dakota Pipeline Authority by December 31, 2026, regarding the status of any pipeline capacity agreements, including commitments from other private sector entities, the commitment by the authority, anticipated borrowing by the authority under Section 54-17.7-04(4). (2025 Senate Bill No. 2014 § 32)

Receive at least one report from the Attorney General regarding the award of technology grants to individuals or entities that aid the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in conducting missing persons searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law enforcement first response operations. The report must include a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2018 § 5)

Receive at least one report from the Department of Career and Technical Education regarding autonomous technology grants provided to a workforce training center serving the northwest area of the state for providing workforce training to address workforce shortages in the state, including shortages in the oil and gas industry. The report must include a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2018 § 6)

Receive an annual report from the State Board of Higher Education regarding any adjustments made to FTE positions at the North Dakota State University Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, Main Research Center, branch research centers, and Agronomy Seed Farm. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2020 § 9)

Receive quarterly reports from the Information Technology Department and Department of Public Instruction regarding the status of the student information system transition. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2021 § 12)

Receive a report from the Legislative Council staff in the fall of 2026 on the status of the state's federal funds receipts for the current biennium and estimated federal funds receipts for the subsequent biennium.

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget regarding any loans obtained pursuant to Section 6-09-15.1. (NDCC § 6-09-15.1)

Receive an annual report from the North Dakota State University Extension Service on FTE position adjustments made. (NDCC § 11-38-12)

Receive an annual report from the Commissioner of University and School Lands on the investment performance of each fund under its control. (NDCC § 15-02-08.1)

Receive a biennial report from each institution under the control of the State Board of Higher Education undertaking a capital construction project that was approved by the Legislative Assembly and for which local funds are to be used which details the source of all funds used in the project. (NDCC § 15-10-12.3)

Receive reports from the Office of Management and Budget, upon request from the Budget Section, regarding the State Board of Higher Education's project variance semiannual reports regarding construction projects valued at more than \$250,000. (NDCC § 15-10-47)

Receive an annual report from the North Dakota State University Main Research Center on FTE position adjustments made. (NDCC § 15-12.1-05)

Receive a status report from the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education. (NDCC § 15-12.1-17(10))

Receive a biennial report from the State Fire Marshal summarizing the expenditures by certified fire departments and districts of funds received from the insurance tax distribution fund and reserve fund balances. (NDCC § 18-04-02)

Receive at least semiannual reports from the Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board (NDCC § 21-10-11)

Receive periodic reports regarding the status of the flexible transportation fund and projects receiving allocations from the fund. (NDCC § 24-02-37.3)

Receive an annual report from the Adjutant General regarding the income and expenditures made from the North Dakota National Guard service member, veteran, family, and survivor support program. Approve any expenditures from the fund that exceed \$500,000 per biennium. (NDCC § 37-03-18)

Receive reports on the use of the state disaster relief fund to provide the required state share of funding for expenses associated with presidentially declared and governor-declared disasters in the state. (NDCC § 37-17.1-27)

Receive a report from the Industrial Commission each biennium on the balance of the abandoned oil and gas well plugging and site reclamation fund and expenditures from the fund. (NDCC § 38-08-04.5)

Receive an annual report from the Division of Community Services on conclusions of annual audits of renaissance fund organizations. (NDCC § 40-63-07(9))

Receive an annual report from the Department of Health and Human Services on the status of the opioid settlement fund and of spending decisions made by the department and political subdivisions under the new chapter to Title 50. Each political subdivision that recovers and retains moneys as a result of opioid litigation is required to submit to the department an annual report detailing the decisions of the governing body of the political subdivision regarding use of the moneys. (NDCC § 50-36 04)

Receive a report from Job Service North Dakota before March 1 of each year on the actual job insurance trust fund balance and the targeted modified average high-cost multiplier, as of December 31 of the previous year, and a projected trust fund balance for the next 3 years. (NDCC § 52-02-17)

Receive a report from the State Treasurer, within 90 days of the beginning of each fiscal year, regarding all warrants and checks outstanding for more than 90 days and less than 3 years. (NDCC § 54-11-01)

Receive a report each fiscal year from the Cash Management Board regarding the board's review of existing policies, and the development of new policies for managing money in the state treasury, identifying cash flow characteristics, and improving cash management practices. (2025 House Bill No. 1278 § 1) (NDCC § 54-11-XX)

Receive reports on fiscal irregularities. (NDCC § 54-14-03.1)

Receive a report from the Housing Finance Agency at least once per biennium regarding the activities of the housing incentive fund. (NDCC § 54-17-40)

Receive a report from the Industrial Commission if any order, regulation, or policy of the Industrial Commission has an estimated fiscal effect on the state in excess of \$20 million in a biennium. (NDCC § 54-17-42)

Receive a biennial report from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Advisory Board. (NDCC § 54-17.8-07)

Receive an annual report from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on the department's prison population management plan and inmate admissions and the number of inmates the department has not admitted after sentencing. (NDCC § 54-23.3-11)

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget at each meeting of the Budget Section regarding the reports received from state agencies, other than entities under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, that have applied for federal grants estimated to be \$25,000 or more. (NDCC § 54-27-27)

Receive a report on transfers of funds from the budget stabilization fund to the general fund to offset projected decrease in general fund revenues. (NDCC § 54-27.2-03)

Receive a report from the Department of Commerce by September 1 of each even-numbered year regarding the results of the rural catalyst grant program, including the number of projects requested and supported through the program, information on projects receiving funding, matching funds raised for each project, and how the project has affected local communities. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2390 § 3) (NDCC § 54-40.1-XX)

Receive a report from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on the status of tobacco settlement funds and related information. (NDCC § 54-44-04(23))

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget regarding any purchase of oil put options by the State Investment Board to offset reduced general fund oil and gas tax revenues due to oil and gas prices falling below selected levels. (NDCC § 54-44-16)

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget in December of even-numbered years regarding commodities and services exempted from state procurement requirements. (NDCC § 54-44.4-02.2)

Receive a report from each hub city at least once per interim regarding the use of the funding received from the hub city debt relief funding pool and information on the hub city's outstanding debt, including maturity dates, interest rates, and annual repayment amounts. (NDCC § 57-51-15)

Receive an annual report from tribal governing bodies regarding investment of oil and gas tax receipts in essential infrastructure and fees, expenses, and charges the tribe imposes on the oil industry. (NDCC § 57-51.2-02)

Receive a report from the Retirement and Investment Office each interim regarding the status of the incentive compensation program for FTE investment and fiscal operations positions, including the provisions of the program; the total amount of incentives paid out to employees each year; and the minimum, maximum, and average payout per eligible FTE position. (NDCC § 54-52.5-04)

Receive a report at each meeting from the Information Technology Department regarding the status of the Information Technology Department operating fund. (NDCC § 54-59-14)

Receive semi-annual reports from the Department of Commerce regarding grant programs administered by the department including the purpose of each grant program, funding history, number of the days the grant application was open to applicants, the name of each grant recipient and the amount of each grant award, and the distribution date of grant funds or the anticipated distribution date of grant funds. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2018 § 18) (NDCC § 54-60-XX)

**Chairman:** Representative Don Vigesaa

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Brad Bekkedahl

**Legislative Council Staff:** Brady A. Larson  
Allen H. Knudson

**Representatives:**

- Anderson, Bert
- Berg, Mike
- Bosch, Glenn
- Brandenburg, Mike
- Dobervich, Gretchen
- Fisher, Jay
- Hanson, Karla Rose

**Senators:**

- Bekkedahl, Brad
- Boschee, Josh
- Burckhard, Randy A.
- Cleary, Sean
- Conley, Cole
- Davison, Kyle
- Dever, Dick



**Representatives:**

- Ista, Zachary
- Kempenich, Keith
- Lefor, Mike
- Louser, Scott
- Martinson, Bob
- Meier, Lisa
- Mitskog, Alisa
- Monson, David
- Murphy, Eric J.
- Nathe, Mike
- Nelson, Jon O.
- O'Brien, Emily
- Pyle, Brandy L.
- Richter, David
- Sanford, Mark
- Stemen, Gregory
- Swiontek, Steve
- Vigesaa, Don
- Wagner, Scott
- Weisz, Robin

**Senators:**

- Dwyer, Michael
- Erbele, Robert
- Hogan, Kathy
- Hogue, David
- Klein, Jerry
- Lemm, Randy D.
- Magrum, Jeffery J.
- Mathern, Tim
- Meyer, Scott
- Schaible, Donald
- Sickler, Jonathan
- Sorvaag, Ronald
- Thomas, Paul J.
- Wanzek, Terry M.

# BUDGET SECTION - EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

(12 members)

## Duties

Review, for assigned agencies, agency base budgets and programs, status of agency budgets, implementation of legislative initiatives, agency budget requests, facilities, and other budget-related areas.

**Chairman:** Representative Mike Nathe

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Ronald Sorvaag

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Hanson, Karla Rose
- Louser, Scott
- Martinson, Bob
- Nathe, Mike
- Richter, David
- Sanford, Mark
- Swiontek, Steve

### **Senators:**

- Conley, Cole
- Meyer, Scott
- Schaible, Donald
- Sorvaag, Ronald
- Thomas, Paul J.

# BUDGET SECTION - GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION

(12 members)

## **Duties**

Review, for assigned agencies, agency base budgets and programs, status of agency budgets, implementation of legislative initiatives, agency budget requests, facilities, and other budget-related areas.

**Chairman:** Senator Terry M. Wanzek

**Vice Chairman:** Representative David Monson

## **Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Brandenburg, Mike
- Fisher, Jay
- Kempenich, Keith
- Meier, Lisa
- Monson, David
- Pyle, Brandy L.

### **Senators:**

- Burckhard, Randy A.
- Dwyer, Michael
- Erbele, Robert
- Sickler, Jonathan
- Wanzek, Terry M.

# BUDGET SECTION - HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

(13 members)

## Duties

Review, for assigned agencies, agency base budgets and programs, status of agency budgets, implementation of legislative initiatives, agency budget requests, facilities, and other budget-related areas.

**Chairman:** Senator Dick Dever

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Jon O. Nelson

## **Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Anderson, Bert
- Berg, Mike
- Mitskog, Alisa
- Murphy, Eric J.
- Nelson, Jon O.
- O'Brien, Emily
- Stemen, Gregory
- Wagner, Scott

### **Senators:**

- Cleary, Sean
- Davison, Kyle
- Dever, Dick
- Magrum, Jeffery J.
- Mathern, Tim

# BUDGET SECTION - LEADERSHIP DIVISION

(11 members)

## Duties

Review and analyze budget and fiscal trends, revenue forecasts and comparisons, budget outlooks, major special funds, and other budget-related areas.

