



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



January 10, 2025

Update No. 1

The first week of legislative session has flown by quickly. We kicked off with Governor Armstrong's inaugural State of the State address on Tuesday afternoon. Clocking in at 35 minutes, the Governor's speech was brief compared to those of his predecessor but included plenty of policy. Most significantly, the governor unveiled his property tax proposal, which would increase the primary residence tax credit from \$500 per year to up to \$1,550 per year for the 2025-27 biennium, putting most homeowners on a path toward zero property taxes within a decade. Overtime, the credits would be paid for entirely by Legacy Fund earnings. The proposal also sets a 3% annual cap on local property tax budgets. The proposal is contained in **HB 1176**, filed yesterday by prime sponsor Rep. Mike Nathe and includes both Majority Leaders and Finance and Taxation committee chairs as co-sponsors. The bill will be heard next week.

Bills are finally starting to roll in at a steady pace. While there are plenty of interesting ideas to go around, most of the bills on our tracking list aren't too terrifying just yet. Buckle in, though, because we have a long way to go. A few of the more 'exciting' (you'll find I use that term pretty loosely) pieces of legislation to hit the hopper this week include reinstating the state's Blue Laws and a resolution to put sports betting on the ballot in November 2026. My current favorite is a bill designating Knife River flint as the North Dakota state rock.

While we've somehow only knocked off two of the allowable 80 constitutional legislative days, we're hearing that legislative leadership has 'done the math,' and expects to be able to move crossover (the deadline for bills to leave their house of origin and a brief two-day recess) up a week on the calendar. It's currently scheduled for February 28, but the new date would be somewhere around February 21. They've applied the same theory to the second period, compounded the interest, and have a goal of adjourning Sine Die sometime in mid-April. Limiting floor sessions and a new rule allowing bills with unanimous committee recommendations to pass or die on the floor via a single consent voice vote (bypassing debate and individual votes) may give them the speed they need to accomplish such a feat. I'm not an odds maker, but I'm not booking a vacation for the last week of April.

UPDATES FROM ICBND'S PRIORITY TRACKING LIST

The first week didn't have too many hearings of interest to ICBND, and we spent most of our time reviewing recently introduced bills. Our work will pick up next week as a few of the bills on our tracking list start to have hearings scheduled. Notably, the Universal Commercial Code update bills, **SB 2123**,

SB 2127, and **SB 2122** have all been scheduled for next week. In addition, legislators seem to be taking a shine to precious metals and digital assets this session: two bills on that topic – **HB 1184** and **HCR 3001** have hearings scheduled for Tuesday. Finally, a bill that would allow DFI to create a data security program (**HB 1127**) will be heard Tuesday afternoon. Here's what we were up to this week:

HB 1080

HB 1080 updates the appraisal management company section of Century Code to better align with federal statutes. Most notably, it defines federally regulated appraisal management companies in order to clarify their exemption from state regulation. We're comfortable with the changes contained within the bill, but tracking it to ensure it doesn't become something else. It was brought at the request of the ND Real Estate Appraiser Qualifications and Ethics Board, and a representative of the board was the only person to testify on the bill (in favor). It received a unanimous do pass recommendation immediately following the hearing and was placed on the House consent calendar.

SB 2028

SB 2028 would shift DFI's budget to a continuing appropriation process. This means rather than go through the legislative budget process each session, the state banking and credit union boards would approve annual or biennial budgets on an ongoing basis. DFI would be required to document revenues and expenditures as required by the Office of Management and Budget and provide biennial reports to the Legislature. Commission Kruse, the North Dakota Bankers Association, and the Dakota Credit Union Association testified in support of the bill. ICBND attended the hearing but did not take a position. We'll continue to track it for now.

WEEK 2 SCHEDULE

Monday, January 13

8:30 AM	SB 2008	DFI Budget	Senate Approps - GO	Red River
9:30 AM	SB 2122	Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act	Senate IBL	Fort Union
10:00 AM	HB 1102	An appropriation for BCI cybercrime resources	House Judiciary	327B
10:00 AM	HB 1152	Definition of residential property	House FinTax	327E
10:30 AM	SB 2123	Uniform Special Deposits Act	Senate IBL	Fort Union

Tuesday, January 14

9:00 AM	HB 1184	Relating to digital asset and precious metal investments	House IBL	327C
9:00 AM	HCR 3001	Resolution encouraging the State to invest in digital assets and precious metals	House IBL	327C
10:00 AM	SB 2014	NDIC & BND Budget	Senate Approps - E&E	Sakakawea
10:30 AM	SB 2014	NDIC & BND Budget	Senate Approps - E&E	Sakakawea
1:30 PM	SB 2014	NDIC & BND Budget	Senate Approps - E&E	Sakakawea
2:00 PM	HB 1127	Financial institution data security program, etc.	House IBL	327C
2:30 PM	SB 2014	NDIC & BND Budget	Senate Approps - E&E	Sakakawea
3:30 PM	SB 2014	NDIC & BND Budget	Senate Approps - E&E	Sakakawea

Wednesday, January 15

9:00 AM	SB 2144	Relating to fees charged by a notary public	Senate IBL	Fort Union
11:00 AM	SB 2127	Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act	Senate Judiciary	Peace Garden

Thursday, January 16

9:30 AM	HB 1141	Using public property for a political purpose	House PoliSubs	327B
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Friday, January 17

No hearings currently scheduled.

LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

January 13	No more than 5 bills may be introduced by each Representative after this date.
January 20	Deadline for Representatives to introduce bills. No more than three bills may be introduced by each Senator after this date. A Senate bill containing an appropriation clause may not be introduced after this date.
January 27	Deadline for Senators to introduce bills.
January 30	Deadline for introducing resolutions except amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota and study resolutions.
February 28	Crossover date for bills
March 3-4	Recess
March 5	Reconvene from crossover break.
March 12	Crossover date for resolutions
May 2	Session limited to 80 legislative days.

Legislator contact information can be found at <https://ndlegis.gov/contact-my-legislators>, and you can check on any legislative activities through the Legislative Council's web page at ndlegis.gov.

Thank you for your participation in the legislative process. Please call, email, or text me with any questions or concerns. If you'd like to be taken off this distribution list or if there are others in your organization that should be receiving these updates, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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