



The Capitol Tablet

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

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The 2021 Legislature is about two weeks from its conclusion. This means people who follow the Legislature will become more familiar with the arcane world of conference committees.

What is a conference committee? It is a group of six legislators – three senators and three House members, four Republicans and two Democrats. When the House and Senate approve different versions of the same bill, conference committees are often appointed to work out the differences between those two versions. The members are drawn from the House and Senate committees that reviewed the bill.

Two senators and two House members from either party must agree on a bill's final language to finish a conference committee's work. When a bargain is struck, the result is presented to the Legislature for its approval. Both the House and Senate must approve the same version of a bill for it to have a chance at becoming law.

As of late Friday, 50 conference committees had been partially or wholly appointed. ("Partially appointed" means the House has appointed its conference committee members and the Senate hasn't, or vice versa.)

The best way to track conference committee meetings is through regular checks of the Legislature's website [here](#). The schedule is updated frequently. Conference committee meetings can happen with a few hours' notice, unlike regular committee hearings, which are normally scheduled at least a week in advance.

Each day's [House](#) and [Senate calendar](#) also has a list of bills that are in conference committees, plus names of the members of those committees.

Conference committees typically meet for a half-hour. For budget bills and other complex bills, they will meet for an hour at a time. If the bill is a House bill, a House member will chair the conference committee. The same is true of the Senate.

Conference committees are supposed to concentrate on the two chambers' differences on a bill, rather than tinker with the entire bill. Sometimes, however, they go beyond just debating the differences between the two versions.

Conference committee meetings will be livestreamed on the Legislature's website, just as regular committee hearings and House and Senate floor sessions are. A list of the day's video events is [here](#).

Starting Monday, the House and Senate will be holding two daily floor sessions, beginning at 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This is to allow for more final votes on bills, and to provide additional time for conference committee meetings. Two-a-days happen when the Legislature begins pushing to its finish.

The North Dakota Constitution limits the Legislature to 80 days of meetings every two years. Lawmakers want to leave themselves several extra days, to give themselves the option of coming back to Bismarck later this year for additional budget work. The Legislature also has the task of using the new 2020 census results to draw a new legislative district map in time for the 2022 elections.

Monday is Day 63 of the session. If only weekdays are used for legislative days, Friday, April 23, will be the 72nd day of the Legislature. Final adjournment on that day or earlier would leave at least eight days for future use.

Sen. Rich Wardner, R-Dickinson, the Republican majority leader, said Friday he is optimistic the session can wrap up sometime during the week of April 19. Conference committees are settling quickly, he said, and the House and Senate are closer to agreements on budget issues “than we’ve been in years,” Wardner said.

“We’ve got a billion dollars of federal money laying out there that we don’t know what to do with yet,” Wardner said. “We are going to need some days probably later on in the biennium to come back and take care of that.”

Please hope for a rainy weekend!

Department of Public Instruction Legislative Bill Tracker Friday, April 9, 2021

Academic Support				
Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1111	Rep. Heinert, Sen. Myrdal	Requests a Legislative Management study of competency-based learning initiatives implemented as part of school district education innovation programs.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 3/15
HB1210	Rep. M. Ruby, Sen. Bekkedahl	Requests a Legislative Management interim study of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by teachers for classroom supplies, and of the possibility of creating a teacher reimbursement program for those expenses.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 3/15

HB1375	Rep. Pyle, Sen. Bekkedahl	<p>Offers student scholarships to defray the cost of tuition and fees at North Dakota public, nonpublic, or tribal colleges, if the student has completed at least one dual-credit course in high school or in a home education program. The scholarship will cover at least half the cost of the dual-credit course, with a \$750 cap. Appropriates \$1.5 million for scholarships. Requests an interim legislative study of scholarship programs.</p>	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 44-3, 4/7
HB1478	Rep. Schreiber-Beck	<p>Provides for alternative curriculum and educational opportunity outside the classroom, including “work-based learning, apprenticeships, internships, industry certifications, and community programs” in grades six through 12. Requires periodic reports from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.</p>	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 3/22
SB2196	Sen. Schaible, Rep. Heinert	<p>Orders the Board of Public School Education to “establish and certify” a North Dakota learning continuum that may waive class-time attendance requirements for students who have mastered the course content in that class. Requires the K-12 Education Coordination Council to review the learning continuum.</p>	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/22