**Chairman:** Representative Mike Lefor

**Vice Chairman:** Senator David Hogue

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Dobervich, Gretchen
- Ista, Zachary
- Lefor, Mike
- Vigesaa, Don
- Weisz, Robin

### **Senators:**

- Bekkedahl, Brad
- Boschee, Josh
- Hogan, Kathy
- Hogue, David
- Klein, Jerry

# CHILD CUSTODY REVIEW TASK FORCE

(12 members)

## **Studies**

(2186 § 2) The Legislative Management shall create a Child Custody Review Task Force. The membership of the task force includes one member of the Supreme Court self-help program, appointed by the Supreme Court; one member representing the district courts, appointed by the Supreme Court; one member appointed by the State Bar Association; two members of the House or Senate Judiciary Committees, appointed by the Chairman of the Legislative Management; one member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; one member of the House, appointed by the House Majority Leader; two members representing parents subject to a child custody order; one member representing law enforcement; one member representing family mediators; and the Director of Legal Services of North Dakota. The task force is required to meet at least once each calendar quarter or more frequently at the call of the presiding officer; address issues involving the withholding of a child in violation of a custody decree and issues relating to a parent or party who provides false information against another parent or party in connection to a child custody order; consider ways to expeditiously and effectively enforce violations of custody orders, particularly the withholding of a child; and consider the development of self-help or artificial intelligence assisted forms and processes, expedited access to ex parte contempt of court orders, and other civil and criminal penalties, including possible additional compensatory time, and successful remedies used in other states.

**Chairman:** Senator David A. Clemens

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Nels Christianson

## **Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Christianson, Nels
- Schneider, Mary

### **Senators:**

- Castaneda, Jose L.
- Clemens, David A.

### **Citizen Members:**

- One member of the Supreme Court self-help program, appointed by the Supreme Court
- One member representing the district courts, appointed by the Supreme Court
- One member appointed by the State Bar Association
- Two members representing parents subject to a child custody order
- One member representing law enforcement
- One member representing family mediators
- The director of Legal Services of North Dakota

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(16 members)

## Studies

(2003 § 46) Study dual-credit in the state, including which institutions may offer dual-credit courses, where dual-credit courses may be provided by the institutions, and state funding provided for dual-credit.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 3 years of approving the first public charter school, which summarize the strategic vision and progress of each public charter school; performance of each operating public charter school, according to the performance measures and expectations specified in the charter performance agreement; status of charter applications, including charter schools that were not approved, not renewed, and closed; oversight and services provided by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to public charter schools; and total amount of fees collected from each public charter school, how the funds were expended to support the public charter school, and the costs incurred by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to oversee each public charter school. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2241 § 1) (NDCC § 15.1-XX-XX)

Receive an annual report from the Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council on the activities of the council. (NDCC § 15.1-01-04(9))

Receive a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction on any updates to the strategic vision and the collaborative report of the strategic plans of each steering committee member entity receiving state education funds. (NDCC § 15.1-02-04)

Receive an annual report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction by the end of February on the financial condition of school districts. (NDCC § 15.1-02-09)

Receive from the Superintendent of Public Instruction the compilation of annual school district employee compensation reports. (NDCC § 15.1-02-13)

Before the Superintendent of Public Instruction may submit proposed changes to the state accountability plan, the superintendent must present changes to an interim committee designated by the Legislative Management. (NDCC § 15.1-02-17)

Receive a biannual report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the implementation of intervention measures for chronically low-performing schools. (NDCC § 15.1-02-23)

Receive a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction of a request from a school or school district for a waiver of any rule governing the accreditation of schools. (NDCC § 15.1-06-08)

Receive a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding waivers applications under Section 15.1-06-08.1. (NDCC § 15.1-06-08.1)

Receive an annual report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the innovative education program, including the status of the implementation plan, a summary of any waived statutes or rules; and a review of evaluation date results. (NDCC § 15.1-06-08.2)

Receive a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction in even-numbered years regarding a comparison of academic performance of students participating in virtual instruction versus those not participating in virtual instruction and the use of the statewide prekindergarten through grade twelve strategic vision framework goals. (NDCC § 15.1-07-25.4)

Receive a biennial report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding proposals to allow students enrolled in grades six through twelve to earn course credit through educational opportunities with a sponsoring entity. (NDCC § 15.1-07-35)

Receive a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction before December 1 of each year on the categories and amount spent by each school district on school safety and security measures during the previous school year. (NDCC § 15.1-07-36)

Receive a report from the Education Standards and Practices Board regarding electronic satisfaction survey results of all interactions with individuals seeking information or services from the board. (NDCC § 15.1-13-36)

Receive from the Superintendent of Public Instruction the compilation of test scores of a test aligned to the state content standards in reading, mathematics, and science, given annually to students statewide. (NDCC § 15.1-21-10)

Receive periodic reports from the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the implementation and effectiveness of reading curriculum and professional development training requirements in improving educational outcomes and reading competency of students. (NDCC § 15.1-21-12.1)

Receive periodic reports from the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the implementation and effectiveness of the new section to Chapter 15.1-21 created to improve educational outcomes and student competency in mathematics. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2213 § 5) (NDCC § 15.1-21-XX)

**Chairman:** Representative Jim Jonas

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Paul J. Thomas

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Bahl, Landon
- Brown, Collette
- Fisher, Jay
- Heilman, Matthew
- Jonas, Jim
- Louser, Scott
- Motschenbacher, Mike
- Murphy, Eric J.
- Olson, SuAnn
- Richter, David
- Schatz, Mike

**Senators:**

- Axtman, Michelle
- Barta, Jeff
- Castaneda, Jose L.
- Sorvaag, Ronald
- Thomas, Paul J.



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE

(14 members)

## Studies

(1311 § 1) Consider studying volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention. The study must consider recruitment and retention challenges related to volunteer emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency or disaster volunteers, and community emergency response team members, and identify strategies for encouraging volunteerism. The study also must include input from stakeholders, including disaster emergency organizations, nonprofit associations, representatives of law enforcement, emergency medical service providers, and state and local agencies, departments, and institutions.

(1322 § 4) Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of establishing a delinquent billing reimbursement grant system for ambulance service providers. The study must include input from stakeholders, including the Insurance Department, and a survey of ambulance service providers. Section 5 provides an appropriation of \$20,000 to the Legislative Council for purposes of hiring a consultant to assist in this study.

(2332 § 1) Consider studying options to provide grant funding for emergency services and public safety. The study must include a review of the amount of grant funding needed, potential funding sources, entities to be eligible to receive a grant, types of expenses to be eligible for reimbursement through a grant program, the appropriate agency to administer a grant program, and options to establish a grant program oversight committee.

(2340 § 1) Study the evolving fire service operational and response needs of the state. The study must examine the coordination of efforts of existing state resources for improved fire emergency service organization, distribution, mobilization, training, and oversight; creation of fire service regional response teams; establishment of authority for response, standardized training, wildland-urban interface fire prevention codes, and emergency response operational initiatives and responsibilities; evaluation of existing staffing abilities to cross-train, provide further services, provide backfill during extended or complex emergencies, minimum training requirements, staff firefighting authorities, firefighting benefits, necessary equipment, and structural needs; identification and implementation of a restructure of fiscal support for state and local fire service in the state, reducing the dependency on local property tax; and changes necessary to state laws and administrative rules to implement a unified model. The study must include consultation with the State Fire Marshal, North Dakota Firefighter's Association, North Dakota Forest Service, Department of Emergency Services, North Dakota Fire Chief's Association, Department of Career and Technical Education, and other stakeholders. The Legislative Management may contract with a consultant to carry out this study.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Department of Emergency Services before September 1, 2026, regarding the department's findings and recommendations from a consultant's report on the state's vulnerabilities relating to security threats posed by foreign adversaries. (2025 House Bill No. 1209 § 1)

Receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner before September 1, 2026, regarding the findings if the Insurance Commissioner elects to study the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of providing towing and recovery costs associated with vehicle liability only insurance for towing operations. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2374 § 16)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the status of the distressed ambulance service program. (NDCC § 23-27.2-08)

**Chairman:** Representative Jim Grueneich

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Donald Schaible

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Davis, Jayme
- Fegley, Clayton
- Grueneich, Jim
- Heinert, Pat D.
- Holle, Dawson
- Karls, Karen
- Longmuir, Donald W.
- Nehring, Dennis
- Porter, Todd

### **Senators:**

- Boschee, Josh
- Kessel, Greg
- Larson, Diane
- Patten, Dale
- Schaible, Donald

# EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

(13 members) statutory committee (54-35-02.3)

## Duties and Studies

Consider and report on the legislative proposals over which the committee takes jurisdiction and which fiscally impact the retirement programs of state employees or employees of any political subdivision, and health and retiree health plans of state employees or employees of any political subdivision. A majority of the members of the committee have sole authority to determine whether a legislative proposal affects a program. The committee shall make a thorough review of each proposal the committee takes under its jurisdiction, including an actuarial report. The committee shall take jurisdiction over a proposal that authorizes an automatic increase or other change in benefits beyond the ensuing biennium which would not require legislative approval. The committee shall include in the report of the committee a statement that the proposal would allow future changes without legislative involvement. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee shall request an actuarial report from the program affected by a legislative measure if a measure is introduced in either house without an actuarial report, or if an amendment is made to the measure, and provide the report to the standing committee to which the measure is referred. (NDCC § 54-35-02.4)

Approve terminology adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement to comply with applicable federal statutes or rules. (NDCC § 15-39.1-35)

Approve terminology adopted by the Public Employees Retirement System Board to comply with federal requirements. (NDCC §§ 39-03.1-29, 54-52-23, 54-52.1-08.2, 54-52.6-23)

Adopt a procedure for identifying measures and proposed measures mandating health insurance coverage of services or payments for specified providers of services. (NDCC § 54-03-28(4))

Review legislative measures and proposals affecting public employees retirement programs and health and retiree health plans. (NDCC § 54-35-02.4)

(1580 § 1) Consider studying the classified state employee total rewards compensation system, including a review of the determination of pay grade, classifications, and health care benefits. The study must include a review of the history of changes to the classification and pay grade levels; comparisons among state employees across all departments and comparisons between state employee compensation levels to similar private sector jobs; use of equity funding and bonuses to retain employees; payment of prevailing wages on state projects and wage levels in awarding contracts for state projects; the impact of changes to health plan benefits; and premium rate structures for single and family coverage and the impact of proposed changes.

(2280 § 2) Consider studying prior authorization requirements imposed by Public Employees Retirement System uniform group insurance plans under Chapter 54-52.1 and the impact on patient care and health care costs. The study must include input from stakeholders, including patients, providers, and commercial insurance plans. The study must require insurance plans to submit to the Insurance Commissioner by July 1, 2025, for the immediately preceding calendar year for each commercial product the number of prior authorization requests for which an authorization was issued; the number of prior authorization requests for which an adverse determination was issued, sorted by health care service, whether the adverse determination was appealed, or whether the adverse determination was upheld or reversed on appeal; the reasons for prior authorization denial, including the patient did not meet prior authorization criteria, incomplete information was submitted by the provider to the utilization review organization, a change in treatment program, or the patient is no longer covered by the plan; and the number of denials reversed by internal appeals or external reviews. The Insurance Commissioner shall aggregate this data into a report and submit the report to the Legislative Management by November 1, 2025.

