North Dakota Legislative Council
Prepared for the Judiciary Committee
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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS - 2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

North Dakota Century Code Section 54-55-01 establishes the Commission on Uniform State Laws, which consists of:

- An individual engaged in the practice of law in this state (Jacob T. Rodenbiker);
- The dean or a full-time member of the faculty of the University of North Dakota School of Law (Paul E. Traynor);
- A law-trained judge of a court of record in this state (Supreme Court Justice Jerod E. Tufte, Chairman);
- A member of the House of Representatives (Representative Lawrence R. Klemin);
- A member of the Senate (Senator David J. Hogue);
- A member of the Legislative Council staff (Dustin A. Richard, Secretary);
- A member appointed by the Attorney General, if the Attorney General opts to appoint an individual (Laura A. Balliet);
- Any residents of this state who, because of long service in the cause of uniformity of state legislation, have been elected life members of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, also known as the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) (Owen L. Anderson, Jay E. Buringrud, retired District Court Judge Gail H. Hagerty, and Candace M. Zierdt); and
- Any residents of this state who have been previously appointed to at least 5 years of service on the commission (Parrell D. Grossman, Vice Chairman).

Under Section 54-55-04(1), commissioners are required to attend the annual meeting of the ULC and must promote uniformity in state laws on subjects for which uniformity is deemed desirable and practicable. Under Section 54-55-04(2), the commission may submit its recommendations for enactment of the uniform and model laws to the Legislative Management for its review and recommendation. Moreover, if requested by the Legislative Management, commissioners must assist the Legislative Management with respect to its review of uniform and model laws.

On June 16, 2026, the commission met and recommended the following four uniform Acts for introduction during the 2027 legislative session:

- The Uniform Consumer Debt Default Judgments Act (UCDDJA), which the ULC approved in 2023. The UCDDJA establishes rules a plaintiff must follow to obtain a default judgment in a consumer debt collection lawsuit. The UCDDJA provides for specific pleading and notice requirements and applies to awards to recover unsecured consumer debt; secured consumer debt if the action only seeks to obtain a money judgment; or for an outstanding deficiency existing after the disposition of property used as collateral for a consumer debt. The UCDDJA does not apply to an action to possess or dispose of real or personal property, or an action to collect a debt owed to a government, governmental subdivision, or agency in which the government, governmental subdivision, or agency is the plaintiff. Materials published by the ULC relating to the UCDDJA are attached as Appendix A.

- The Uniform Occupational Licenses of Servicemembers and Military Spouses Act (UOLSMSA), which the ULC approved in 2026. The purpose of the UOLSMSA is to create efficiencies for service members and their spouses who are obtaining an occupational license in a different state because of military relocation orders. Materials published by the ULC relating to the UOLSMSA are attached as Appendix B.
- The Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act (UAPMNA), which the ULC approved in 2024. The UAPMNA aims to improve the efficiency of the state merger review process. Under the UAPMNA, state attorneys general have the authority to review forms and associated materials filed under the federal Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act. The Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act requires companies proposing to engage in certain mergers or acquisitions to file a notice with the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Department of Justice's Antitrust Division before the closing date of the transaction. The forms and associated materials filed under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act contain information about proposed transactions, including information used to determine any potential anticompetitive effects of the contemplated transaction. Generally, a state's attorney general is the public official enforcing federal and state merger law. However, these public officials cannot access the information filed under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act unless the information is provided pursuant to a subpoena. The UAPMNA makes the merger review process at the state level more efficient, while respecting the confidential information associated with these transactions. Materials published by the ULC relating to the UAPMNA are attached as Appendix C.
- The Uniform Public Expression Protection Act (UPEPA), which the ULC approved in 2020. The UPEPA is designed to prevent an abusive type of litigation called a strategic lawsuit against public participation. A strategic lawsuit against public participation action is usually filed as a defamation, invasion of privacy, nuisance, or other type of claim. However, the plaintiff's goal is often to prevent the defendant from exercising the right of freedom of speech or of the press, the right to assemble or petition, or the right of association, guaranteed by the United States Constitution, on a matter of public concern. The UPEPA provides a mechanism for the efficient review and dismissal of these actions. Materials published by the ULC relating to the UPEPA are attached as Appendix D.

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