Assessment

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	
SB2141	Sen. Schaible, Rep. Heinert	Removes a requirement that 11 th graders take the ACT exam, and says they may take either the ACT or “an equivalent nationally recognized standardized test” that has been approved by the Board of Higher Education. A national standardized test besides the ACT may be used to qualify for the state academic and career and technical education scholarships. Allows GED candidates to substitute another national standardized test for the ACT. Requires the superintendent to study interim education assessments.	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/29
SB2147	Sen. Oban, Rep. Guggisberg	Allows GED exam results to substitute for some high school coursework to qualify for a high school diploma, if the school board develops criteria for the results to receive credit.	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/23

Budget

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1012	Appropriations	Budget bill for the ND Department of Human Services.	Senate Appropriations	Hearings 3/9, 3/10, 3/11
HB1013	Appropriations	Budget bill for the Department of Public Instruction, the State Library, the State School for the Deaf/Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and North Dakota Vision Services.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing held, 3/18
HB1014	Appropriations	Budget bill for the Protection and Advocacy Project.	Senate Appropriations	Signed by Governor, 4/8

HB1413	Rep. Hager, Sen. Bakke	Requests an interim legislative study of public school nutritional needs, including the possibility of providing free breakfast or lunch for students.	Senate Education	Defeated by Senate, 9-37, 3/19
SB2003	Appropriations	Budget bill for the North Dakota University System.	House Appropriations	Hearings 3/8, 3/9, 3/10
SB2019	Appropriations	Budget bill for the Department of Career and Technical Education.	House Appropriations Education and Environment Division	Do Pass, 19-0, 4/7

Early Learning

HB1247	Rep. Weisz, Sen. Anderson	Merges the North Dakota Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. Fiscal note.	Senate Human Services	Hearing 3/30
HB1416	Rep. Weisz, Sen. Hogan	Shifts administration of early learning program for 4-year-olds from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Human Services. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Signed by Governor, 4/8
HB1466	Rep. Weisz, Sen. Dever	Establishes a “best in class” early childhood grant program to benefit 4-year-olds. Programs are eligible for a \$120,000 grant annually. Directs that the Department of Commerce’s early childhood education grant program be transferred to the Department of Human Services. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 36-11, 4/5

Educational Equity and Support

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1035	Legislative Management Judiciary	Revamps state law that applies to juvenile proceedings. Requires a juvenile to have a court-appointed attorney in juvenile proceedings unless the right to counsel is waived, or a private attorney is hired. Refers certain low-level offenses, such as truancy, tobacco use, or defiance, to human services providers instead of juvenile court. Fiscal note .	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 45-2, 4/6
HB1091	Human Services	Requires the Department of Human Services to pay family foster homes, independent living programs, and residential treatment programs for children by electronic funds transfer. Fiscal note .	Senate Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/9
HB1150	Rep. Weisz, Sen. Lee	Adds a “representative of law enforcement” to the Commission on Juvenile Justice, rather than specifying that it be a representative of a city police department. Gives the chairman of Legislative Management, rather than the governor, the power to appoint the commission’s chairman. Abolishes the commission effective Aug. 1, 2025.	Senate Judiciary	Signed by Governor, 3/17
HB1298	Rep. B. Koppelman, Sen. Clemens	Requests interim legislative study of the potential effects of prohibiting biological males from competing in female sports in high school, and of limiting participation in female high school sports to females.	Senate Judiciary	Conference Committee
HB1335	Rep. Kempenich, Sen. O. Larsen	Says North Dakota state officials may ignore presidential executive orders, federal regulations, and federal laws that infringe on powers reserved to the states under the 10 th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Signed by Governor, 4/8