## Reports

Receive notice from the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement of necessary or desirable changes in statutes relating to the administration of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement fund. (NDCC § 15-39.1-05.2)

Receive an annual report from the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement regarding the annual test of actuarial adequacy of the statutory contribution rate. (NDCC § 15-39.1-10.11)

Receive notice from the firefighters relief association of the association's intent to provide a substitution monthly service pension. (NDCC § 18-11-15)

Receive periodic reports from Human Resource Management Services on the implementation, progress, and bonuses provided by state agency programs to provide bonuses to recruit or retain employees in hard-to-fill positions. (NDCC § 54-06-31)

Receive a biennial report from the Office of Management and Budget summarizing reports of state agencies providing service awards to employees in the classified service. (NDCC § 54-06-32)

Receive a biennial report from the Office of Management and Budget summarizing reports of state agencies providing employer-paid costs of training or educational courses to employees in the classified service. (NDCC § 54-06-33)

Receive a biennial report from the Office of Management and Budget summarizing reports of executive branch state agencies paying employee membership dues for professional organizations and membership dues for service clubs when required to do business or if the membership is primarily for the benefit of the state. (NDCC § 54-06-34)

Receive an annual report from the Retirement Board regarding the contributions necessary, as determined by the actuarial study, to maintain the retirement fund's actuarial soundness. (NDCC § 54-52-06)

Receive an annual report from the Retirement Board regarding the status of the defined contribution retirement plan under Chapter 54-52.6. (NDCC § 54-52.6-22)

**Chairman:** Senator Sean Cleary

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Jorin Johnson

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Bahl, Landon
- Grindberg, Karen
- Johnson, Jorin
- Ostlie, Mitch
- Schauer, Austen
- Vetter, Steve
- Warrey, Jonathan

**Senators:**

- Bekkedahl, Brad
- Boschee, Josh
- Cleary, Sean
- Cory, Claire
- Davison, Kyle
- Roers, Kristin

# ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION COMMITTEE

(14 members) statutory committee (54-35-18)

## Duties and Studies

Develop a comprehensive statewide energy policy that supports the long-term development of the energy opportunities in the state and to engage industry stakeholders to develop a regulatory environment that allows for responsible growth while resolving conflicts and developing synergy between energy and agriculture programs. (NDCC § 54-35-18)

Study the impact of a comprehensive energy policy for the state and the development of each facet of the energy industry from the obtaining of the raw natural resource to the sale of the final product in this state, other states, and other countries. (NDCC § 54-35-18)

(1579 § 1) Study the impact of large energy consumers, including data centers, on the electrical grid of the state, regulatory structure, and economic development. The study must include an evaluation of the electrical grid reliability and infrastructure requirements within the state, including the capacity of the electrical grid; necessary upgrades to accommodate large energy consumers; the cost of necessary upgrades to accommodate large energy consumers; how the cost of necessary upgrades to accommodate large energy consumers are allocated; effects of congestion on the electrical grid caused by increased development; best practices for integrating high-demand users while maintaining reliability for all ratepayers; regulatory consistency throughout the state, including an assessment of the manner in which state and local laws and regulations impact large energy consumers; whether the certificate of public convenience and necessity process is appropriate for private-sector end users; whether regulatory inconsistencies exist between investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, municipal power providers, and independent power producers; economic impacts affecting the energy industry of the state, including an assessment of job creation, tax revenue generation, and long-term investment trends tied to data center development and other large energy consumers; market dynamics of the local and national energy industry, including the role of demand-side management, local versus regional energy market participation, and the ability of large consumers to support grid stability through off-peak consumption or other grid-supportive practices; costs and impacts of all regulated and exempted public utilities, including best reporting practices; and regulatory and exemption criteria relating to load size, system integration, application processes, impacts to consumers and access to the regional grid systems, electrical generation sources, the feasibility of colocated backup generators at various facilities, and generation sources, including legacy electric generation units. The study must include input from representatives of data center operators, and other large energy consumers operating or considering investment in the state; investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, municipal power providers, and independent power producers; the Public Service Commission; the Lignite Energy Council; the North Dakota Transmission Authority; regional transmission organizations; the Petroleum Council; and any other relevant state or federal agency.

(2360 § 1) Consider studying the feasibility of developing geothermal energy in the state. The study must include an evaluation of the state's geology and the feasibility of resource exploration and production of geothermal energy in the state; support opportunities for startup geothermal companies, including fostering innovation and promoting economic growth within the state's energy sector; the application of geothermal energy to nonproductive oil and gas wells to extend the life of the well through the use of a complementary energy extraction method; and other opportunities to advance geothermal energy opportunities in the state.

## Reports

Receive at least one report from the State Energy Research Center during the 2025-26 interim regarding the status and results of its salt cavern underground energy storage and research project. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2014 § 27)

Receive a report from the Agriculture Commissioner by June 1 of each even-numbered year regarding the services provided under the postproduction royalty oversight program. (NDCC § 4.1-01-26)

Receive an annual report from the State Energy Research Center on all research activities and accomplishments. (NDCC § 15-11-40)

Receive a biennial written report from the North Dakota Transmission Authority on its activities. (NDCC § 17-05-13(1))

Receive an annual written report from the North Dakota Transmission Authority on the status of the resilience of the electric grid. (NDCC § 17-05-13(2))

Receive a report from the Industrial Commission in December 2014 and every 4 years thereafter discussing whether the amount in the carbon dioxide storage facility trust fund and fees being paid into the fund are sufficient to satisfy the fund's objectives. (NDCC § 38-22-15)

Receive a biennial report from the High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council. (NDCC § 38-23-08)

Receive a biennial report from the North Dakota Pipeline Authority on its activities. (NDCC § 54-17.7-13)

Receive a biennial report from the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority regarding the authority's activities and the financial impact on state revenue and the state's economy of the programs administered by the authority. (NDCC § 54-63.1-04)

Receive an annual report from the operator of a coal conversion facility that receives a carbon dioxide capture credit for certain coal conversion facilities regarding the facility's carbon dioxide capture project. (NDCC § 57-60-02.1)

**Chairman:** Representative Anna S. Novak

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Kent Weston

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Senators:**

**Representatives:**

- Anderson, Dick
- Foss, Austin
- Heinert, Pat D.
- Mitskog, Alisa
- Novak, Anna S.
- Porter, Todd
- Bekkedahl, Brad
- Boehm, Keith
- Braunberger, Ryan
- Enget, Mark
- Hogan, Kathy
- Kessel, Greg
- van Oosting, Desiree
- Weston, Kent

# GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE

(19 members)

## **Duties and Studies**

Review state budget information, including the monitoring of state revenue and appropriations and review and develop state revenue forecasts.

Approve any agreement between a North Dakota state entity and South Dakota to form a bistate authority. (NDCC § 54-40-01)

Study of selected state agency fees. (NDCC § 54-35-27)

(1197 § 1) Study the costs and benefits of regional correctional facilities, the impacts of deferred admission, and the prioritization of inmates sentenced to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The study must include input from representatives of counties with a population of 7,500 or more, representatives of counties with a population of fewer than 7,500, representatives of local law enforcement officials, representatives of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, representatives of the Office of Management and Budget, and representatives of the Attorney General.

(2254 § 2) Study the funding needs of fixed route city transportation networks. The study must include a review of how the fixed route transportation networks can address population growth, economic development, workforce needs, and health care needs. As part of the study, the Legislative Management shall develop a proposed funding formula within the Department of Transportation's budget for fixed route city transportation systems.

(4024) Consider studying using dedicated funds in the Capitol building fund to build a legislative office building.

## **Reports**

Receive a biennial report from the Retirement and Investment Office regarding the amount of legacy fund earnings above the percent of market value that would have been transferred to the legacy earnings fund had 2023 Senate Bill No. 2330 not been passed by the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. (2023 Senate Bill No. 2015 § 62)

Receive a report from the Department of Commerce by June 30, 2026, regarding the status of the state radar data pathfinder program, integration of the state program with the Federal Aviation Administration Radar Data Pathfinder Program, expenditures to date, and the effect of the state program on uncrewed aircraft system operations, safety, and data security in the state. (2025 House Bill No. 1038 § 1)

Receive quarterly reports from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation regarding the planning and design of a new minimum security facility. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2015 § 7)

Receive a report from the Department of Commerce by June 30, 2025, regarding the status of the uncrewed aerial vehicle replacement program, including funding spent on uncrewed aerial vehicle replacements and training costs, the number of uncrewed aerial vehicles replaced in each state agency, the number of uncrewed aerial vehicles sold or disposed, and any future needs for each state agency to be compliant with the federal National Defense Authorization Act and the American Security Drone Act of 2023. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2018 § 14)

Receive an annual report from the housing task force established by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to address barriers to accessing housing for probationers, parolees, and other individuals released from the custody of the department. The report must include information relating to the implementation of a housing assistance program to provide monetary assistance to eligible probationers, parolees, and other individuals released from the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (2025 House Bill No. 1549 § 3) (NDCC § 54-23.3-XX)

Receive a report from the Office of Management and Budget by October 15 of each even-numbered year, regarding the reports received by the Office of Management and Budget from each executive branch state agency, excluding entities under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, receiving federal funds, a plan to operate the state agency when federal funds are reduced by 5 percent or more of the total federal funds the state agency receives. (NDCC § 54-27-27.1)

Receive semiannual reports from the Department of Commerce regarding the status of the program to establish and administer an uncrewed aircraft systems test site in cooperation with the University of North Dakota, the Aeronautics Commission, Adjutant General, and private parties appointed by the Governor. (NDCC § 54-60-28)

Receive semiannual reports from the Department of Commerce regarding the development of the beyond visual line of sight uncrewed aircraft system program and the total amount deposited by the State Treasurer in the general fund. (NDCC § 54-60-29.1)

Receive at least one report from each county or city that receives a distribution from the large facility development fund on the use of the funding. The report must include the amount of funding received and spent by the county or city, including an itemized list of the amounts spent and a description of how the funding was used by the county or city. (NDCC § 57-39.2-26.4)

**Chairman:** Representative Jared C. Hagert

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Randy A. Burckhard

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Anderson, Bert
- Dockter, Jason
- Dressler, Ty
- Foss, Austin
- Grueneich, Jim
- Hagert, Jared C.
- Hatlestad, Patrick R.
- Headland, Craig
- Meier, Lisa
- Nathe, Mike
- Stemen, Gregory
- Steiner, Vicky
- Timmons, Kelby

