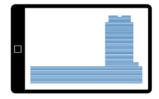


## The Capitol Tablet

ND Legislative News

Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent North Dakota Department of Public Instruction "How are the children?"



## Feb. 7, 2025

When it comes to school choice, the North Dakota Legislature has plenty of bills to choose from. Five proposals to establish education savings accounts for parents/guardians of students got hearings in House and Senate committees this week. All of these bills are mentioned in the table that's part of the Tablet, but we thought we'd create what we hope is a handy front-page summary of each one.

Generally speaking, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) provide state funds to parents to use for their children's education expenses. They are often designed for parents who favor nonpublic school.

For the 2024-25 school year, the state aid payment to public school districts is \$11,072 per student. Gov. Kelly Armstrong's budget recommendations would raise this amount to \$11,293 per student for 2025-26, and to \$11,519 the following year. These are the base amounts; they are adjusted for each school district, based on a variety of factors that are set out in state law.

It is important to know these base per-student payment numbers because some ESA bills use them to determine the amount of money parents can get.

<u>HB1540</u> and <u>SB2303</u> would deposit an amount equal to 80 percent of the per-student payment to school districts (\$8,857 when you use this year's payment to calculate it) into an education savings account at the Bank of North Dakota, which a parent could use for nonpublic school tuition and fees, computer hardware, textbooks, and other education supplies.

<u>HB1590</u> says a parent may drop up to \$2,000 annually into a Bank of North Dakota "student education services account" for each of his or her children. The bank would match 50 cents of each dollar, up to \$1,000. The money could be used for education expenses, including career and technical education courses, as well as mental health assistance and "medical appointments necessary for an education benefit."

<u>HB1607</u> establishes "educational empowerment accounts" for parents to use in paying nonpublic school education expenses. Parents using the accounts would receive the entire per-student state aid payment to public schools (now \$11,072). They would get a debit card they could use to pay education expenses.

(Continued)

SB2400 would provide education savings accounts for public, nonpublic and homeschooled students, which would be administered by the superintendent of public instruction or an administrator hired by her. Annual state payments into education savings accounts would vary among public school students (\$1,000), nonpublic school students (\$1,000 to \$4,000, depending on family income), and home-educated students (\$1,000).

When the Legislature has several bills that address the same subject, lawmakers typically choose one of them to shape a final package. None of these measures has received a House or Senate floor vote yet, but that will change as February rolls on.

The Legislature's website has the text of each bill (linked above) as well as access to extensive testimony, pro and con. If you choose, you can watch video of the hearings as well. These are invaluable resources for North Dakotans who want to educate themselves about this issue.

Have a sublime weekend!

## Department of Public Instruction 2025 Legislature Bill Tracker Friday, Feb. 7, 2025

(Changes from Previous Week in Red)

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1012</u>	Appropriations	Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services.	House Appropriations	Hearings Held, 2/7
HB1013	Appropriations	Budget for the Department of Public Instruction, the Center for Distance Education, the State Library, the School for the Deaf/Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and North Dakota Vison Services/School for the Blind.	House Appropriations	Hearing Held, 1/27

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1024	Appropriations	Appropriation bill for the Adjutant General and the attorney general to provide funds for the current state budget period. This is known as the "deficiency appropriation" bill.	House Appropriations	Hearing Held, 2/3
<u>HB1034</u>	Interim Juvenile Justice Committee	Outlines procedure for "re-establishment" of a legal relationship between child and parent and establishes juvenile court as the original forum for these proceedings.	Senate Judiciary	Hearing Not Scheduled
HB1036	Interim Workforce Committee	Creates a division of apprenticeship within the state Department of Labor and Human Rights, directs the division to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Labor on apprenticeship programs, and orders development of a pilot program to support businesses that want to develop apprenticeships. Authorizes three positions for the division and appropriates \$650,000 to hire staff.	House Industry, Business and Labor	Hearing Held, 1/8
HB1048	Supreme Court	Bars mediation agreements from being shown to a judge unless they are signed by the parties involved. Requires mediators to inform a judge whether a mediation agreement was reached.	Senate Judiciary	Hearing Not Scheduled

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1049	State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology	Requires a speech-language pathology assistant licensee to have at least 100 hours of supervised clinical experience and a two-year degree in a speech-language pathology assistants' program or a bachelor's degree in another field with coursework in communications disorders.	Senate Workforce Development	Hearing Not Scheduled

HB1067	Department of Health and Human Services	Orders the Department of Human Services to provide medical assistance benefits to eligible children who are "lawfully present in the United States."	House Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/14
HB1072	Department of Health and Human Services	Allows payments to guardians for children in foster care if the Department of Health and Human Services grants subsidy approval. Allows the department to deny or revoke a foster care facility license or certification if a court has ordered a child to be removed from the facility within the previous five years.	Senate Human Services	Hearing 9:45a, 2/11

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1081	Office of Management and Budget	Eliminates a requirement that state agencies include in their financial statements all of their fixed assets that are worth more than \$5,000. Also abolishes a requirement to prepare an analysis of decisions to lease assets. (Repeals NDCC 54-27-21 and 54-27-21.1)	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing 2p, 2/10
HB1095	Rep. Kiefert	Authorizes a school district to appoint a child protective services liaison and lists training requirements for the liaison.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/13
HB1098	Rep. Jonas	Adds coursework needed to qualify for North Dakota Scholarships that would benefit students who intend to pursue teaching careers.	House Education	Approved by House, 90-2, 1/27
<u>HB1100</u>	Rep. Jonas	Requires unspent state general funds allocated for free school meals during the 2023-25 biennium to be used for school district grants to pay off lunch debts. Requires the superintendent of public instruction to collect school lunch debt information from districts.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 1/22
<u>HB1105</u>	Rep. Jonas	Allows school districts to impose time limits on virtual instruction, restrict access to certain time periods, and establish student eligibility requirements for virtual instruction.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/14