HB1427	Rep. Klemin, Sen. Dever	Establishes planning committees on juvenile justice, children in need of services, and alternatives to juvenile detention.	Senate Judiciary	Approved by Senate, 43-4, 4/6
SB2083	Human Services	Includes public and private schools within the definition of institutions that can be held responsible for “institutional child abuse or neglect.” Requires reporting to the superintendent of public instruction, the school district administrator, and the president of the school board if a public or private school is the subject of a report of institutional child abuse or neglect.	House Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/30
SB2086	Human Services	Changes filing requirements for adoption petitions. Regulates gifts to human service zones. Establishes a procedure for county human service zone workers to become state employees. Fiscal note.	House Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/29
SB2156	Sen. Dwyer, Rep. Hanson	Raises the age at which someone may buy, possess, or use tobacco, vape pens, and vaping liquid from 18 to 21. Fiscal note.	House Judiciary	Signed by Governor, 3/31
SB2258	Sen. Davison	Requests an interim legislative study of the need for licensing shelter care programs for runaway and homeless youth, and youth formerly in foster care. This study would be done in collaboration with the Commission on Juvenile Justice.	House Human Services	Approved by House, 87-1, 4/9
SB2265	Sen. Davison	Allows an unaccompanied homeless minor to receive medical, dental or behavioral health exams for himself or herself, and his or her child, without consent of a parent or guardian. Lists documentation required to prove a person’s status as an unaccompanied homeless minor.	House Human Services	Signed by Governor, 4/5

SB2311	Sen. Heckaman, Rep. Buffalo	Requires “evidence-based, online mental health and suicide prevention” training at public and nonpublic schools. Requires each nonpublic school to designate a behavioral health resource coordinator. Law expires on July 1, 2025.	House Education	Conference Committee
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Fiscal Management

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1027	Legislative Management Education Formula Funding Review	Sets transportation reimbursement rates, including those for special education and open-enrolled students. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 46-1, 4/1
HB1028	Legislative Management Education Formula Funding Review	Temporarily expands a school district’s authority to transfer money from its building fund to its general fund through June 30, 2021. This is targeted at federal aid that districts put into their building funds. Provisions of this bill expire June 30, 2021. Fiscal note.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 3/25
HB1080	Rep. Dockter	Lowers the maximum interest rate and penalty that may be assessed against unpaid oil and gas royalties on state trust lands. Sets out conditions under which an oil and gas lease with the Board of University and School Lands may be canceled if royalties go unpaid. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 39-7, 4/8
HB1093	State Auditor	Removes a requirement that the North Dakota state auditor evaluate the bond coverage of a state agency or political subdivision when he is doing an audit of that entity.	Senate Appropriations	Sent to Governor, 4/8

HB1127	Rep. Heinert, Sen. Dwyer	Prohibits the state auditor from disclosing whether he has forwarded information to the attorney general or a state's attorney until the prosecutor has decided whether there is probable cause a law has been broken. Prohibits public employees from disclosing information about an investigation of possible purchasing abuses until a prosecutor decides whether to bring a case.	Senate Judiciary	Signed by Governor, 3/31
HB1167	Rep. Toman, Sen. Schaible	Requests an interim legislative study of the benefits provided to property tax payers in relation to the amount of property taxes they pay. The study would examine the benefits of implementing a centrally administered system of property taxation.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Defeated by Senate, 2-45, 3/30
HB1179	Rep. Dockter, Sen. Bell	Abolishes a requirement that a school district file a report listing the amount of oil production tax it received in its previous fiscal year, how much of the tax was spent, what it was spent on, and the district's ending fund balances.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Signed by Governor, 3/25
HB1246	Rep. M. Nelson, Sen. Bakke	Changes how state education aid payments are calculated for school districts that receive federal impact aid. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 4/6
HB1316	Rep. Mock, Sen. Davison	Allows an agency to limit the loss liability for a contract to twice the contract's amount, unless parties to the contract agree on alternative amount. Any amount that is less than twice the contract amount must be approved by the state budget director.	Senate Industry, Business and Labor	Signed by Governor, 3/22
HB1325	Rep. Satrom, Sen. Conley	Requests an interim Legislative Management study of property tax relief for retired individuals. Fiscal note.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Defeated by Senate, 7-40, 3/30