**Senators:**

- Barta, Jeff
- Burckhard, Randy A.
- Gerhardt, Justin
- Marcellais, Richard
- Schaible, Donald
- Walen, Chuck

# HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

(12 members)

## Duties and Studies

Contract with a private entity, after receiving recommendations from the Insurance Commissioner, to provide a cost-benefit analysis of every legislative measure mandating health insurance coverage of services or payment for specified providers of services, or an amendment that mandates such coverage or payment. (NDCC § 54-03-28)

(1567 § 1) Consider studying the unmet dental and oral health care needs of low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities. The study must include an overview of the dental and oral health care status of Medicaid recipients, including low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities, both on and off reservations; evaluation of the importance of receiving dental and oral health care services, the impacts and outcomes of not receiving services, general health consequences, complications, and expanded costs of future care; review of state and federal regulations, policies, and procedures limiting or perceived as limiting dentist provider enrollment in Medicaid, including impediments to enrollment, length of credentialing and recredentialing, reasons for provider termination, prior authorizations, attachments, appeals, and timely payments; availability of, and access or barriers to, complex dental services for Medicaid recipients with disabilities or dental conditions which might require anesthesia or critical care; review of Medicaid dental reimbursement rates for a selection of preventative and treatment services in this state compared to other states, private payers, and in comparison to real cost for dental teams to determine potential need to increase reimbursement rates; review of barriers and opportunities relating to expanding education for dentists and dental staff, including consideration of a new dental school in this state, long-term partnership with regional dental schools, and increased dental student residencies located in this state; consideration of the expansion or promotion of programs that offer support and resources to enable on-the-job training and apprenticeships for dental assistants, including the visibility of providing state and federal resources to support providers offering such training; consideration of expansion or creation of volunteer and charitable dental programs and nonprofit services; evaluation of ways to improve accessibility to dental and oral health care services for Medicaid recipients, including low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities, both on and off reservations; exploration of the feasibility of partnerships between state programs and tribal health organizations to enhance delivery; review of programs designed to recruit and retain dental health providers, such as loan forgiveness or incentives for dentists working in underserved communities, including tribal communities; exploration of the use of telehealth solutions to reach rural areas, including tribal communities; review of dental provider participation with dental insurers, including the percentage of dental providers in-network and out-of-network for the largest dental insurers; review of charges covered by dental benefit plans and out-of-pocket costs for dental care; review of dental program preauthorization and service coverage in adherence to clinical guidelines of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; review of the provider relations program for answering questions from providers and staff, online and in-person education and training to providers and staff to promote efficiency and effectiveness; consideration of program staff credentials for appropriate oversight of clinical care for claim preauthorizations and approvals; consideration of the administrative system addressing grievances and appeals of submitted claims and preauthorizations to assess the system's responsiveness and review the ability to submit additional documentation, such as x-rays and photos using an online portal; review of parity in the submission of claims between private offices, nonprofit dental clinics, and federally qualified health centers; consideration of the potential effects of dental Medicaid Expansion and increase in adult Medicaid-eligible enrollees on access to dental care, administrative efficiency, and participation of dentists in the Medicaid program; review of dental claims administration including the percentage of preauthorizations and denials; review of call center management including the number of calls, average hold time, and caller satisfaction; review of cases and decisions by a program administration related to audits and claims review to determine what percentage were completed with a peer review committee that includes a licensed dentist and a licensed dentist of a specialty; review the quality improvement system that assists providers in providing clinically appropriate care in accordance with the guidelines of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry clinical guidelines; analysis of the information required by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Form 416, in compliance with Medicaid early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment, including the percentage of eligible children receiving any dental service, preventative service, or sealants; analysis of provider participation and recredentialing of dental providers with Medicaid, the average benefit paid per user and beneficiary, the geographical distribution of active providers with active recipients in the state, and provider participation surveys; and a review of ambulatory surgery and hospital facility claims for dental rehabilitation procedures that require monitored anesthesia for children to compare with other medical providers providing similar same-day surgical services. The study may include a focus on solutions to identified needs including a review of scope of practice and additional providers and provider types. The study also may include broader considerations of unmet needs for dental services for all Medicaid recipients, data for those recipients, and any current plans for remediation with goals, objectives, projected costs, and implementation timetables.

(2249 § 1) Consider studying historical health care mandates. The study must include an analysis of current health care mandates, including when the mandates were enacted, the purpose, effectiveness, and present applicability; a history of health care mandates and step therapy protocol; and input from Department of Health and Human Services, the Insurance Department, the Public Employees Retirement System, insurance providers, and other stakeholders.

(2280 § 3) Consider studying the ability for health care systems and providers to submit prior authorization reviews for nonurgent and emergency health care services by secure electronic means. The study must analyze alternatives to facsimile or mail for transmitting prior authorization requests and supporting medical records. The study must include input from stakeholders, including patients, providers, and commercial insurance plans.

(2370 § 1) Study establishing reporting requirements for covered entities in North Dakota which participate in the federal drug discount program under 42 U.S.C. 256b, and how reported data could be used to develop public policy that directly benefits patients in North Dakota. The study must include consideration of the various entities participating in the drug discount program that should be required to report data to this state, including health care facilities, contract pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, drug manufacturers, pharmacy benefits managers, and health insurers; consideration of the specific data elements that



each entity should be required to report; exploration of methods of reporting, compiling, and sharing the compiled data which provide the greatest benefit to patients in North Dakota; analysis of issues relating to the confidentiality and disclosure of the data; and consideration of reporting enforcement mechanisms, including civil penalties for failing to report. The study must include input from and consultation with stakeholders, including a professional association representing hospitals in North Dakota, a professional association representing pharmacies in North Dakota, a professional association representing federally qualified health centers in North Dakota, a professional association representing rural health in North Dakota, a professional association representing innovative pharmaceutical manufacturers, the Insurance Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Board of Pharmacy, hospitals participating in the drug discount program, federally qualified health centers, pharmacies that have contracts with covered entities participating in the drug discount program; and health insurers.

### **Reports**

Receive a report from the Insurance Commissioner by November 1, 2025, which compiles data submitted to the Insurance Commissioner by PERS uniform group insurance plans relating to prior authorization. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2280 § 2)

Receive report from the State Fire Marshal each interim on the State Fire Marshal's findings and any recommendation for legislation to improve the effectiveness of the law on reduced ignition propensity standards for cigarettes. (NDCC § 18-13-02(6))

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by November 1 of each year summarizing the number of deaths that occurred in the state caused by or related to fentanyl consumption during the preceding calendar year, including the county in which the deaths occurred and the age and gender of the deceased individuals. (NDCC § 19-03.1-23.5)

Receive report from the Department of Health and Human Services before June 1 of each even-numbered year, regarding progress made toward the recommendations provided in Section 23-43-04 and any recommendations for future legislation. (NDCC § 23-43-04)

Receive an annual report from the Maternal Mortality Review Committee regarding the identification of patterns, trends, and policy issues related to maternal mortality. (NDCC § 23-51-08)

Receive a report from the North Dakota Legislative Health Care Task Force by October 1 of each year on its activities and any recommendations to improve health care in the state. (NDCC § 50-06-45)

**Chairman:** Representative Carrie McLeod

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Desiree van Oosting

**Legislative Council Staff:**

#### **Representatives:**

- Grindberg, Karen
- Karls, Karen
- McLeod, Carrie
- Meier, Lisa
- Nelson, Jon O.
- Ostlie, Mitch
- Rohr, Karen M.
- Schneider, Mary

#### **Senators:**

- Lee, Judy
- Mathern, Tim
- Roers, Kristin
- van Oosting, Desiree

# HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING REVIEW COMMITTEE

(13 members)

## Studies

(2003 § 45) A higher education funding review committee is created and composed of 13 members, including 2 members of the House appointed by the House Majority Leader, 1 member of the House appointed by the House Minority Leader, 2 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, 1 member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, 1 member of the Legislative Assembly to serve as chairman appointed by the Legislative Management, and 6 nonvoting members representing higher education institutions. The committee shall study funding methods for higher education in the state.

## Reports

Receive a report from the State Board of Higher Education regarding any appropriation authority transferred from the operations to the capital assets line items within subdivisions 2 through 14 of Section 1 of 2025 Senate Bill No. 2003 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2003 § 38)

Receive a report from the Department of Commerce by October 1, 2026, regarding workforce development grants awarded to a tribally controlled community college. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2018 § 15)

Receive a biennial report from the State Board of Higher Education on the use of funding in the University System capital building fund, the source of matching funds, and each institution's 5-year plan for capital construction spending. (NDCC § 15-54.1-02)

**Chairman:** Senator Ronald Sorvaag

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Karla Rose Hanson

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Hanson, Karla Rose
- Nathe, Mike
- Swiontek, Steve

### **Senators:**

- Boschee, Josh
- Meyer, Scott
- Sickler, Jonathan
- Sorvaag, Ronald

### **Nonvoting Members:**

- The University of North Dakota Vice President for finance and operations, or a designee
- The North Dakota State University Vice President for finance and operations, or a designee
- Two representatives from regional 4-year universities, including dual-mission institutions, appointed by the State Board of Higher Education
- Two representatives from 2-year colleges, including polytechnic institutions, appointed by the State Board of Higher Education

# HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

(15 members)

## Studies

(2242 § 1) Consider studying the institutions of higher education under the control of the State Board of Higher Education. The study must include methods to promote efficiency and collaboration among state institutions; consideration of statewide dual-credit expansion to develop standard 3-year bachelor degree programs; an analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students; consideration of the feasibility and desirability of a system of uniform transcripts and the waiver of fees to transfer credits within the state higher education system; consideration of the feasibility and desirability of consolidating colleges and universities and implementing satellite campuses of universities; research on the competitiveness among state institutions; and an analysis of the quality of education provided at each state institution. If selected, the Legislative Management must appoint a committee for the study. The voting members of the committee, who must be appointed by the Legislative Management, are three members of the Senate, two from the party with the largest number of members in the Senate and one from the party with the second largest number of members in the Senate; three members of the House of Representatives, two from the party with the largest number of members in the House of Representatives and one from the party with the second largest number of members in the House of Representatives; and one member of the Legislative Assembly to serve as the committee Chairman. The nonvoting members of the committee are the Chairman of the State Board of Higher Education; the student representative of the State Board of Higher Education; the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System, or the chancellor's designee; one representative of K-12 education; and one representative each of the manufacturing, health care, agriculture, and energy industries.