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1109	Department of Health and Human Services	Changes "treatment or care center" to "provider agency" when referring to entities that provide services to the developmentally disabled. Outlines circumstances under which a provider agency may have its operating license restricted or revoked.	Senate Human Services	Hearing 9a, 2/11
HB1119	Department of Health and Human Services	Combines several types of licenses for child-care providers. Removes the option of getting a two-year license at a \$5 savings.	House Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/27
HB1122	Rep. Nelson	Relates to regulation of state purchasing contracts and cooperative purchasing by multiple state agencies.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Approved by House, 92-1, 1/22
HB1129	Rep. Richter	Appropriates \$1 million for a Department of Public Instruction study of chronic student absenteeism in grades K-12.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 2/5
HB1130	Rep. Richter	Gives school districts an option for changing how their state aid payments are calculated. Generally, the changes could benefit school districts with oil and gas income and other revenue sources that are not taxed on property value, such as revenue from wind farms and telecommunications.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 2/7

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1132	Rep. Holle	Authorizes public and nonpublic schools to serve whole, 2 percent and flavored milk in bulk dispensers.	House Agriculture	Approved by House, 87-0, 1/21
HB1133	Rep. Longmuir	Requires county superintendents of schools to preserve records of their official acts and records acquired by the office that have "educational value or interest."	Senate Education	Hearing Not Scheduled
HB1134	Rep. Heilman	Adds a new definition of harassment that covers "doxxing," i.e. electronic communication and publication of an individual's personal identifying information on a public internet site or public forum. The offense is punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.	House Judiciary	Approved by House, 90-2, 1/27
HB1138	Rep. Pyle	Allows local boards more latitude in scheduling bond elections.	House Political Subdivisions	Approved by House, 90-0, 1/17
HB1141	Rep. Toman	Prohibits state and local agencies from joining or supporting any private organization that has, within the past 10 years, endorsed political candidates or taken a public stand on ballot measures. Says public officeholders may be held personally liable if they "perform an action outside the scope of the individual's official duties as an officeholder."	House Industry, Business and Labor	Hearing Held, 1/27

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1143</u>	Rep. Pyle	Appropriates \$5 million	House	Re-Referred to
		to the state Agriculture	Appropriations	House
		Department to establish a grant program for food		Appropriations, 2/4
		distribution facilities.		2/ 1
HB1144	Rep. Tveit	Requires multi-person	House Human	Approved by
		shower rooms or	<u>Services</u>	House, 73-18,
		restrooms on school		2/7
		grounds to be designated for males or females only.		
		Prohibits multi-stall,		
		gender-neutral restrooms		
		and shower rooms. Bans		
		any policy that requires		
		students to be addressed by their preferred		
		pronouns.		
		Prosecution		
HB1145	Rep. Hoverson	Requires North Dakota	House	Hearing Held,
		public colleges and	<u>Judiciary</u>	1/14
		public schools to display the Ten Commandments		
		in each classroom and		
		building. Specifies the		
		Ten Commandments		
		language to be posted.		
HB1146	Rep. Lefor	Regulates state	<u>House</u>	Re-Referred to
		government	Government	House
		contributions to the defined benefit pension	<u>and Veterans</u> Affairs	Appropriations, 1/31
		plan for state employees.	<u> </u>	1/01
<u>HB1160</u>	Rep. Jonas	Orders school districts to	<u>House</u>	Approved by
		adopt policies that govern restrictions of	Education	House, 89-3, 1/27
		student cell phone use at		1/2/
		school. The policies must		
		include medical and		
		educational		
		accommodations and provisions for using a cell		
		phone in emergencies		
		that affect the health,		
		safety, or well-being of a		
		student or staff member.		

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1163	Rep. Jonas	Establishes a \$1 billion school construction loan fund as part of the state Legacy Fund. Limits loan interest rates to 1 percent annually and 20 years duration. Loans limited to \$10 million total or \$10 million per thousand students in the school district, whichever is higher.	House Education	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 1/29
<u>HB1164</u>	Rep. Schrieber- Beck	Changes definition of "student with a disability" as it relates to being deaf or hard of hearing.	House Human Services	Approved by House, 92-1, 1/16
HB1168	Rep. Louser	Limits taxing districts to 3 percent growth in property tax revenues per year. Allows unused property tax revenue authority to be carried forward for as many as five years.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/15
HB1170	Rep. Motschenbacher	Provides 40 hours of leave for newly hired state employees, which may be used in their first year of employment.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Approved by House, 54-40, 1/22
HB1171	Rep. Heinert	Establishes a "law enforcement family scholarship program" for dependents of correctional officers, emergency services providers, professional firefighters, or peace officers who have worked full time in a position for at least three years. Appropriates \$5 million for the scholarships.	House Political Subdivisions	Defeated by House, 14-79, 1/29