HB1337	Rep. D. Johnson , Sen. Myrdal	Provides authority to a school board to “sell, exchange, or donate” real property for less than its fair market value if the sale, exchange, or donation is to another political subdivision. Fiscal note.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 46-1, 4/1
HB1344	Rep. Kempenich	Says the attorney general and/or the local state’s attorney are no longer required to investigate possible state purchasing card violations.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Approved by Senate, 46-0, 4/6
HB1367	Rep. Bellew , Sen. O. Larsen	Requests an interim legislative study of whether voters should be allowed to disapprove the preliminary budget of a school district or other local governing board. Fiscal note.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Defeated by Senate, 2-43, 3/26
HB1388	Rep. Owens , Sen. Schaible	Changes how school weighting factors are used to calculate state aid payments to school districts. Specifies conditions for virtual instruction and requires the superintendent of public instruction to make reports on the academic performance of students who are taught via virtual learning. Changes the makeup of the state K-12 Education Coordination Council, and appropriates \$260,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to finance its operations for two years. Adds new requirements for reading instruction. Appropriates \$34.2 million for increasing the per-pupil payment rate by 1 percent during the next two school years. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Amended, Do Pass, 13-0, 4/9
HB1394	Rep. Delzer , Sen. Heckaman	Appropriates \$877.9 million in federal funds to various state agencies for COVID-19-related expenses during the 2019-21 biennium, including \$162.3 million to the Department of Public Instruction. Allows for carryover of unspent funds.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 3/30

HB1453	Rep. Pollert, Sen. Wardner	Extends “whistleblower” protection for state employees who report to the state auditor any job-related violations of laws or rules, or misuse of public resources. Requires the Legislature’s Audit and Fiscal Review Committee to develop guidelines for state agency audit reports. Fiscal note.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Amended, Do Pass, 7-0, 4/9
SB2162	Sen. Lee, Rep. Lefor	Regulates state bidding procedures.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Sent to Governor, 4/9
SB2165	Sen. Schaible, Rep. D. Johnson	Removes restrictions on school district budget surpluses, and excludes a district’s federal impact aid money from ending fund balance calculations, beginning July 1, 2023. Fiscal note.	House Education	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 4/9
SB2207	Sen. Lee, Rep. M. Johnson	Broadens the authority of a state officer to petition the Emergency Commission to make needed budget transfers between line items, accept and spend federal funds and state contingency funds, and recommend full-time equivalent positions.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Signed by Governor, 3/23
SB2290	Sen. Hogue, Rep. Delzer	Authorizes the Budget Section to change and approve spending requests forwarded by the state Emergency Commission without getting commission approval if the request is greater than \$5 million and less than \$100 million.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Amended, Do Pass, 14-0, 4/8
SB2269	Sen. Poolman, Rep. Martinson	Requires the superintendent of public instruction to provide payments to postsecondary transitional programs for special education students, aged 18 to 21, who have graduated from high school. Fiscal note.	House Appropriations	Approved by House, 85-5, 4/9

Human Resources

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1058	Government and Veterans Affairs	Allows state employees to donate annual or sick leave to an employee who has exhausted leave and suffers from a “severe, extreme, or life-threatening condition,” or who is caring for an immediate relative who has similar problems. Puts the state Human Resources Management Division in charge of establishing the leave-sharing program.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Signed by Governor, 3/9
HB1209	Rep. M. Ruby, Sen. Anderson	Requires an interim legislative study to develop a plan to close the existing state pension plan to newly hired state employees by Jan. 1, 2024. Fiscal note.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Approved by Senate, 34-13, 3/29
HB1245	Rep. Kasper, Sen. Hogue	Gives the Legislature’s Budget Section authority to evaluate insurers’ bids to provide state employee health insurance benefits, and decide which bids shall be accepted.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Defeated by Senate, 12-35, 4/5
HB1441	Rep. Hanson, Sen. Mathern	Requests an interim legislative study of the costs of establishing a state-facilitated paid family medical leave program.	Senate Industry, Business and Labor	Defeated by Senate, 22-25, 3/11
SB2045	Government and Veterans Affairs	Says the expenses for a deferred compensation plan will be covered by employees who are participating in the plan. Fiscal note.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Defeated by House, 7-87, 3/29
SB2046	Government and Veterans Affairs	Requires state employees and North Dakota state government each to contribute an additional one-half of 1 percent to the main employee pension fund, beginning in January 2022. Fiscal note.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing held, 3/19