## Reports

Receive an annual report from the University of North Dakota regarding strategies under consideration and implemented to increase resident medical student enrollment in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and in the physician assistant program. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2003 § 44)

Receive a report during the 2025-26 interim from the Association of Colleges for Teacher Education regarding a study of the Praxis Core testing performance of student teachers who used grades and exams to demonstrate reading, writing, and mathematics competencies. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2003 § 47)

Receive a report from the State Board of Higher Education by May 31, 2026, regarding the board's findings of its study of the costs and benefits of a system of higher education led by a chancellor compared to a commissioner. The board also shall provide a report by October 15, 2025, regarding the hiring process for the Commissioner of Higher Education position, including detail regarding the cause or reasoning behind any delays in the hiring process. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2003 § 48)

Receive an annual comprehensive report from the State Board of Higher Education regarding grants awarded from the economic diversification research fund. The report must include information on how the research efforts by each institution align with the state's priorities, how the institutions collaborate when appropriate, and how the outcomes of the research meet established performance expectations. The State Board of Higher Education is required to develop reporting requirements for the institutions under the control of the board, including criteria for assessing performance outcomes related to grants awarded from the economic diversification research fund. (NDCC § 6-09-53)

Receive a report from the State Board of Higher Education by September 1 of each even-numbered year regarding the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. (NDCC § 15-10-38.1)

Receive a report from the State Board of Higher Education by September 1 of each even-numbered year regarding the skilled workforce scholarship program. (NDCC § 15-10-38.2)

Receive an annual report from the State Board of Higher Education regarding the number of North Dakota academic scholarships and career and technical education scholarships provided and demographic information pertaining to the recipients. (NDCC § 15-10-59)

Receive a report from the Commissioner of Higher Education on State Board of Higher Education policies regarding communications between board members and board member access to current and historic board information. (NDCC § 15-10-66)

Receive an annual report from the Commissioner of Higher Education regarding trends in higher education, including state and regional student enrollment, North Dakota University System institution reserves, state and regional tuition rates, state and regional student financial assistance, and the University System's response to the trends and changes, including new or expanded educational programs, closed programs, and future budget requests. (NDCC § 15-10-71)

Receive a biennial program report from the State Board of Higher Education by September 1 of each even-numbered year regarding awards under the workforce education innovation program. The report must include information per educational institution regarding the number, amount, and type of awards; the name of each educational program created, enhanced, or promoted; the amount and percentage of funds used for leadership and coordination costs; and detailed expense reports, including the type of equipment and technology purchased and the number of instructors hired or trained. (NDCC § 15-10-75)

Receive a biennial report and recommendations from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Advisory Council regarding the strategic plan, programs, and facilities of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. (NDCC § 15-52-04)

Receive a report from any tribally controlled community college receiving a grant under Chapter 15-70 detailing the expenditures of the grant funds, a copy of the institution's latest audit report, and documentation of the enrollment status of students. (NDCC § 15-70-05)

Receive an annual report from the North Dakota State University Research and Technology Park regarding all research activities, product development, and accomplishments. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2256 § 1) (NDCC § 54-17-XX)

**Chairman:** Senator Jonathan Sickler

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Mark Sanford

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Hager, LaurieBeth
- Martinson, Bob
- Sanford, Mark

**Senators:**

- Boschee, Josh
- Erbele, Robert
- Meyer, Scott
- Sickler, Jonathan
- Wobbema, Mike

**Nonvoting Members:**

- The Chairman of the State Board of Higher Education
- The student representative of the State Board of Higher Education
- The Chancellor of the North Dakota University System, or a designee
- One representative of kindergarten through grade twelve education
- One representative of the manufacturing industry
- One representative of the health care industry
- One representative of the agriculture industry
- One representative of the energy industry

# HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

(16 members)

## Studies

(1097 § 1) Study the accessibility of state and local services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences. The study must consider the requirements under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act providing for state and local government entities to communicate effectively with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences and consider challenges or barriers to effective communication for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences when communicating with, including receiving information from and conveying information to, state and local government entities, and identify strategies for improving communication. The study must include input from the Department of Labor and Human Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, employees of the North Dakota School for the Deaf, individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences, information technology professionals, American Sign Language interpreters, and family members of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences.

(1119 § 1) Study the laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to child care provider licensing. The study must include input from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Child Care Services Advisory Committee, and child care providers. If the program evaluation of Department of Health and Human Services child care services in Section 2 is selected by the Legislative Council, this study must be informed by the program evaluation.

(1119 § 2) Directs the Legislative Council to consider conducting a program evaluation of Department of Health and Human Services child care services. The program evaluation must include review and analysis of state and federal laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to child care; evaluation of the child care services framework, identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities, including opportunities to streamline the administrative process, to enhance clarity for providers, and to provide services for more children; consideration of licensing requirements, the federal and state assistance programs available, education requirements for program operators, training and certification requirements for staff members, the number of children in an early childhood program, child to provider ratios, and square footage requirements; review and analysis of child care funding sources, expenditures, assistance penetration rates, and the distribution of resources to determine whether the program efficiently and effectively uses and distributes resources to support access to affordable and safe child care; and the review of recently enacted legislation regarding child care services to determine if the policies have been timely implemented and properly administered, including an analysis of measurable goals, performance data, and options to improve enrollment. The Legislative Council must report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Management by August 1, 2026.

(2014 § 30) Consider studying homelessness in the state. The study must include a review of data and funding available to address homelessness, an analysis of the use of available funds to identify gaps and potential solutions, and input from homeless program service providers.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by October 1, 2026, regarding its plan to establish long-term structured residences. (2025 House Bill No. 1012 § 36)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by September 1, 2026, of the department's findings and recommendations regarding its study of accreditation requirements and provider costs for serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (2025 House Bill No. 1012 § 49)

Receive reports from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding direct payments made to licensed child care providers to support high-quality early childhood care for infants and toddlers and the effectiveness of the direct payment program. (2025 House Bill No. 1015 § 21)

Receive a report from the Legislative Council by August 1, 2026, regarding the Legislative Council's findings and recommendations from its program evaluation of the Department of Health and Human Services' child care services. (2025 House Bill No. 1119 § 2)

Receive a report from the Child Care Services Advisory Committee by June 30, 2026, regarding the committee's review of child care licensing. (2025 House Bill No. 1119 § 3)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services every 6 months during the 2025-27 biennium regarding the number of ineligible children served by the Life Skills and Transition Center. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2112 § 11)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by March 1, 2026, regarding the study of alternatives to placement at the Life Skills and Transition Center. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2112 § 12)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by January 31, 2026, and August 31, 2026, regarding progress on the basic care study recommendations addressing the adult residential facility and basic care payment systems and the review of the asset limit for home- and community-based services aged and disabled waiver. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2271 § 3)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by August 30, 2026, regarding the development of a payment model continuum for basic care, assisted living, and adult residential facilities. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2271 § 4)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services by October 1, 2026, regarding changes to medical assistance reimbursement of psychiatric residential treatment facilities for direct care costs, including the applicable costs related to clinical supervisions, medical directors, engagement of families in care, therapeutic leave days, an administrative cost cap, and progress toward value-based care. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2399 § 2)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services and the steering committee for developmental disabilities system reimbursement project on development activities and status information for the project. (NDCC § 50-06-37)

Receive an annual report from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the progress of the pay for success program developed by the department to improve educational, social, or emotional achievements of at-risk children, improve the health of children, and increase participation in the workforce by individuals who qualify for governmental assistance. (NDCC § 50-06-47)

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services before August 1 of each even-numbered year, regarding provider reimbursement rates under the medical assistance expansion program. (NDCC § 50-24.1-37)

Receive a biennial report from the Department of Health and Human Services before August of each even-numbered year on the tribal health care coordination fund and tribal government use of money distributed from the fund. (NDCC § 50-24.1-40(4))

Receive periodic reports from the Department of Health and Human Services on the impact, usage, and costs associated with the family caregiver service pilot project. (NDCC § 50-24.1-47)

Receive annual report from the Department of Health and Human Services describing enrollment statistics and costs associated with the children's health insurance program state plan. (NDCC § 50-29-02)

Receive an annual report from the Children's Cabinet regarding the activities and findings of the Children's Cabinet and other designated working groups on children and family issues. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2176 § 1) (NDCC § 54-07-XX)

**Chairman:** Senator Kyle Davison

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Kathy Frelich

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Anderson, Karen A.
- Beltz, Mike
- Davis, Jayme
- Frelich, Kathy
- Hendrix, Jared
- Kiefert, Dwight
- McLeod, Carrie
- Rios, Nico
- Rohr, Karen M.
- Ruby, Matthew
- Stemen, Gregory

**Senators:**

- Davison, Kyle
- Dever, Dick
- Hogan, Kathy
- Lee, Judy
- Powers, Michelle

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**(12 members) statutory committee (54-35-15.1)**

## **Duties and Studies**

Determine information technology compliance reviews to be conducted by the State Auditor and receive the results of those reviews. (NDCC §§ 54-10-28, 54-35-15.4)

Review the activities of the Information Technology Department, statewide information technology standards, the statewide information technology plan, and major information technology projects; review cost-benefit analyses of major projects; conduct studies; and make recommendations regarding established or proposed information technology programs and information technology acquisition. (NDCC § 54-35-15.2)

Review any information technology project or information technology plan. If the committee determines that the project or plan is at risk of failing to achieve its intended results, the committee may recommend to the Office of Management and Budget the suspension of the expenditure of moneys appropriated for a project or plan. (NDCC § 54-35-15.3)

(2021 § 10) Consider studying fees collected for technology services, including emergency communications, behavioral health crisis response, and the statewide interoperable radio network. The study must include an analysis of the adequacy of current fee structures, financial needs of the technology services, current fees and revenue trends for 911 and 988 services, the statewide interoperable radio network project, the estimated project completion date, estimated ongoing funding needs to operate the network, current funding available for the network, future funding options for the network that will not negatively affect existing emergency communication systems, and a comparison of statewide radio network funding models used in other states.

(2021 § 11) Study the enterprise resource planning system for the state, including state agencies and institutions of higher education. The study must include consideration of the current system and potential systems, including functionality, technological structure, expected life cycle, costs and benefits of cloud-based and on-premises hosted solutions, support and maintenance costs, and potential implementation costs; the desired functionality for state agency use, including financial management, human capital management, and procurement; the desired functionality for institutions of higher education, including financial management, human capital management, grant management, compliance management, procurement, and student data management; and the costs and benefits of continuing with one enterprise resource planning system or separate systems for state agencies and institutions of higher education.