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1172	Rep. Heinert	Removes a school district's requirement to pay a student's course fees if the student takes courses from the Center for Distance Education. Districts would have to pay course fees only if they did not offer the student's chosen course during the semester, or if it was not offered during a time when the student could fit it into his or her class schedule.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/22
HB1176	Rep. Nathe	Authorizes the Legacy Fund to provide enough earnings to pay for a residential property tax credit of up to \$1,550 annually per homeowner.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/14
HB1178	Rep. Novak	Requires school districts to adopt policies to allow students who are eligible to vote to leave campus during the school day to vote in a general, primary, or special election.	House Political Subdivisions	Approved by House, 86-1, 1/21
HB1181	Rep. S. Olson	Requires any entity that receives state money to refer to males and females, as established by their DNA or their sex determined at birth. This policy would apply to all policies, records, forms, rules, standards, procedures, guides, materials, instruction, training, correspondence, advertising, or marketing.	House Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/21

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1188</u>	Rep. Lefor	Regulates fees charged to school districts based on their students' use of programs at area career and technology centers.	Senate Education	Hearing Not Scheduled
<u>HB1199</u>	Rep. Holle	Creates a task force on missing indigenous people, which includes the superintendent of public instruction, to do research and make recommendations on how to reduce the number of murdered or missing indigenous people.  Appropriates \$250,000 for a missing indigenous people grant fund.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 1/23
HB1200	Rep. Louser	Allows a high school student to substitute an "alternative course" for no more than one unit that is required for graduation, "if the student demonstrates an emergent circumstance."	House Education	Approved by House, 88-0, 1/24
HB1214	Rep. Richter	Establishes new method for paying state transportation aid to school districts, based on student average daily membership.	House Appropriations	Hearing 9a, 2/12
<u>HB1220</u>	Rep. Motschenbacher	Authorizes the North Dakota University System to offer "accelerated degrees," for which students will not be required to earn general education credits, for "high-demand occupations."	House Education	Approved by House, 73-15, 1/31

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1222	Rep. Novak	Requires public school students to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each school day. A student must stand at attention with right hand over heart when saying the Pledge, and males must remove any head covering that does not have a religious purpose.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/4
HB1223	Rep. Jonas	Allows schools more flexibility in their policies for suspending or expelling students, with the length of the penalty depending on the severity of the offense, the student's age and disciplinary history.	House Education	Approved by House, 92-0, 1/27
HB1238	Rep. Ista	Says an instructor who has been licensed to teach in North Dakota for 20 years must be granted a lifetime license. This time period is shortened from 30 years.	House Education	Approved by House, 79-12, 1/24
HB1244	Rep. Schatz	Provides a state income tax credit of up to \$1,000 per child each year for home schooling expenses. If a married person is filing a separate tax return, the maximum credit is \$500.	House Finance and Taxation	Approved by House, 65-27, 1/27
HB1247	Rep. D. Johnston	A school district must provide for "proper separation" and develop a safety plan in cases where a student has sexually assaulted another student and they are attending the same school.	House Education	Approved by House, 91-0, 2/4

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1257</u>	Rep. Hendrix	Requires the Legislature's organizational session to last at least five days, and include reports by each constitutional office and information about procedures of legislative committees.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 1/23
HB1261	Rep. Schreiber- Beck	Repeals a legislative order that the Department of Public Instruction offer credentials for special education strategists and provisional special education strategists. (Repeals 15.1-18-05 and 15.1-18-06)	Senate Education	Hearing Not Scheduled
HB1279	Rep. Novak	Extends a state tax break for coal-fueled power plants to July 1, 2036.	House Finance and Taxation	Approved by House, 81-12, 2/6
HB1285	Rep. Schatz	Reduces a proposed 3 percent state employee pay increase for 2025-27. Authorizes a cost-of-living payment to retired members of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement. Appropriates \$49.2 million for the payment.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 1/30
HB1288	Rep. Nehring	Allows anyone to ask the state Board of Public School Education to review whether a school district is complying with an "education-related state statute." Orders the attorney general to assess and investigate review requests.	House Education	Defeated by House, 24-64, 1/31

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1294</u>	Rep. Novak	Raises the fine for illegally overtaking or passing a school bus from \$100 to \$500.	House Transportation	Hearing Held, 2/7
<u>HB1300</u>	Rep. Koppelman	Affects how service time in the Legislature is calculated.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Approved by House, 64-28, 1/27
HB1306	Rep. Kasper	Allows an open records requester who is a North Dakota resident to make one request annually without charge that could take a government entity up to 40 hours to fulfill.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 2/6
HB1308	Rep. Satrom	Expands and strengthens the duties of the state human trafficking commission. Provides legal immunity for teachers, attorneys and other "regulated professions" who report suspected cases of human trafficking in good faith.	House Human Services	Approved by House, 92-0, 2/4
HB1312	Rep. Satrom	Moves elections for school and park boards from the spring to the November general election.	House Political Subdivisions	Defeated by House, 12-81, 1/27
HB1328	Rep. Heinert	Requires a school to exhaust all school discipline policies before referring a child to juvenile court.	House Judiciary	Hearing Held, 1/21

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1329	Rep. O'Brien	Requires the superintendent of public instruction to contract for training for school board members. Requires the state treasurer to collect an assortment of fiscal data from local governments, including textbook authors and publishers, curriculum descriptions, and software information from local school districts.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/28
HB1333	Rep. Heilman	Requires school districts to provide at least 30 minutes for lunch between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Allows students to use part of the half-hour break to do something else if they have written permission from a school counselor.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/28
HB1335	Rep. Christianson	Lowers the minimum age for the homestead tax credit from 65 to 62 years of age. Allows a 100 percent reduction in a home's taxable valuation, with a \$9,000 limit, if the homeowner's income is \$70,000 or less, and a 50 percent reduction, with a limit of \$4,500, if a homeowner's income is \$100,000 or less.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/22