SB2069	Government and Veterans Affairs	Restricts public access to some public employee job applications.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Defeated by House, 1-92, 3/17
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Management and Information Systems

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
SB2035	Legislative Management Judiciary	A “technical corrections” bill to fix various flaws in North Dakota law. The bill removes a reference to the educational technology council, which has been abolished. A version of this bill is introduced every session to correct flaws as they are detected; it is not controversial.	House Judiciary	Signed by Governor, 3/17

Policy and Governance

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1076	Rep. Devlin, Sen. Heckaman	Removes the July 31, 2025, expiration date for the authority of the Children’s Cabinet and gives the chairman of Legislative Management authority to appoint a legislator as chairman of the group.	Senate Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/17
SB2096	Industry, Business and Labor	Gives the Private Investigative and Security Board authority to establish standards for school armed first responders, to license and certify course instructors, audit the training course, and set administrative fees for licensure and certification. Initial application fee for a certified course instructor for the armed first responder program is capped at \$400. Renewal certification fee for a course instructor is capped at \$300.	House Industry, Business and Labor	Signed by Governor, 3/30

School Approval and Opportunity

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1057	Political Subdivisions	Gradually raises the civil lawsuit liability limit for school districts, the state, and other political subdivisions in four annual steps. On July 1, 2026, the limits would reach \$500,000 per person and \$2 million per incident. Fiscal note.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Signed by Governor, 3/9
HB1075	Rep. Dockter	Eliminates superintendent of public instruction's authority to set aside two days during each school year for a professional development conference, during which no school activities may take place.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 3/25
HB1083	Rep. Zubke	Removes the "C" minimum grade requirement for obtaining a North Dakota academic or career and technical education scholarship for courses taken during March, April or May of 2020.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 3/25
HB1098	Transportation	Outlines a driver's information reporting requirements after a crash, and sets out conditions for disclosure of crash information.	Senate Transportation	Signed by Governor, 3/9
HB1105	Rep. Dobervich, Sen. Bakke	Allows breastfeeding in any location where the woman and her child is authorized to be. Removes language that requires breastfeeding to be done "in a discreet and modest manner."	Senate Human Services	Signed by Governor, 4/1
HB1107	Rep. Pyle, Sen. Bekkedahl	Any member of the armed forces reserve in any state, and any member of any state's National Guard, qualify for residency tuition rates at North Dakota University System institutions. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Sent to Governor, 4/8

HB1118	Rep. Devlin, Sen. Heckaman	Limits the governor’s power to declare a disaster or emergency. Gives the Legislative Management power to end the governor’s public health or emergency disaster declaration if the Legislature is not in session, and the governor refuses a request to call a special session of the Legislature.	Senate Human Services	Amended, Do Pass, 6-0, 4/9
HB1135	Rep. Pyle, Sen. Oban	Allows students who obtained an adequate course proficiency score under a state-approved innovative education program to qualify for a state academic or career and technical education scholarship.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 4/1
HB1143	Rep. D. Johnson, Sen. Dever	Requires elementary schools to include student-led patriotism projects on community issues as part of their curricula.	Senate Education	Defeated by Senate, 2-45, 3/17
HB1164	Rep. Kading, Sen. Heitkamp	Says the state, political subdivision, or any other publicly funded organization may ignore a presidential executive order that “restricts a person’s rights” to be armed, and relates to pandemics, natural resource regulation, agriculture regulation, land use, the regulation of the finance sector as it relates to environmental, social or governance standards. Following a review by the attorney general, the Legislative Management must determine, by a majority vote, whether the executive order should not be implemented.	Senate Judiciary	Conference Committee