## **Reports**

Receive a report from the State Board of Higher Education, on request, regarding higher education information technology planning, services, and major projects. (NDCC § 15-10-44)

Receive a project startup report and a project closeout report from the affected legislative or judicial branch agency regarding any information technology project with a total cost of \$5 million or more. (NDCC § 54-35-15.2)

Receive and review information received from the State Board of Higher Education relating to higher education information technology projects with a total cost of \$5 million or more and receive and review information from the Information Technology Department regarding any information technology project of an executive branch agency with a total cost of between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000. (NDCC § 54-35-15.2)

Receive information from the State Board of Higher Education regarding higher education information technology planning, services, and major projects. (NDCC § 54-35-15.2)

Receive a report from the Chief Information Officer at each meeting. (NDCC § 54-35-15.2)

Receive a report from the Chief Information Officer, before June 1 of each even-numbered year, regarding the implementation of distributed ledger technologies. (NDCC § 54-59-02.2)

Receive a report from the Chief Information Officer regarding the coordination of services with political subdivisions and from the Chief Information Officer and the Chief Information Officer of the North Dakota University System regarding coordination of information technology between the Information Technology Department and higher education. (NDCC § 54-59-12)

Receive an annual report from the Information Technology Department. (NDCC § 54-59-19)

Receive a report from any agency that encounters a cost or time completion issue on a project regarding the corrective measures taken by the agency regarding the project. A report under Section 54-59-23(2) must specify corrective measures being undertaken to address any cost or time of completion issue. (NDCC § 54-59-23(3))

Receive a report from the Information Technology Department regarding the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. (NDCC § 54-59-36)

The Information Technology Department shall report to the Legislative Management all disclosed cybersecurity incidents as required by this chapter, including the status of the cybersecurity incident and any response or remediation to mitigate the cybersecurity incident. (NDCC § 54-59.1-07)

Receive a report from the Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee by November 1 of each even-numbered year regarding the use of the assessed communications services fee revenue; and receive recommendations regarding changes to the operating standards for emergency services communications, including training or certification standards for dispatchers. (NDCC § 57-40.6-12)

**Chairman:** Representative Glenn Bosch

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Mark Enget

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Hauck, Dori
- Osowski, Doug
- Toman, Nathan
- Warrey, Jonathan
- Weisz, Robin

**Senators:**

- Axtman, Michelle
- Davison, Kyle
- Enget, Mark
- Sickler, Jonathan
- Wobbema, Mike

**Nonvoting Citizen Member:**

- Chief Information Officer
- Department of Health and Human Services  
appointee



# JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

(16 members)

## **Duties and Studies**

Statutory and constitutional revision.

(1417 § 7) Consider studying court fines and fees, including fines and fees relating to travel permits, presentence investigations, the drug court program, electronic monitoring, alcohol monitoring, and the 24/7 sobriety program. The study must consider the total amount collected; rate of fees collected, including any money expended to collect the fines and fees; an evaluation of practices in other states; and the overall impacts on a defendant.

(1425 § 5) Consider studying costs and savings associated with pretrial service programs operating in the state and opportunities to reinvest savings to improve re-entry outcomes. The study must include a review of the effect of pretrial services on admissions to county jail, detention facilities, medical costs of participants, rate of failure to appear in court, rate of recidivism, and rate of participation in treatment programs. The study must identify opportunities for counties, courts, and state agencies to invest cost-savings associated with pretrial services in programs, treatment, and services that will further reduce recidivism and promote public health.

(1549 § 6) Consider studying expanding access to criminal record sealing. The study must include the automation of record sealing for individuals eligible to file a petition to seal a criminal record under Section 12-60.1-02, the expansion of eligibility for record sealing, and the potential costs and benefits of creating processes for criminal record expungement alongside, or in lieu of, avenues for criminal record sealing.

(2015 § 9) Study sentencing, correctional, and parole systems within the state, with a focus on improving transparency, consistency, and outcomes in the administration of justice. The study must include a comprehensive review of sentencing requirements and incarceration impacts, including an evaluation of the potential impacts of requiring offenders sentenced to the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to serve 85 percent of their terms in secured facilities. The study must include cost analyses; consideration of data and trends relating to criminal offenses and sentencing; consideration of recidivism trends; consideration of rehabilitation and re-entry opportunities; definitions of terms related to sentencing and incarceration; and safety and accountability measures for minimum security facilities and transitional facilities. The study also must include a review of the structure and function of the Parole Board, including provisions of Chapter 12-59 and any rules adopted by the Parole Board. The review must include membership structure, appointment process, terms, quorum, and meeting transparency; parole eligibility requirements and determinations; victim rights and notification systems; and the role and input of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in parole-related matters. The study may include input from the judicial branch, including district court judges regarding sentencing decisions; state's attorney and defense attorneys regarding charging practices, plea negotiations, and trial resources; the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation regarding inmate classification, housing, placement authority, and transitional services, including work or educational release; the Parole Board regarding parole eligibility and release decisions; law enforcement representatives, including the Chiefs of Police Association, Sheriff's Association, and the Attorney General, regarding impacts to public safety and local and regional jails; the League of Cities and Association of Counties regarding impacts to public safety and local and regional jails; justice-involved individuals regarding the impact of current and potential sentencing and parole practices; and crime victims regarding the impact of sentencing.

(2334 § 2) Consider studying the ownership of alcoholic beverage establishments by licensed charitable gaming organizations. The study must include the prevalence of the ownership of alcoholic beverage establishments by licensed charitable gaming organizations; the process of obtaining ownership of alcoholic beverage establishments, including the use of subsidiaries, partnerships, and organizations; the benefits and detriments of licensed charitable gaming organizations owning alcoholic beverage establishments; and the interaction between gaming manufacturers and distributors and licensed charitable gaming organizations.

## **Reports**

Receive a report from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the findings and recommendations of the task force established to review juvenile justice diversion services and programs. (2025 House Bill No. 1012 § 16)

Receive a report from the Attorney General during the 2025-26 interim regarding the use and effectiveness of the peace officer and correctional officer appreciation grant program, including the number of grants provided, the average amount of bonuses provided by city and county law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities, and other program outcomes. (2025 House Bill No. 1193 § 1)

Receive a report from the Highway Patrol by August 1, 2026, on the findings and recommendations from the study of the driver's license points system and the traffic fee schedule. (2025 House Bill No. 1298 § 6)

Receive a written report from the Attorney General by November 1 of each year summarizing activity in the state for the preceding fiscal year regarding the type, approximate value, and disposition of any civilly forfeited property, and the amount of proceeds received. Summary data and civilly forfeited property must be disaggregated by agency. The report must include the case reports provided by the law enforcement agencies. (NDCC § 19-03.1-36.8(4))

Before July 1 of each year, the Supreme Court shall submit to the Legislative Management a report on the status of the program to assist rural counties and municipalities in recruiting attorneys. (NDCC § 27-02.2-13)

Receive report from the Department of Health and Human Services before March 1 of each even-numbered year on services provided by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation relating to individuals at the State Hospital who have been

committed to the care and custody of the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. (NDCC § 50-06-31)

Receive a biennial report from the Racing Commission and recommendations for legislation which address the issue of the liability of charitable organizations that receive and disburse money handled through account wagering. (NDCC § 53-06.2-04)

Receive report, as requested, from the Director of the North Dakota Lottery regarding the operation of the lottery. (NDCC § 53-12.1-03)

Review any executive order issued by the President of the United States which has not been affirmed by a vote of Congress and signed into law and recommend to the Attorney General and the Governor that the executive order be further reviewed. Upon recommendation from the Legislative Management, the Attorney General shall review the executive order to determine the constitutionality of the order and whether the state should seek an exemption from the order or seek to have the order declared to be an unconstitutional exercise of legislative authority by the President. (NDCC § 54-03-32)

Receive a report from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation relating to procedures for tracking uniform data points; standardizing and automating criminal justice data collection, retention, and dissemination; and improving data connectivity between system partners, including a proposal to develop a data sharing portal to alert the Department of Health and Human Services of changes to the Medicaid status of offenders in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (2025 House Bill No. 1549 § 4) (NDCC § 54-23.3-XX)

Receive a report from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in collaboration with the three pilot counties, before January 1, 2027, regarding the process and outcome of the prosecution-led diversion pilot program and any recommendations for legislation. (2025 House Bill No. 1425 § 4) (NDCC § 54-23.3-XX)

Review uniform laws recommended by the Commission on Uniform State Laws. (NDCC § 54-35-02)

Receive annual report from the Director of the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents containing pertinent data on the indigent defense contract system and established public defender offices. (NDCC § 54-61-03)

**Chairman:** Senator Janne Myrdal

**Vice Chairmen:** Representative Gregory Stemen  
Representative Steve Vetter

**Legislative Council Staff:**

**Representatives:**

- Brown, TJ
- Christianson, Nels
- Conmy, Liz
- Hanson, Karla Rose
- Klemin, Lawrence R.
- Koppelman, Ben
- Stemen, Gregory
- Tveit, Bill
- Vetter, Steve

**Senators:**

- Braunberger, Ryan
- Castaneda, Jose L.
- Cory, Claire
- Dever, Dick
- Larson, Diane
- Myrdal, Janne
- Rummel, Dean

# LEGACY AND BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND ADVISORY BOARD

(10 members) statutory committee (21-10-11)

## **Duties**

Develop recommendations for the investment of funds in the legacy fund and the budget stabilization fund to present to the State Investment Board. (NDCC § 21-10-11)

Review any legislative, initiated, or referred measure for asset allocation and investment policy affecting the legacy fund for purposes of requesting the Retirement and Investment Office arrange for the preparation and submission of a cost-benefit analysis. The Legislative Management shall append a cost-benefit analysis to any measure affecting the legacy fund before it is referred to a committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Management shall adopt a procedure for identifying measures and proposed measures affecting the legacy fund. (NDCC § 54-03-35)

**Chairman:** Representative Jonathan Warrey

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Jerry Klein

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Kempenich, Keith
- Warrey, Jonathan

### **Senators:**

- Hogan, Kathy
- Klein, Jerry
- Meyer, Scott

### **Citizen Members:**

- The president of the Bank of North Dakota, or the president's designee
- The Tax Commissioner, or the Tax Commissioner's designee
- The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or the director's designee
- The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee

# LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(17 members) statutory committee (54-35-02.1)

## Duties and Studies

Review, in consultation with the State Auditor, updates to government auditing standards and develop guidelines for the contents of state agency audit reports. When developing guidelines, the committee shall consider applicable auditing standards, sound financial practices, compliance with laws and legislative intent, data analyses, and the opportunity to improve the efficient and effective operations of state agencies. (NDCC § 54-35-02.10)

Study and review audit reports submitted by the State Auditor. (NDCC § 54-35-02.2)

Approve the State Auditor's hiring of a consultant to assist with conducting a performance audit of a state agency. (NDCC § 54-10-01)

Determine the frequency of audits of state agencies. (NDCC § 54-10-01)

Determine necessary performance audits by the State Auditor. (NDCC § 54-10-01)

Determine when the State Auditor is to perform audits of political subdivisions. (NDCC § 54-10-13)

Order the State Auditor to audit or review the accounts of any political subdivision. (NDCC § 54-10-15)

## Reports

Receive a report from the Department of Veterans' Affairs regarding organizations that receive a Veterans' National Cemetery grant and the use of the funds received. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2265 § 1)