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1338	Rep. M. Ruby	Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to notify a military installation's family advocacy program about allegations of child abuse or neglect that involve a "military-affiliated individual."	House Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/21
HB1343	Rep. Koppelman	Says a lien for unpaid property taxes or special assessments has priority over any other judgment against real property, except for liens for unpaid child support.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/22
HB1351	Rep. Satrom	Makes it a crime, punishable by a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine, to produce, promote, advertise, broadcast or transmit a sexually explicit deepfake video or image.	House Judiciary	Approved by House, 93-0, 2/3
HB1353	Rep. Koppelman	Limits property tax revenue increases on property to 3 percent annually. Allows a carry- forward for up to three years for any unused authority to raise property taxes.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/27

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1355	Rep. Steiner	Requires agencies to prepare a simplified summary of proposed administrative rule changes for publication in the newspaper.	House Political Subdivisions	Approved by House, 92-0, 2/5
HB1357	Rep. Morton	Requires a state entity to obtain a data sharing agreement with a school district to share student data.	House Education	Approved by House, 93-0, 2/6
HB1358	Rep. Murphy	Orders the Department of Public Instruction to develop applications and policies for the establishment of public charter schools. Limits the number of charter schools to 12 for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years, and 15 for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years.	House Education	Defeated by House, 45-44, 1/31. At least 48 Yes votes are needed to approved legislation in the North Dakota House. Attempt to reconsider failed, 2/3
HB1363	Rep. Meier	Requires the Department of Public Instruction to develop a customizable cardiac emergency response plan for public and nonpublic schools.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/27
HB1365	Rep. Koppelman	Removes a state ban on possessing firearms within a church or public building. Authorizes local governments to enact bans on possessing firearms within the public areas of public buildings. Firearms remain banned on school property or within a school-sponsored event.	House Energy and Natural Resources	Hearing Held, 2/7

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1368	Rep. Koppelman	Allows the Legislature's Administrative Rules Committee to void proposed administrative rules if there is "an absence of necessity" or "an absence of reasonableness."	House Political Subdivisions	Approved by House, 84-7, 2/5
HB1369	Rep. Heinert	Changes weighting factors for state local education aid formula. Raises per-student payment. Transfers \$100 million from foundation aid stabilization fund to school construction loan fund.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 2/7
HB1376	Rep. Bosch	Requires each high school to offer training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and stopping severe bleeding to students each year.	House Education	Defeated by House, 0-92, 2/5
HB1381	Rep. Brandenburg	Modifies the state education finance formula.	House Appropriations	Hearing 10a, 2/12
HB1387	Rep. Heinert	Requires students to be segregated from voters during regular school hours if the school is used as a polling place during national, state or local election days.	House Education	Approved by House, 85-8, 2/3
HB1390	Rep. Koppelman	Makes someone who is 65 years old or older, has annual income of \$70,000 or less, and is permanently and totally disabled eligible for a tax credit that can be applied against special assessments.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/22

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1404	Rep. Schreiber- Beck	Replaces the ACT with the NDA+ assessment when determining whether a student qualifies for a North Dakota Scholarship.	House Education	Approved by House, 87-1, 1/31
HB1408	Rep. Bahl	Requires annual sessions of the Legislature, with sessions scheduled within a period of 70 calendar days each year.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 2/7
HB1434	Rep. O'Brien	Requires an expiration date for administrative rules.	House Political Subdivisions	Defeated by House, 0-92, 2/5
HB1445	Rep. Brandenburg	Requires competitive bidding for a "preengineered structure" that is built as a public improvement, needs engineering or architectural plans and specifications, and is expected to cost \$1 million or more.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 2/7
HB1449	Rep. Jonas	Says a school district must make a "reasonable effort" to hire a full-time counselor for every 300 students in a school.	House Education	Hearing 9a, 2/11
HB1456	Rep. S. Olson	Allows schools to "employ or accept as a volunteer" a chaplain to provide services to students and staff who is endorsed by a religious organization or certified by a chaplaincy organization. Appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Public Instruction for chaplain salaries, training and oversight.	House Education	Hearing 10a, 2/11

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1468	Rep. Bosch	Appropriates \$16 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a behavioral health facility in west-central North Dakota.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 2/5
HB1472	Rep. Morton	Authorizes a "microschool" that may have no more than 50 students; may be established in a home, public space, church, or other nontraditional properties; and requires only that a teacher have a high school diploma or its equivalent.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/4
<u>HB1474</u>	Rep. Toman	Authorizes local governments to levy square footage taxes on land and structures.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/27
HB1475	Rep. Hatlestad	Requires students at all K-12 schools, including public, nonpublic, and tribal schools, to be furnished breakfast and lunch during school days at no cost to the student.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/3
HB1476	Rep. Novak	Requires the Department of Public Instruction to regularly assess all school buildings. The assessments would include recommended maintenance for each building.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 2/7

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1482</u>	Rep. Wagner	Says any vote on raising a local government's debt limit must take place in a primary or general election. The special election option is removed.	House Finance and Taxation	Approved by House, 88-5, 2/6
HB1490	Rep. Vigesaa	Requires school counselors to have psychological evaluations every two years before they may counsel students without a school faculty member also being present.	House Education	Hearing 9:30a, 2/11
HB1491	Rep. Rios	Allows students to change schools more easily to participate in sports and extracurricular activities.	House Education	Hearing 2:30p, 2/11
HB1492	Rep. Christy	Appropriates \$24 million to the Department of Public Instruction for a science museum construction project. Requires at least \$24 million in local matching funds for the project.	House Education	Defeated by House, 2-90, 2/5
HB1494	Rep. Jonas	Provides more state aid for school districts for teaching students who are not proficient in English.	House Appropriations	Re-Referred to House Appropriations, 2/7
<u>HB1495</u>	Rep. Foss	Requires an employer to grant unpaid time off for legislators when they are in session or doing interim committee work.	House Industry, Business and Labor	Hearing 9a, 2/10