HB1166	Rep. Toman, Sen. O. Larsen	Requires the Education Standards and Practices Board to grant a North Dakota teaching license to a licensed teacher who moved into North Dakota from another state, if the teacher is a military spouse or member of the U.S. military or National Guard. Outlines provisional teaching license requirements for a teacher who moves into North Dakota. Fiscal note.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Defeated by Senate, 2-45, 3/30
HB1175	Rep. Howe, Sen. Burckhard	Limits exposure of businesses and health care facilities from lawsuits relating to COVID-19 exposure. The protections do not apply to cases of Medicaid fraud, antitrust violations, and unlawful sales and advertising. Law expires Aug. 1, 2023.	Senate Industry, Business and Labor	Conference Committee
HB1232	Rep. Satrom	Allows schools to substitute virtual learning for classroom learning in cases of “weather or other conditions” and receive state aid if they do so. Gives school districts authority to submit a virtual education plan to the superintendent of public instruction, and gives the superintendent authority to adopt rules for evaluating and approving them.	Senate Education	Conference Committee
HB1281	Rep. Ertelt, Sen. O. Larsen	Allows a taxpayer who educates his or her children at home, or at a nonpublic school, during the entire school year to take a \$500 annual state income tax credit for each child. The taxpayer is not eligible for the credit if his or her child was home-schooled or attended nonpublic school for less than half of the school year. The credit may be reduced if the child was not home-schooled or attend nonpublic school for at least half the school year. Unused tax credits may be carried forward for one year. Fiscal note.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Defeated in Senate, 15-32, 3/22
HB1323	Rep. Hoverson, Sen. O. Larsen	Bans any statewide elected official or state health officer from mandating the wearing of a face covering, face mask, or face shield.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Approved by Senate, 30-17, 4/7

HB1356	Rep. Meier, Sen. Bekkedahl	Gives members of a “youth patriotic society,” as described under federal law , access to public schools during regular school hours to make recruitment pitches. The access would be granted during the first quarter of each academic year.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 39-8, 4/5
HB1376	Rep. Kasper, Sen. Hogue	Provides employers with immunity from lawsuits if their employees or independent contractors become infected with COVID-19. The immunity does not apply to employers who engage in willful misconduct or infliction of harm.	Senate Industry, Business and Labor	Defeated by Senate, 1-46, 3/17
HB1386	Rep. Becker, Sen. Anderson	Executive orders by the governor or state health officer, state regulations, and municipal ordinances that limit the operation of a private business are not effective unless supported by a state or federal law, or a federal regulation.	Senate Industry, Business and Labor	Defeated by Senate, 15-32, 3/31
HB1430	Rep. Schauer	Says a student who attends a two-year public or tribal college may receive a scholarship benefit of \$1,500 per semester, rather than \$750, and may attend school half-time. Changes affect students who graduate high school after Dec. 31, 2021. Scholarships have a maximum \$6,000 benefit. Fiscal note .	House Education	Defeated by Senate, 0-45, 3/26

HB1436	Rep. Schreiber-Beck , Sen. Oban	Expands the scope of summer school instruction in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies, and specifies that school districts may receive state aid for those courses.	Senate Appropriations	Sent to Governor, 4/8
HB1495	Rep. K. Koppelman , Sen. Dever	Requires the state health officer to get a judge's permission to restrict or cancel public events or restrict the operations of a business to control the spread of a disease, and puts a 30-day limit on the order. Adds the House and Senate majority leaders to an advisory committee for the Department of Emergency Services. Puts a 60-day limit on the governor's authority to declare a state of emergency or statewide natural disaster.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Amended, Do Not Pass, 7-0, 4/9
HCR3009	Rep. Klemin , Sen. Oban	Requests an interim legislative study of North Dakota's compulsory school attendance law.	Senate Education	Filed with Secretary of State, 3/12
SB2028	Legislative Management Education Policy	Repeals a list of outdated laws related to education. Fiscal note .	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/22
SB2034	Legislative Management Judiciary	Allows public officials to request advisory opinions from the state ethics commission about the ethics of a possible action or situation.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Sent to Governor, 4/9
SB2068	Political Subdivisions	During a removal proceeding for a local official that is instigated by a petition to the governor, the state's attorney in the affected county is in charge of prosecuting the matter and supervising payment of expenses. The state's attorney may contract with another prosecutor or attorney to handle the matter, or ask the attorney general to handle it. If the state's attorney is the official targeted for removal, the North Dakota attorney general supervises the process. Fiscal note .	House Judiciary	Sent to Governor, 4/9