Receive a report from the State Auditor's Office before September 30, 2026, regarding the performance audit of the North Dakota Development Fund for the period of July 1, 2019, through July 30, 2024. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2396 § 2)

Receive an annual audit report from the State Fair Association. (NDCC § 4.1-45-17)

Receive an electronic copy of the audit report from the North Dakota Stockmen's Association at least once every 2 years. (NDCC § 4.1-72-08)

Receive an annual audit report from a corporation receiving an ethanol or methanol production subsidy. (NDCC § 10-19.1-152)

Receive an annual report on writeoff of patients' accounts at the Life Skills and Transition Center. (NDCC § 25-04-17)

Receive a report from the government self-insurance pool, organized under Chapter 26.1-23.1, by September 13 of each even-numbered year which includes information on activities of the pool, including the claims activity, claims payment history, balances, a history of complaints, and executive staff and board compensation. (2025 House Bill No. 1010 § 7) (NDCC § 26.1-23.1-XX)

Receive an annual audited financial statement and report from the North Dakota low-risk incentive fund (NDCC § 26.1-50-05)

Receive an annual audit report from a limited partnership receiving an ethanol alcohol or methanol production subsidy. (NDCC § 45-10.2-115)

Receive an annual report from the Department of Health and Human Services on writeoff of recipients' or patients' accounts. (NDCC § 50-06.3-08)

Receive a report of the biennial performance audit of the divisions of Job Service North Dakota. (NDCC § 52-02-18)

Receive a quarterly report from the State Auditor regarding communication processes with audited entities and any changes to the processes; billing practices and procedures, including the use of cost estimates for audits, an itemized invoicing methodology, and a defined change order process for audits that exceed the original estimate; information on audits completed, including the name of the audited organization, organization type, audit type, audit period, estimated and actual hours and costs, and total audit costs and cost as a percentage of the audited organization's operating budget; and audit schedules, including audits performed by private firms and audits performed by the State Auditor's office. (NDCC § 54-10-01(1)(e))

Receive a report from the State Auditor regarding final report distribution policies and practices and any final audit reports released to the public prior to distribution of the final audit report to all individuals charged with the governance of the audit client. (NDCC § 54-10-01(1)(h))

**Chairman:** Senator Jeffery J. Magrum

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Emily O'Brien

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Anderson, Bert
- Hagert, Jared C.
- Hatlestad, Patrick R.
- Maki, Roger A.
- Morton, Desiree
- Motschenbacher, Mike
- Nathe, Mike
- O'Brien, Emily
- Schauer, Austen
- Timmons, Kelby
- Wagner, Scott

### **Senators:**

- Clemens, David A.
- Magrum, Jeffery J.
- Marcellais, Richard
- Paulson, Bob
- Walen, Chuck
- Weston, Kent

# LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

(15 members)

## **Duties and Studies**

Determine when the Agriculture Commissioner must submit a biennial report to a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Committees on the status of the pesticide container disposal program. (NDCC § 4.1-36-04)

Determine when agricultural commodity promotion groups must report to the standing Agriculture Committees. (NDCC § 4.1-44-04)

Determine the contents of contracts for printing of legislative bills, resolutions, journals, and Session Laws. (NDCC § 46-02-05)

Establish guidelines on maximum reimbursement of legislators sharing lodging during a legislative session. (NDCC § 54-03-20)

Determine the fee payable by legislators for use of personal computers. (NDCC § 54-03-26)

Establish a policy under which a legislator may purchase the computer used by that legislator upon replacement of the computer by the Legislative Council. (NDCC § 54-03-26)

Establish guidelines defining reasonable and appropriate use of state telephones by legislative branch personnel. (NDCC § 54-06-26)

Establish guidelines for use of legislative chambers and displays in Memorial Hall. (NDCC § 54-35-02)

Determine access to legislative information services and impose fees for providing legislative information services and copies of legislative documents. (NDCC § 54-35-02)

As the Legislative Ethics Committee, consider or prepare a legislative code of ethics. (NDCC § 54-35-02.8)

Make arrangements for the legislative session. (NDCC § 54-35-11)

Determine the standing committees that will receive the report from the Commissioner of Commerce on the Department of Commerce's goals and objectives, its long-term goals and objectives, and on commerce benchmarks. (NDCC § 54-60-03)

Review legislative rules.

Hire a consultant with the \$225,000 in one-time funding provided in Senate Bill No. 2001 (2025) to study the impact of term limits. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2001 § 2)

**Chairman:** Senator Jerry Klein

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Zachary Ista

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Dobervich, Gretchen
- Hagert, Jared C.
- Ista, Zachary
- Lefor, Mike
- Novak, Anna S.
- O'Brien, Emily
- Weisz, Robin

### **Senators:**

- Boschee, Josh
- Cleary, Sean
- Davison, Kyle
- Hogan, Kathy
- Hogue, David
- Klein, Jerry
- Roers, Kristin

# LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

(10 members)

## **Studies**

(1442 § 1) The Legislative Management shall create the Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency, effective through July 31, 2031. The legislative membership of the task force must include three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the House Majority Leader, and three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader. The Chairman of the Legislative Management shall select one of the legislative members to serve as the Chairman of the task force. The task force is required to meet at least once each calendar quarter or more frequently at the call of the Chairman; review and analyze budgets and reports from executive branch agencies and the Supreme Court; collaborate with and receive testimony from executive branch agencies and the Supreme Court to identify areas to increase efficiency and methods to implement cost-saving measures, determine areas of state government deemed unnecessary or duplicative, target outdated or overly restrictive regulations, and find areas in which partnerships between the state and private industry would create innovative financing models to drive economic growth and job creation; review the effectiveness and necessity of programs and laws created by the Legislative Assembly through previous legislative enactments; and request the State Auditor or an independent private auditing firm to conduct program evaluations for state and local governments.

## **Reports**

Receive a report from the Boards Review Task Force before October 1, 2026, regarding recommendations on minimizing and streamlining government operations through the consolidation or elimination of boards, commissions, committees, councils, and task forces. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2308 §10) (NDCC § 54-07-XX)

**Chairman:** Representative Nathan Toman

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Chuck Walen

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Bosch, Glenn
- Toman, Nathan
- Weisz, Robin

### **Senators:**

- Davison, Kyle
- Hogan, Kathy
- Walen, Chuck

### **Citizen Members:**

- The Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- The Chief Operating Officer for the office of the Governor
- One elected statewide officer, appointed by the Governor
- One individual residing in the state, appointed by the Governor

# PROTECTION AND VICTIM SERVICES COMMITTEE

(11 members)

## Studies

(1410 § 1) Consider studying state laws relating to criminal conduct against children, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child neglect, and human trafficking of children. The study must include a review of use of the term "child sexually abusive material" or other language deemed appropriate instead of the term "sexual performance" to describe child pornography or sexual conduct of a minor in Chapter 12.1-27.2; state laws relating to the use of artificial intelligence for crimes relating to sexual performance of a minor or possession of certain prohibited materials; and other laws intended to protect children and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and trafficking.

(3028) Consider studying human trafficking victim service and re-entry programs. The study must include an assessment of current human trafficking victim re-entry services, including services to protect victims from predatory offenders, policies, and practices, and data and resource allocation with the goal of identifying opportunities to implement services to help victims effectively re-enter society. In conducting the study, the Legislative Management shall seek input from law enforcement, the Attorney General, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders.

(4017) Consider studying the detrimental impacts of pornography. The study must analyze the current efforts for education, prevention, and research related to the consequences of pornography, examine potential policy changes, and include input from relevant state agencies and other stakeholders.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Attorney General during the 2025-26 interim on the status and results of the human trafficking victims grant program. (2025 House Bill No. 1003 § 7)

Receive a report from the Task Force on Missing Indigenous Persons by August 1 of each year regarding its activities, findings, and any recommendations. The report must include the number of indigenous individuals reported missing in the missing person repository; the number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing person repository; the number of indigenous individuals recovered as a result of the missing indigenous people grant fund; the number of missing indigenous individuals searched for and recovered; the number of missing indigenous individuals entries into the missing person repository by year; an analysis by year of the characteristics of missing indigenous people, including age, gender, child protective services involvement status, foster case status, duration of time missing, and estimated related cause; the number of actively missing indigenous people by year; a description of the activities and progress related to improving interagency communication, cooperation, and collaboration and removing interjurisdictional barriers; and any other information the task force finds relevant to the task force's mission. (NDCC § 54-12-XX)

Receive a biennial report from the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship regarding the operations of the office. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2029 § 4) (NDCC § 54-68-02)

**Chairman:** Representative Bernie Satrom

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Keith Boehm

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Brown, TJ
- Dockter, Jason
- Klemin, Lawrence R.
- Satrom, Bernie
- Schneider, Mary
- VanWinkle, Lori

### **Senators:**

- Boehm, Keith
- Braunberger, Ryan
- Clemens, David A.
- Dever, Dick
- Larson, Diane

# SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

(10 members)

## Studies

(1530 § 1) Consider studying special education teacher shortages, circumstances, and collective needs. The study must include a review of special education teacher workload, including significant and inequitable disparities in caseload numbers and complexities between educators; addition of students to a special education's workload throughout the year without consideration of impact on students' needs and teachers' workload; lack of a subjective formula for teaching, workload, and case management assignments; unsatisfactory policies and formulas adopted without special educator involvement, adequate training, or with general or vague language; and burdensome workloads threatening compliance with student individual education plans and state and federal law. The study must include special education student and staff safety, including the unmet need for accessible, understandable, and effective emergency and crisis plans, procedures, protocols, and trained personnel available to implement them; lack of training in de-escalation techniques and preventative strategies and necessary protective equipment; lack of training in the use of protective equipment and restrictive procedures; uncompensated time for planning and implementing behavior intervention plans separate from teacher preparation time; lack of adequate space to meet the needs of students demonstrating violent behavior; the unmet need for additional highly qualified paraprofessional support in situations involving students with violent behavior; and the inequitable treatment of injured staff who must use sick leave or unpaid leave due to injuries that occurred at work. The study must include a review of special education paraprofessional management duties, including an additional expectation that education, training, and professional development of paraprofessionals are an obligation of the special education teacher; an additional requirement that special education teachers schedule and annually evaluate paraprofessionals; the inadequate availability of highly qualified paraprofessionals; inadequate training in management of paraprofessionals; and failure to provide additional time and compensation for paraprofessional management duties. The study must include a review of special education paperwork requirements and supports, including the lack of compensation for extensive federal, state, and disability-related required paperwork; the lack of compensation to attend individual education plan evaluation meetings outside the teacher's workday or during teacher preparation time; and the lack of additional time, training, mentoring, administrative and professional support and assistance necessary to manage mandatory reporting, compliance, and due process issues and requirements. The study also must include additional or broader considerations, pertinent data review, and plans for remediation of inequities, including projected costs and implementation timetables.

