



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



January 31, 2025

Update No. 4

All of the deadlines to introduce bills and resolutions have passed and we currently sit at a total of 1,068. A few more may trickle in as legislative council gets them uploaded to the system, but the number still isn't the record setter that many anticipated. While we are usually a little closer to 900, the 2009 Legislature introduced 1,128 bills.

Now that we have a good idea of what we are working with, major issues like property tax will really start to heat up. There has been a fair bit of chatter in the halls this week as the Governor's bill has not moved out of committee while legislators hear other bills with other ideas. The Governor had hoped his plan would move through quickly, but legislators often prefer to weigh all their options. Some of the natural friction that arises between the branches is starting to simmer. The Governor's office is going to be aggressive in delivering on a major campaign promise, but the Legislature may be more reserved in finding a solution. The issue suddenly has more sides than usual. Various factions have started to pop up making the oddest of bedfellows – some oppose the primary residence credits because they aren't generous enough and other oppose them because they exclude ag lands. Still more oppose them because they're too generous. Political subdivision groups are struggling to unite their memberships around a cap. We will see how it all plays out, but one thing is for certain – a session that ends without significant reform and relief will be a failure for nearly all involved.

ICBND DAY AT THE CAPITOL

It's not too late to register for the upcoming ICBND Day at the Capitol on February 12! ICBND's Board of Directors and Emerging Leaders will meet with and hear from **Governor Kelly Armstrong, Legislative Leadership, DFI Commissioner Lisa Kruse, and BND President & CEO Don Morgan** for an exclusive breakfast on the 18th floor of the State Capitol before attending committee hearings and floor session later in the day. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.icbnd.com/events/day-at-the-capitol>.

UPDATES FROM ICBND'S PRIORITY TRACKING LIST

Next week's work will feature the hearing for **HB 1278**, the cash management bill, on Wednesday morning. As it stands now, all parties (bill sponsors, BND, and the Governor's office) have agreed to significant amendments to the bill. These amendments remove most of the provisions ICBND found

problematic in the bill and refocuses the bill on creating a cash management advisory board to review and develop policies with a goal of managing moneys in the state treasury. ICBND is much more comfortable with these amendments than the original bill.

In addition to the cash management hearing, **SB 2014**, the appropriations bill that includes BND's budget, will have a hearing on Tuesday. An amendment will be offered to exempt certain loan documents from public records laws. Because this is a policy change, the committee chairman wanted to ensure it had a public hearing outside of the appropriations hearing. ICBND is supportive of this amendment.

Here's what we've been up to this week:

HB 1378

HB 1378, a bill that would require lenders to pay interest on escrow accounts and provide reports to the Department of Financial Institutions, received an 11-2-1 Do Pass as amended recommendation early this week. Most of the committee work was completed while a number of committee members were absent, allowing the bill sponsor and allies to dominate the debate. The bill was amended to remove some reporting requirements, remove the penalty language, and exempt NDHFA. However, thanks to your efforts, we've been able to secure a good number of NO votes and are gaining momentum. Our request to have the bill 'held over' until Monday was granted, which means we have the weekend to keep working votes. *If you haven't had a chance to email your representatives yet to ask them to vote **NO** on **HB 1378**, there is still time! You can watch the floor debate on Monday here.*

SB 2310

SB 2310, a bill to increase the garnishment fee to \$40 was heard on Monday. ICBND and NDBA supported the bill. There was no opposition, and the bill received at 5-0 Do Pass recommendation from the committee. On Wednesday, the bill passed the Senate in a 46-0 vote and will now go to the House for consideration.

SB 2028

This is the bill that would change the appropriation process for the Department of Financial Institutions to a continuing appropriation, allowing the bank and credit union boards to approve the agency's annual budget. It was heard before the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee on Tuesday, January 28. Some members of the committee had some heartburn over the bill, but the committee has not taken any action yet. ICBND was neutral on the bill.

HB 1507

HB 1507, the cooperative bank charter bill, was heard by the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee on Tuesday, January 28 as well. This bill would establish a charter for cooperative banks in North Dakota and allow certain other financial institutions to convert their charters to a cooperative bank charter. The bill's primary sponsor, Rep. Vollmer, introduced the bill before DFI Deputy Commissioner Corey Krebs testified in support of the bill. ICBND did not take a position. The committee has not taken any action on the bill.

NEXT WEEK'S HEARING SCHEDULE

Monday, February 3

2:30 PM	SB 2356	Contents of a legal description for a deed	Senate IB	Fort Union
---------	---------	--	-----------	------------

Tuesday, February 4

9:00 AM	SB 2014	NDIC/BND Budget	Senate Appropriations	Sakakawea
---------	---------	-----------------	-----------------------	-----------

10:00 AM	HB 1372	Litigation financing	House IBL	327C
----------	---------	----------------------	-----------	------

Wednesday, February 5

9:00 AM	HB 1278	Cash Management	House Finance & Tax	327E
---------	---------	-----------------	---------------------	------

2:30 PM	HB 1608	Employee leave for rest and worship	House IBL	327C
---------	---------	-------------------------------------	-----------	------

Thursday, February 6

No hearings scheduled at this time.

Friday, February 7

No hearings scheduled at this time.

LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

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,

Alexis D. Baxley

alexisb@icbnd.com

701.258.7121 (office) | 701.870.4167 (cell)