SB2097	Transportation	Includes vehicles that carry more than 10 passengers, and that transport pre-primary students, under the definition of school bus. Says a commercial learner's permit holder may not operate a commercial vehicle to transport passengers who require a school bus endorsement to transport.	Senate Transportation	Signed by Governor, 3/25
SB2109	Transportation	Bans individuals who are convicted of using a commercial motor vehicle to commit a felony involving "severe forms of human trafficking" from ever driving a commercial motor vehicle again.	House Transportation	Signed by Governor, 3/22
SB2121	Sen. Bekkedahl, Rep. Mock	Makes North Dakota's compulsory seat belt law into a primary enforcement law, meaning a police officer may pull over a motorist if the driver or passengers are observed not wearing a seat belt. Requires all of a vehicle's occupants to wear seat belts, not just those in the front seat.	House Transportation	Defeated by House, 45-49, 3/23
SB2124	Sen. Myrdal, Rep. Louser	Limits the governor's declarations of a disaster or emergency to 30 days. Allows the declaration to extend another 30 days if the governor calls a special session of the Legislature, which may be held virtually. Puts a 60-day limit on the effectiveness of executive orders. Forbids the governor from declaring more than one disaster or emergency "for the same conditions." Says legislative appropriations may not be redirected to other uses by any "public official or executive branch employee."	House Human Services	Hearing held, 3/22

SB2136	Sen. Poolman, Rep. Sanford	Adds Integrated Math II and Integrated Math III as options for qualifying for a career and technical education scholarship. Gives the superintendent of public instruction authority to define those math terms. Abolishes the July 31, 2021, expiration date for CTE scholarships.	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/22
SB2151	Sen. Klein, Rep. Lefor	Requests a Legislative Council study to consider the use of blockchain to keep a count of the number of uninsured drivers in North Dakota.	House Industry, Business and Labor	Signed by Governor, 3/15
SB2164	Sen. Lee, Rep. Pyle	Allows emergency practice as a teacher during a declared emergency, for no more than 30 days after the end of the disaster or emergency declaration. Allows the Education Standards and Practices Board to adopt emergency rules.	House Industry, Business and Labor	Approved by House, 94-0, 3/29
SB2175	Sen. Meyer, Rep. Nathe	Affects the eligibility of a military member or spouse for a North Dakota teaching license. Requires occupational and professional boards to review its licensure laws to ensure they conform with state law.	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/17
SB2215	Sen. Schaible, Rep. Heinert	Requires a description of a public school teacher negotiating unit to be formed no later than Feb. 1 of the current school year. Gives the school board no more than 30 days to accept or reject the description. Requires an organization that is interested in representing teachers to petition the school board no later than March 1. Requires good-faith negotiations to be completed no later than June 1, unless the negotiating parties agree to extend the deadline.	House Education	Sent to Governor, 4/9

SB2218	Sen. Bekkedahl, Rep. Dockter	Provides for annual sessions of the Legislature. Sessions in odd-numbered years would be used to draft a two-year budget; sessions in even-numbered years would concentrate on adjustments to that budget. The two sessions combined could not exceed 80 legislative days. Bill expires after the Legislative Management meeting in November 2022. Fiscal note.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Defeated by House, 25-68, 4/6
SB2240	Sen. J. Roers, Rep. M. Johnson	Exempts students who are enrolled in a course on home construction from state notice and bidding requirements for obtaining building materials used for course projects.	House Education	Signed by Governor, 3/30
SB2272	Sen. Schaible, Rep. Dockter	Makes students who earn “degrees or certificates” eligible to benefit from a state skilled workforce student loan repayment program. Says graduates of programs licensed by the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education may benefit from the student loan repayment program. Caps any student’s loan repayment benefit at \$17,000.	House Appropriations	Approved by House, 60-29, 4/9
SB2278	Sen. Rust, Rep. Longmuir	Provides immunity against civil lawsuits for the superintendent of public instruction, school districts, schools, school boards and individual school board members, administrators, teachers, “and any other school district employed personnel” related to COVID-19.	House Judiciary	Signed by Governor, 4/1
SB2289	Sen. Oban, Rep. Mock	Replaces the North Dakota academic and career and technical education college scholarship programs with a single “North Dakota scholarship” program. Outlines the qualifications for the North Dakota scholarship program and caps a student’s benefit at \$6,000. Fiscal note.	House Appropriations	Approved by House, 71-22, 4/8