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1497	Rep. Maki	Allows children to enroll in an education program for 4-year-olds if the child turns 4 by December of the year he or she enrolls. Under current law, the child has to turn 4 by August of the year he or she enrolls.	House Education	Hearing Held, 1/29
HB1498	Rep. Maki	Gives school boards authority to offer first- year signing bonuses to newly hired teachers and career and technology instructors.	House Education	Approved by House, 89-4, 2/6
HB1510	Rep. Schreiber-Beck	Requires the Bank of North Dakota, the Teachers' Fund for Retirement, and a teacher support program coordinator to gather information from school districts about their teacher pay and benefits. Authorizes a school district to provide child- care facilities for its teachers on school property.	House Education	Hearing 2:30p, 2/10
HB1516	Rep. Foss	Requires school boards to put one or two of their teachers on the board to represent the interests of educational employees. The teachers would serve one-year terms and could participate in meetings but would not have voting power.	House Education	Hearing 9:30a, 2/12

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1517	Rep. Jonas	Directs the Board of Higher Education to create a student teacher scholarship program for prospective classroom teachers. The scholarship would be limited to \$3,000 for the student's teaching semester.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/4
HB1527	Rep. Maki	Requires schools to include instruction on antisemitism and the Holocaust in the required curriculum on U.S. history. Orders the Department of Public Instruction to provide annual reports about whether the antisemitism/Holocaust directive is being followed.	House Education	Hearing 9a, 2/12
<u>HB1530</u>	Rep. Schneider	Requests an interim legislative study about the shortage of special education teachers and the "circumstances and collective needs of special education."	House Education	Hearing 11a, 2/11
HB1533	Rep. Pyle	Requires a half-unit of financial literacy instruction for a student to graduate from high school. The half-unit could be substituted for instruction in career and technical education, social studies, or mathematics.	House Education	Hearing 10a, 2/12

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1536	Rep. Davis	Appropriates \$1.5 million to the Department of Public Instruction to implement a Native American history curriculum for the 2025-27 biennium, including \$600,000 for curriculum materials and \$300,000 for teacher professional development.	House Education	Hearing 10:30a, 2/12
HB1540	Rep. Koppelman	Authorizes education savings accounts to pay for student education expenses.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/5
HB1547	Rep. Richter	Requires an interim legislative study of special education funding.	House Education	Hearing 3p, 2/12
HB1548	Rep. Monson	Appropriates \$10 million to the Department of Health and Human Services for construction of a fitness center to benefit residents of the Life Skills and Transition Center at Grafton.	House Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/28
HB1553	Rep. Hager	Appropriates \$140 million from the Legacy Fund to provide school meals at no charge for students in public and nonpublic schools.	House Education	Hearing 10a, 2/10
<u>HB1559</u>	Rep. Schauer	Freezes the taxable valuation of real property at its average valuation over the previous three years, excluding the value of improvements.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/28

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1560	Rep. Toman	Provides a homeowner who has owned his or her property for 30 years or more with an annual reduction of up to \$18,000 in taxable valuation.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/28
<u>HB1562</u>	Rep. Osowski	Requires public and nonpublic school teachers, administrators, and counselors to undergo training in in how to spot suspected child abuse or neglect before they are initially licensed, and when they renew their licenses.	House Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/27
HB1563	Rep. Davis	Requests an interim legislative study of the taxation of tribal land owned by enrolled tribal members.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing Not Scheduled
<u>HB1565</u>	Rep. Brown	Requires the Department of Public Instruction to provide a grant to a tribally controlled school to defray the cost of educating non-Native students.	House Education	Amended, Do Not Pass, 11-3, 2/6
HB1569	Rep. Richter	Requires school districts to offer instruction on sex trafficking awareness and prevention, beginning with the 2027-28 school year and beginning in the seventh grade.	House Education	Hearing 3:30p, 2/12

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1572	Rep. Hagert	Requires the Tax Department to develop and implement a uniform system for local taxing districts to report annual budget data, fund balances, property tax values and tax rates, and property tax revenue amounts.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/29
HB1575	Rep. Weisz	Establishes a primary residential property tax classification and makes a homeowner eligible for 3 percent annual reductions in the assessed value of that primary residential property.	House Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/28
HB1580	Rep. Vetter	Requests an interim study of the compensation system for classified state employees, including comparisons to private sector compensation and employee retention and equity bonuses.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 1/30
HB1588	Rep. Heinert	Removes the ban on firearms possession in a "publicly owned or operated building," (the category does not include schools), public rest areas and restrooms, and state or federal parks. Allows the governor to carry a firearm in a public gathering.	House Energy and Natural Resources	Hearing Held, 2/6