(1547 § 1) The Legislative Management shall establish and provide staffing to a committee to study special education funding. The committee may include eight members of the Legislative Assembly, four members from the House of Representatives and four members from the Senate, appointed by the Legislative Management; two multiunit special education directors; one large school special education director; one special education coordinator; one superintendent of a large school; one superintendent of a small or midsize school; one business manager of a large school; and one multiunit special education business manager. The study must include a comprehensive review of special education funding models, including student contracts, high-cost students, residential placement, and reimbursement under the Medicaid program.

(4019) Consider studying reading and mathematics proficiency rates among students in the state with disabilities and the effectiveness of current educational policies, programs, and resource allocations in addressing any disparities. The study must include an examination of academic disparities, analyzing the latest student performance data on statewide reading and mathematics assessments to identify trends and disparities affecting students with disabilities and comparing the subgroup performance to overall state proficiency rates; an identification of contributing factors, evaluating systemic barriers contributing to low proficiency rates, including funding for special education services, limited access to trained teachers and support staff, geographic disparities between rural and urban areas, and accessibility of evidence-based curriculum and instructional strategies; an assessment of existing policies and programs, reviewing the implementation and impact of current state and federally funded programs and identifying gaps in policy, funding, and program effectiveness; the engagement of stakeholders, soliciting input from parents and families of students with disabilities to ensure parent involvement in decisionmaking, educators, school administrators, special education professionals, and advocacy groups focused on disability rights; research of best practices, examining successful models and initiatives in states that have effectively reduced proficiency disparities and exploring innovative approaches in early literacy, numeracy, and equitable education practices; and consideration of actionable policy and funding recommendations aimed at reducing proficiency disparities, expanding access to high-quality, evidence-based educational programs, enhancing transparency in costs and resource allocation, and improving accountability and data transparency.

**Chairman:** Representative David Richter

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Michelle Axtman

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Hager, LaurieBeth
- Hanson, Karla Rose
- Jonas, Jim
- Louser, Scott
- Murphy, Eric J.
- Novak, Anna S.
- Richter, David

### **Senators:**

- Axtman, Michelle
- Beard, Todd
- Boschee, Josh



**Nonvoting Members:**

- Two multi-unit special education directors
- One large school special education director
- One special education coordinator
- One superintendent of a large school
- One superintendent of a small or midsize school
- One multi-unit special education business manager

# TAX REFORM AND RELIEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(10 members)

## Studies

Study economic development tax incentives as provided in Section 54-35-26. (NDCC § 54-35-26)

(1176 § 27) The Legislative Management shall appoint a legislative Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee during the 2025-26 interim to study property tax reform and relief. The committee must consist of three members of the Finance and Taxation Standing Committee of the House of Representatives, three members of the Finance and Taxation Standing Committee of the Senate, one member of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, and one member of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, appointed by the respective Majority Leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Legislative Management shall designate the Chairman of the committee. Based on information provided by the Tax Department and input from local taxing districts, the study must include consideration of historical property tax relief provided by the Legislative Assembly; the estimated and actual fiscal impact of the property tax relief provided by the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly; information from the Tax Commissioner and local taxing district representatives regarding the progress of implementing the primary residence credit and primary residence certification process; information and analysis from the Tax Commissioner regarding the impact of the property tax levy limitation under Section 22 on taxing districts; the feasibility and desirability of revising the content of the real estate tax statement to improve transparency in property taxation, which may include a review of the statutory requirements related to the contents and delivery of the real estate tax statement, available historical real estate tax statements, and information regarding any administrative costs associated with updates to the real estate tax statement; and information and analysis from the Tax Commissioner, State Supervisor of Assessments, and local taxing district representatives related to tax exempt property. By April 1, 2026, the Tax Commissioner shall gather and analyze information from local taxing districts necessary to conduct an analysis of the impact of the levy limitation, including action taken by the taxing districts to implement the levy limitation; taxing district property value increases, separated by increases on existing property and new property; the number of taxing districts required to reduce the taxing district's total levy in dollars to comply with the levy limitation, including the method used by the taxing district to reduce the total levy in dollars and which levies were impacted by the total levy reduction; and suggestions for improvement of the levy limitation. The Tax Commissioner shall provide a summary of the findings to the committee no later than June 1, 2026.

(1483 § 2) Consider studying the oil extraction tax exemption for production from a stripper well property or an individual stripper well. The study must include consideration of the number of oil wells and amount of oil production qualifying for the exemption, the estimated fiscal impact of the exemption, and alternative tax policies for stripper well properties or stripper wells. The study may include input from the Tax Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Mineral Resources, and representatives of the oil and gas industry.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Tax Commissioner by June 1, 2026, regarding a summary of the information gathered from local taxing districts for an analysis of the impact of the approved levy limitations, including action taken by the taxing districts to implement the levy limitation; taxing district property value increases, separated by increases on existing property and new property; the number of taxing districts required to reduce the taxing district's total levy in dollars to comply with the levy limitation, including the method used by the taxing district to reduce the total levy in dollars and which levies were impacted by the total levy reduction; and suggestions for improvement of the levy limitation. (2025 House Bill No. 1176 § 27)

Receive an annual report from the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Services on renaissance zone progress. (NDCC § 40-63-03(2))

Receive an annual report from the Department of Commerce compiling reports from cities that have a renaissance zone included in a tax increment financing district. (NDCC § 40-63-03(10))

Receive a report from the Tax Commissioner by April 1 of each year regarding a statewide report of property tax increase. (NDCC § 57-20-04)

Receive a report from the Tax Commissioner by June 1 of each year summarizing the information provided by taxpayers that received a sales tax exemption for raw materials, single-use product contract systems, and reagents used for biologic manufacturing. The report must include a comparison of the information received in the current calendar year with data received in the preceding calendar year. (NDCC § 57-39.2-04.19)

**Chairman:** Senator Brad Bekkedahl

**Vice Chairman:** Representative Ty Dressler

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Dockter, Jason
- Dressler, Ty
- Grueneich, Jim
- Headland, Craig
- Vigesaa, Don

### **Senators:**

- Bekkedahl, Brad
- Patten, Dale
- Powers, Michelle
- Rummel, Dean
- Weber, Mark F.

# TRIBAL AND STATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(7 members) statutory committee (54-35-23)

## Studies

Study tribal-state issues, including government-to-government relations, human services, education, corrections, and issues related to the promotion of economic development. (NDCC § 54-35-23)

(1563 § 1) Consider studying tribal land taxation issues related to taxation of land owned by enrolled tribal members who reside within the boundaries of any tribal reservation in this state. The study may include analysis of federal law, judicial decisions concerning tribal taxation authority, state property tax exemptions related to property of Native Americans, and the interaction between tribal sovereignty and state law.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Department of Commerce regarding the distribution, use, and impact of tribal tourism grants. (2025 House Bill No. 1581 § 1)

Receive a report from the Governor describing the negotiations and terms of any agreement between the Governor and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation relating to taxation and regulation of oil and gas exploration and production within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Reservation and thereafter receive a biennial report describing the agreement's implementation and any difficulties in its implementation. (NDCC § 57-51.2-04)

**Chairman:** Representative Dawson Holle

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Tim Mathern

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Brown, Collette
- Heilman, Matthew
- Holle, Dawson
- Nelson, Jon O.

### **Senators:**

- Marcellais, Richard
- Mathern, Tim
- Meyer, Scott

# WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

(17 members) statutory committee (54-35-02.7)

## Duties and Studies

Legislative overview of water-related topics and related matters and any necessary discussions with adjacent states on water-related topics. (NDCC § 54-35-02.7)

Legislative overview of the Garrison Diversion Project. (NDCC § 54-35-02.7)

Report on the committee's project prioritization process, provide updates on allocated program expenditures, and report on the fund balances of projects, grants, and contracts. (NDCC § 54-35-02.7)

(1020 § 19) Consider studying funding for storm water projects in the state, including current funding sources, related statutes, and the policies of the State Water Commission. The study must include information regarding recently completed storm water projects and funding needs for future storm water projects in the state.

(1577 § 3) Study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a wastewater project fund to provide grants for upgrading, constructing, or replacing wastewater infrastructure. The study must include input from cities, counties, townships, and water resource districts.

(2210 § 1) Study the feasibility and desirability of assigning management authority for the waters of the state to the area located in the naturally occurring watershed, rather than assigning management authority based on political subdivision boundaries. The study must review the approaches used for managing water in surrounding states; the powers, duties, and organizational structure of watershed boards; dispute resolution procedures afforded to individuals residing within the boundaries of a watershed district; the mechanism to initiate, implement, and improve works projects within a watershed district; and the role of the Department of Water Resources in mapping and establishing watershed boundaries.

## Reports

Receive a report from the Department of Water Resources regarding the status of and any recommendations from Phase 2 of the Missouri River intake sites study. (2025 House Bill No. 1020 § 20)

Receive a draft report from the State Water Commission by March 31, 2026, regarding the results of and recommendations from the regional water systems governance and finance study. (2025 House Bill No. 1020 § 21)

Receive a draft report from the State Water Commission by March 31, 2026, regarding the results of and any recommendations from the commission's cost-share policy study. (2025 House Bill No. 1020 § 22)

Receive a report from the Department of Environmental Quality before August 1, 2026, regarding the use of one-time funding for regulation of onsite wastewater treatment systems. (2025 Senate Bill No. 2267 § 5)

Receive a report before May 31 of each even numbered year on any request anticipated to be submitted to the State Water Commission or to the next Legislative Assembly for which the state cost-share is estimated to be \$10 million or more. (NDCC § 54-35-02.7)

Receive quarterly reports from the State Water Commission on each project the State Water Commission has designated as a carryover project that has had a cost-share agreement in place for at least 4 years, the amount of funds still committed for each carryover project included in the report, the total amount of funds reallocated or made available from carryover projects included in a previous report to other projects since the commission's preceding report, and the status of each carryover project for which the committee has made a recommendation to terminate since the commission's preceding report. The committee may make a recommendation to the State Water Commission that a carryover project included in a report be terminated under Section 61-02-14.3 and any funds remaining for the carryover project be reallocated and made available for projects with the same general purpose as the carryover project. (NDCC § 61-02-14.4)

**Chairman:** Representative Steve Swiontek

**Vice Chairman:** Senator Justin Gerhardt

**Legislative Council Staff:**

### **Representatives:**

- Beltz, Mike
- Berg, Mike
- Conmy, Liz
- Fisher, Jay
- Nelson, Jon O.
- Porter, Todd
- Ruby, Dan
- Ruby, Matthew
- Swiontek, Steve
- Vollmer, Daniel R.

### **Senators:**

- Burckhard, Randy A.
- Dwyer, Michael
- Gerhardt, Justin
- Luick, Larry
- Sorvaag, Ronald
- Thomas, Paul J.
- Weber, Mark F.