SB2304	Sen. Heckaman	Requires elementary and middle school instruction in North Dakota studies to include an emphasis on federally recognized American Indian tribes in the state. Requires high school instruction in U.S. history to include “Native American tribal history.” Change takes effect Aug. 1, 2022.	House Education	Conference Committees
SB2308	Sen. Myrdal, Rep. D. Ruby	Authorizes schools to post copies of the 10 Commandments, alongside other historical documents, inside the school and its classrooms. Authorizes schools within a school district to allow students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Provides immunity from liability for school boards.	House Judiciary	Approved by Senate, 39-8, 4/9
SB2332	Sen. Schaible, Rep. Satrom	Adds special education to a list of subject areas that are eligible for out-of-state alternative teacher certification programs, and changes criteria for those programs. Abolishes a July 1, 2023, sunset clause for teacher licensure criteria. Requests an interim Legislative Management study of criteria for alternative teacher licensure.	House Education	Conference Committee

State Library

HB1285	Rep. Boschee, Sen. Dever	Establishes an America 250 state commission to plan for the celebration of America’s 250 th birthday. The Department of Public Instruction would have one representative on the commission, which would be overseen by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Fiscal note.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 40-7, 4/5
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SB2157	Sen. Oban, Rep. Hager	Changes the membership of the North Dakota library coordinating council. Eliminates required membership of two representatives of private higher education institution libraries, replacing them with two members representing libraries at large. Eliminates specified member who represents “special libraries. Says one member who now represents public higher education libraries may represent either public or private higher education libraries.	House Political Subdivisions	Signed by Governor, 3/22
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Special Education

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Bill Description	Committee	Status
HB1089	Human Services	Says no developmentally disabled person who is being served at a public or private agency may receive electric shock treatment. treatment. Forbids seclusion or restraint of the individual except to ensure his or her immediate physical safety or the safety of others.	Senate Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/10
HB1131	House Education	Gives the superintendent of public instruction authority to adopt rules and issue credentials for dyslexia specialists.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 4/1
HB1188	Rep. Schreiber-Beck, Sen. Oban	Gives the superintendent of public instruction authority to issue “certificates of completion” to special education technicians, and to adopt rules to govern the issuance of those certificates.	Senate Education	Signed by Governor, 3/25
SB2039	Sen. Anderson, Rep. D. Anderson	Sets out new requirements for the governor to follow when he appoints members of the Brain Injury Advisory Council. A majority of the council’s voting members must be brain injury survivors, or family members of survivors.	House Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/17

SB2089	Human Services	Gives the Department of Human Services authority to promote cooperation with the Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Commerce, and other public agencies, as well as private human services agencies. Repeals outdated provisions relating to welfare program financing. Requests interim legislative studies of the state autism spectrum voucher and waiver program.	House Appropriations	Conference Committee
SB2134	Sen. Lee, Rep. Doberovich	Provides authority for the Protection and Advocacy Project to seek voluntary compliance to settle a complaint against a person with disabilities. Suggests that during an investigation of a report or complaint, the project could assess “the opportunity for education and voluntary compliance and other appropriate remedies.”	House Human Services	Signed by Governor, 3/22
SB2205	Sen. Clemens, Rep. Damschen	Extends Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion health insurance to cover the expense of sign and oral language interpreters for medical assistance clients who have hearing loss or limited English proficiency when they are obtaining medical services. Fiscal note.	House Human Services	Defeated by House, 18-74, 3/25
SB2256	Sen. Dever, Rep. Meier	Requires a Legislative Management study of state and federal laws and regulations that affect the care and treatment of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.	House Appropriations	Approved by House, 90-0, 4/9

Questions or comments?

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