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
HB1590	Rep. Heinert	Authorizes establishment of "student education services accounts." Says parents may deposit up to \$2,000 in an account each year, which the Bank of North Dakota would match up to \$1,000. Money not used for K-12 education expenses could be used for college.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/5
<u>HB1599</u>	Rep. O'Brien	Removes need for a medical provider to verify the "severe, extreme or life-threatening nature" of a state employee's medical condition for the employee to qualify for a leave-sharing program.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Approved by House, 92-0, 2/5
<u>HB1604</u>	Rep. Murphy	Establishes a \$600 million school construction fund, outlines a state subsidy payment schedule for school construction projects, and puts the superintendent of public instruction in charge of overseeing architect selection for projects.	House Education	Hearing 11a, 2/10
HB1606	Rep. Heilman	Raises the minimum accrual of sick leave for state employees from eight to 10 hours per month.	House Government and Veterans Affairs	Hearing Held, 1/30

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>HB1607</u>	Rep. Heilman	Establishes "educational empowerment accounts" for parents to use in paying authorized education expenses. Students who benefit from the accounts may not be enrolled in public school or be homeeducated.	House Education	Hearing Held, 2/5
<u>HB1618</u>	Rep. Finley- DeVille	Appropriates \$1.4 million to the Department of Public Instruction to provide a tribal school infrastructure grant.	House Education	Do Not Pass, 14-0, 2/6
HCR3023	Rep. Davis	Affirms the Legislature's commitment to ensuring that state-funded essential services remain supported regardless of federal budget changes.	House Political Subdivisions	Hearing 2:30p, 2/13
HCR3028	Rep. Vetter	Requests a legislative study of service and re- entry programs provided to victims of human trafficking.	House Judiciary	Hearing Not Scheduled
SB2003	Appropriations	Budget for the North Dakota University System.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 2/5
SB2019	Appropriations	Budget for the Department of Career and Technical Education.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 1/23

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2029	Interim Government Finance	Establishes an office of guardianship and conservatorship under the North Dakota Supreme Court to develop policies and procedures and ethical standards for guardians and conservators.	Senate Appropriations	Re-Referred to Senate Appropriations, 2/7
SB2030	Interim Government Services	Appropriates \$1 million to the Department of Public Instruction for homeless assistance grants for North Dakota's 10 largest school districts.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 1/21
SB2036	Interim Juvenile Justice	Creates a definition of "fitness to proceed" that requires a juvenile to be evaluated to determine whether the juvenile can assist in his or her criminal defense. Codifies a juvenile's due process rights.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 1/28
SB2037	Interim Juvenile Justice	Changes how certain penalties may be imposed for minors for delinquent conduct, including sex offender registration, prohibition from possessing firearms, and suspension of driving privileges.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 2/5

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2043	Education Standards and Practices Board	Treats teacher license suspension and revocation proceedings alike when a teacher is accused of sexual offenses or crimes against a child, regardless of whether the charges are brought in state or federal court.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/16
SB2048	Information Technology Department	Provides more flexibility in developing information technology plans. Eliminates requirements to report specific dates for plan changes. Requires the state information technology plan be developed with emphasis on agency strategic goals, business objectives, and alignment with statewide information technology initiatives.	Senate State and Local Government	Approved by Senate, 46-0, 2/4
SB2049	Information Technology Department	Changes the makeup of the "executive steering committee" for a major information technology project, and changes the name to "oversight committee." Expands criteria for defining a major project.	Senate State and Local Government	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 2/7
SB2055	ND Supreme Court	Corrects a reference in state law relating to the release of juvenile records.	Senate Judiciary	Approved by Senate, 46-0, 1/10

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2061	Department of Transportation	Expands the number of railroad crossings that may be posted as "exempt," which means school buses are not required to stop at them.	Senate Transportation	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/13
SB2066	Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Allows state employees to buy products directly from Rough Rider Industries, which is the state prison's manufacturing operation.	Senate Industry and Business	Defeated by Senate, 0-46, 2/3
SB2072	Office of Management and Budget	Raises the money threshold for allowing agencies to buy "routine or standardized products" from \$1,000 to \$20,000, if there is no reasonable risk that doing so will impose "an improper contractual obligation" on the agency.	Senate State and Local Government	Approved by Senate, 46-0, 1/10
SB2084	Office of Management and Budget	Says in-state lodging rates for North Dakota employees must be the same as the federal General Services Administration's rates for the city, plus any applicable taxes. The state Office of Management and Budget is given authority to set lodging rates when the federal rate is not available.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing 3p, 2/10

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2096	Sen. Mathern	Establishes four regional acute psychiatric treatment service regions. Appropriates \$100 million to provide treatment services and housing, or to contract with private entitles to offer them. Appropriates \$5 million for renovations at the State Hospital in Jamestown for facilities to provide acute psychiatric treatment to mentally ill individuals who are undergoing involuntary treatment.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 1/20
SB2104	Sen. Beard	Allows any North Dakota resident to submit complaints to the Department of Public Instruction about a school district's "failure to comply with an education-related law or rule." Gives the superintendent authority to withhold state aid from repeat offenders.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 1/21
SB2105	Sen. Beard	Restricts when surveys may be administered to K-12 students to obtain information from them.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 1/21
SB2112	Department of Health and Human Services	Allows minors who are not eligible for developmental disability services to receive certain services at the Life Skills and Transition Center at Grafton. Requires legislative reports every six months and sets a June 30, 2027 expiration date.	Senate Appropriations	Re-Referred to Senate Appropriations, 1/31

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2113	Department of Health and Human Services	Changes the name of state human service centers to "State Operated Behavioral Health Clinics." Extends the life of the "cross-disability advisory council" until Aug. 1, 2027.	Senate Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/28
SB2126	Commission on Uniform State Laws	Adopts the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act.	Senate Judiciary	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/16
SB2134	Sen. Roers	Allows the state treasurer and superintendent of public instruction to name designees to the board of directors of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement.	Senate State and Local Government	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/21
SB2146	Sen. Roers	Adopts the occupational therapy licensure compact.	Senate Workforce Development	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/17
SB2147	Sen. Sickler	Provides supplemental college student financial assistance grants for students with family incomes of less than \$80,000 annually.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Held, 2/3
SB2149	Sen. Schaible	Provides \$20 million in low-interest school construction loans for projects on North Dakota's U.S. Air Force bases.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 46-0, 2/3

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<u>SB2158</u>	Sen. Schaible	Says up to \$500,000 of the leftover cash balance of a dissolved school district may be given to another political subdivision within the district before it is distributed as a tax credit to the district's property taxpayers.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Approved by Senate, 38-9, 1/23
SB2160	Sen. Davison	Shifts active state employees and retirees who are not on Medicare into the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System's "non-grandfathered" health insurance plan. This is expected to increase the cost of the health insurance plan.	Senate Human Services	Hearing Held, 1/15
<u>SB2169</u>	Sen. Burckhard	Requires a physical therapist to obtain informed consent from a patient or the patient's representative about an overall plan of care.	Senate Human Services	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/28
<u>SB2176</u>	Sen. Axtman	Restructures membership of the state Children's Cabinet and directs the governor's office to provide staff support. Provides authority for working groups to develop policies affecting children and families, orders annual reports to the Legislature, and appropriates \$220,000 for administrative costs.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 46-1, 2/7

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2180	Sen. Paulson	Requires meetings of public entities to set aside time for public comment, which may not be subject to prior approval.	Senate State and Local Government	Hearing Held, 1/24
SB2182	Sen. Paulson	Allows a proposed administrative rule to be amended by the Legislature's Administrative Rules Committee if the committee and an agency representative agree the change is reasonable. Allows an agency or interested party to demand reconsideration of a proposed rule change.	Senate State and Local Government	Defeated by Senate, 0-46, 2/4
SB2184	Sen. Clemens	Authorizes a judge to order additional child parenting time for a parent who is falsely accused of harming a child.	Senate Judiciary	Defeated by Senate, 18-26, 1/31
SB2187	Sen. Roers	Raises lodging reimbursement for state employees and legislators. Sets lodging reimbursement for state employees at the same rate set by the federal General Services Administration for state workers.	Senate State and Local Government	Hearing Held, 1/24

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2196	Sen. Roers	Authorizes students to use a self-administered epinephrine nasal spray to prevent or treat a lifethreatening allergic reaction.	Senate Human Services	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/22
SB2198	Sen. Boschee	Affects leave pay for state or local government employees who are members of the National Guard or the armed forces reserve.	Senate Workforce Development	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/27
<u>SB2201</u>	Sen Weber	Provides a \$500 property tax credit for a primary residence for 2025 and retroactively for the 2024 tax year. Broadens the definition of primary residence and who may qualify for the credit. Extends the credit to primary residences that are owned in trust.	Senate Appropriations	Approved by Senate, 47-0, 1/27
SB2213	Sen. Schaible	Institutes new education and professional development requirements for mathematics teachers. Requires the superintendent of public instruction to adopt rules governing mathematics curriculum and teacher professional development in math. Appropriates \$1.2 million to the Department of Public Instruction to support improved math instruction in grades kindergarten through eight.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Not Scheduled

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2234	Sen. Davison	Appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Public Instruction for competitive Choice Ready grants to school districts to assist high school students.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 46-1, 2/7
SB2239	Sen. Boschee	Appropriates \$1.1 million to the Department of Labor and Human Rights to administer an apprenticeship grant program. Provides up to \$3,000 within three years for apprenticeship grant beneficiaries.	Senate Appropriations	Hearing Not Scheduled
SB2241	Sen. Axtman	Allows for public charter schools, which would be approved by the state superintendent of public instruction. Exempts public charter schools from some state education laws and rules.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 10a
SB2244	Sen. Paulson	Says a parent has a fundamental right to primary control of the care, supervision, upbringing, and education of the parent's child. Requires school boards to encourage parent participation in the school district. Requires a parent's written consent before the parent's child receives instruction about gender stereotypes, gender identity, sexual orientation or sexual relationships.	Senate Judiciary	Approved by Senate, 36-9, 2/5

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2251	Sen. Cleary	Affects what the state auditor may charge to perform an audit.	Senate State and Local Government	Approved by Senate, 42-4, 2/3
SB2258	Sen. Beard	Allows anyone to report to the governor's office any suspected instance that a state agency has exceeded its authority in enforcing an administrative rule. Requires the governor's office to investigate any reports.	Senate State and Local Government	Hearing 9:30a, 2/14
SB2259	Sen. Lee	Abolishes a requirement that county, city, township, or school district officers provide forms needed to make proper records and transact official business connected with their respective offices.	Senate State and Local Government	Approved by Senate, 46-0, 2/4
SB2262	Sen. Braunberger	Authorizes the K-12 Education Coordination Council to enter a contract to conduct a study. Appropriates \$120,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to pay for contracts agreed to by the K-12 Education Coordination Council.	Senate Appropriations	Re-Referred to Senate Appropriations, 2/7
SB2263	Sen. Braunberger	Appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Public Instruction for mastery framework training grants.	Senate Workforce Development	Hearing Held, 1/30

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2275	Sen. Luick	Appropriates \$49,500 to the Department of Public Instruction to pay grants to schools that teach foreign languages to students in grades K-3. Grants may not exceed \$2,500 per teacher and may be used for stipends, program costs or materials.	Senate Education	Approved by Senate, 44-0, 1/31
SB2279	Sen. Schaible	Reduces a school district's property tax limit from 70 mills to 55 mills. Increases the state share of the education finance formula by \$181 million.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/27
SB2295	Sen. Walen	Provides state aid annually to nonpublic schools at the rate of 75 percent of the education cost per student, and at the rate of 50 percent for students receiving home education.	Senate Education	Defeated by Senate, 4-42, 2/6
SB2298	Sen. Mathern	Makes a renter who is at least 65 years old and permanently and totally disabled eligible for an annual refund of the rent cost that is attributable to property taxes. The renter must not have annual income of more than \$70,000 to be eligible.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 1/28

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2300	Sen. Wobbema	Requires a student to store his or her electronic devices (e.g. mobile phones, laptops, or tablets) in a secure container during the school day. Requires the superintendent of public instruction to provide the secure containers to schools. Appropriates \$1.9 million for containers.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 1/29
SB2303	Sen. Wobbema	Creates an education savings account program for K-12 students.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 2/4
SB2305	Sen. Hogan	Establishes a family caregiver services pilot project where the caregiver is paid. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to request a Medicaid waiver to facilitate the program.	Senate Appropriations	Re-Referred to Senate Appropriations, 2/6
SB2307	Sen. Boehm	Requires public libraries and school districts to develop policies to locate any "explicit sexual material" to an area in the library that is not accessible to minors.	Senate Judiciary	Hearing 2:30p, 2/10

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2308	Sen. Roers	Establishes a task force to review state boards for "inefficiencies and duplication of responsibilities" and suggest how to streamline government operations. Puts the commissioner of labor and human rights in charge of the project.	Senate State and Local Government	Hearing Held, 2/6
SB2319	Sen. Magrum	Requires the Legislature to meet each month on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, except for December, and on up to seven consecutive days each year.	Senate State and Local Government	Hearing Held, 2/6
SB2330	Sen. Boehm	Requires students in the North Dakota University System and the state K-12 education system to receive education about the prevention of human trafficking and exploitation.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 2/5
SB2341	Sen. Axtman	Adopts the interstate compact for school psychologists.	Senate Workforce Development	Hearing Held, 2/7
SB2345	Sen. Marcellais	Advocates 4 percent annual pay increases for permanent state employees during 2025 and 2026.	Senate Appropriations	Defeated by Senate, 6-41, 2/7

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2350	Sen. Paulson	Exempts public employee performance and discipline records from public disclosure for three years or until termination of employment, whichever occurs first, unless the records are requested by law enforcement as part of a hiring process or are part of an internal investigation.	Senate Workforce Development	Hearing 10:15a, 2/13
SB2351	Sen. Beard	Requires certified-mail notification for property owners affected by a school district annexation petition.	Senate Education	Hearing 10a, 2/11
SB2353	Sen. Davison	Authorizes the superintendent of public instruction to contract with regional education associations for services. Allows REAs to provide services to school districts that are not members of the association.	Senate Education	Hearing 2:30p, 2/12
SB2354	Sen. Axtman	Requires school districts to adopt policies to govern use of cellphones, tablets and laptops at school. Students, parents and educators must be consulted in developing the policy, which must be published on the district's website and reviewed annually.	Senate Education	Hearing 9a, 2/10

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2355	Sen. Dwyer	Requires the superintendent of public instruction to include "intelligent design" in state science content standards for elementary, middle and high schools by Aug. 1, 2027. Says the superintendent must provide teachers with instructional materials demonstrating intelligent design is a viable scientific theory for the creation of life, and provide training in teaching intelligent design.	Senate Education	Hearing 10a, 2/12
SB2362	Sen. Schaible	Requires the superintendent of public instruction to provide accreditation options for schools and outlines a process for selecting them.	Senate Education	Hearing 2:30p, 2/11
SB2363	Sen. Erbele	Provides a \$1,500 annual property tax credit for qualifying farm or ranch land.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 2/3

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SB2367	Sen. Myrdal	Requires the county director of tax equalization to develop "modifiers" for adjusting the assessments of agricultural property. The state supervisor of assessments would have to approve any modifiers.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing Held, 2/3
SB2378	Sen. Weber	Limits annual property tax revenue growth by local governments to the increase in the consumer price index. Allows a local government to exceed the property tax limitation if the proposal is put on the ballot, and two-thirds of the voters agree.	Senate Finance and Taxation	Hearing 9a, 2/10
SB2392	Sen. Wobbema	Prohibits the Board of Higher Education and institutions that are part of the North Dakota University System from engaging in any policy or practice that asserts a "personal identity characteristic" is superior or inferior to another.	Senate Education	Hearing 9a, 2/11
SB2400	Sen. Axtman	Requires the superintendent of public instruction to oversee an education savings account program.  Specifies money amounts that are deposited in student education savings accounts. Sets out standards for schools if they are to accept ESA money.	Senate Education	Hearing Held, 2/5

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
SCR4019	Sen. Boschee	Requests a legislative study of reading and mathematics proficiency rates among students with disabilities.	Senate Education	Hearing 11a, 2/11
SCR4022	Sen. Luick	Amends the North Dakota Constitution to extend voting rights in elections that affect property tax or bond issues to people who own property within the taxing district but do not live there.	State and Local Government	Hearing Not Scheduled

**Questions or comments?** Please contact Dale Wetzel Public Information Specialist North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Email: dewetzel@nd.gov

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