



# The Capitol Tablet

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

*Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent*

The 2015 Legislature is over, at least for now. The “for now” refers to business that the House and Senate left unfinished when they adjourned “sine die” (Latin for “let’s get out of here”) on Wednesday, April 29, the 78<sup>th</sup> day of the session.

The two chambers could not agree on rules for overseeing the work of the [Sanford Health Plan](#), the company that is taking over from [Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota](#) this summer as the health insurance provider for state employees and their dependents.

The disputed language was included in [SB2022](#), the budget bill for the [North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System](#) and the state [Retirement and Investment Office](#). It was resurrected from [HB1475](#), a late bill that was approved by the House but defeated unanimously in the Senate.

PERS administers health insurance and pension benefits for [state and some local government employees](#). RIO oversees the investment of [state and municipal pension and trust funds](#). One of the funds is the [Teachers’ Fund for Retirement](#). Superintendent of Public Instruction Kirsten Baesler serves on the [TFFR board](#).

North Dakota lawmakers worked on the session’s two principal education bills until shortly before adjournment.

The first, [SB2013](#), was the Department of Public Instruction’s \$2.33 billion budget. It includes \$2 billion in state aid payments to schools, including \$1.92 billion in payments that will be distributed by the Legislature’s education finance formula.

That formula is detailed in the second bill, [SB2031](#). [SB2031](#) increases per-student payments to school districts by 3 percent annually during the next two years. They will rise from the current \$9,092 to \$9,365 in 2015-16 and \$9,646 in 2016-17.

During the 2015 Legislature, the Department of Public Instruction tracked 176 bills, 85 of which were approved and 91 that were defeated.

Here are summaries of some of the more significant bills that were approved:

[HB1085](#) requires the Department of Public Instruction and other agencies that get federal money to draw up a contingency plan in case their federal funds are reduced by at least 5 percent, and to disclose whether they would ask for state money to make up the loss. The bill also requires any agency that applies for a federal grant of \$25,000 or more to first notify the state [Office of Management and Budget](#).

[HB1087](#) says a North Dakota student who is part of the Class of 2017 must score at least 60 percent on a [civics exam](#) to graduate. It is the same test that new Americans must pass before they can be granted citizenship. The passing score rises to 70 percent for the Class of 2018 and later.

[HB1251](#) shortens the amount of time a public school teacher has to accept or reject a proffered contract. School boards still must make a contract offer no later than May 1, but the teacher must make a decision in 14 days instead of 30. Contract negotiations between the board and its teacher bargaining unit must also begin within 30 days after the bargaining group is recognized by the board, unless both sides agree to a later start.

[HB1426](#) raises from \$100,000 to \$150,000 the threshold at which the superintendent of public instruction must review a proposed school construction project.

[HB1471](#) is a bill of rights for student journalists working in school-sponsored media. It applies to public schools and North Dakota's public university system. It says student journalists have the right to decide the content of school-supported media, if the content is not libelous or illegal, does not incite violence or lawbreaking, and is not "an unwarranted invasion of privacy." The bill requires school districts to adopt a policy on freedom of expression.

[SB2031](#), Section 7, puts the Department of Public Instruction in charge of developing an electronic customer-satisfaction survey for the [Education Standards and Practices Board](#), which is the state's teacher licensing agency. The Legislature wants the survey in place by June 1. Callers to the ESPB will be asked to rate the quality and promptness of its service and the courtesy, knowledge and responsiveness of its staff

[SB2048](#) says a North Dakota public school teacher must be trained in detecting possible student mental health problems to get a teaching license. The instruction

must include training in recognizing symptoms of mental health problems and knowing the risks they pose; instruction about the social stigma of mental illness; and how to protect a young person with mental health problems. School districts must provide at least eight hours of training on youth mental health issues every two years to elementary, middle and high school teachers and administrators. School support staff will also be encouraged to take part.

[SB2145](#) gives [regional education associations](#), [special education units](#) and boards of career and technology centers authority to ask the state [Bureau of Criminal Investigation](#) to conduct criminal background checks on their employees. The bill also authorizes the superintendent of public instruction to request a background check of an employee at a nonpublic school on behalf of that school.

[SB2151](#) establishes, for the first time, state support for local, voluntary early childhood education programs in North Dakota. The \$3 million bill provides a \$2,000 grant to help cover the cost of early childhood education for a 4-year-old who qualifies for a free school lunch, and a \$1,000 grant for a 4-year-old who qualifies for reduced-price meals. The bill requires school district superintendents to organize a meeting of local public and private early childhood education providers to explore options for starting a program. Grants may not be awarded until July 1, 2016.

[SB2181](#) says a school board must keep its minutes permanently, and its payroll and expense records for at least five years. The bill gives the school board explicit authority to supervise, hire, fire and discipline the school district's business manager, unless the board approves an alternative supervisory structure.

[SB2209](#) requires school districts to offer at least two hours of training each year on spotting indicators that a student may be at risk of suicide. The training must be available for middle and high school teachers and staff.

[SB2326](#) says a committee that oversees the [Statewide Longitudinal Data System](#) must establish access and data protection policies for the system's information. SLDS includes data on elementary and secondary students, university students, and information about North Dakota's workforce. The committee must establish a procedure for notifying affected people if a data breach happens, and conduct privacy and security audits of the system every two years. The bill also requires school boards to adopt policies on the protection of student data.

[SB4003](#) is a proposed constitutional amendment that will appear on the North Dakota ballot in November 2016. It would authorize the Legislature to spend

money that is now locked in in the state’s [“foundation aid stabilization fund”](#) on education-related initiatives.

The fund, which has more than \$600 million in assets, now may be tapped only if there is a shortfall in state aid to schools. A separate measure, [SB2039](#), authorizes spending from the foundation aid fund on college scholarships and school construction loans if voters approve the constitutional amendment.

Both [SB2013](#) and [SB2031](#) include a number of proposed studies. Some are mandatory, while a few will be done by state agencies, rather than a legislative committee.

These are the two studies that the [Legislative Management Committee](#) is required to do in the run-up to the 2017 session:

[SB2031](#), Section 29, requires a study of North Dakota’s K-12 [math](#) and [English](#) learning standards, including a comparison of North Dakota’s standards with those of other states whose students are high academic achievers. The study requires a review of North Dakota’s student assessments and whether they are necessary, as well as a look at assessments used elsewhere.

[SB2013](#), Section 28, establishes a 14-member School District Reporting Review Committee with Superintendent Baesler as chair. The panel’s goal is to streamline the state and federal information reporting requirements that school districts must follow, and to advocate the elimination of reports that are judged to be unneeded or duplicative.

The Legislature also approved a number of optional study proposals. The [Legislative Management Committee](#) will decide May 27 which of these will be studied during the interim. Here’s a list:

[HB1168](#) requests a study of ways the Legislature could change state law and the state’s education aid formula to provide financial help to school districts with declining enrollment. (That was the intent of the bill’s sponsors; the wording of the study resolution is more general.)

[HB1188](#) suggests that the Legislative Management Committee create a task force to study procedures for school district annexations, reorganizations, and dissolutions, and “options for instituting (school district) boundary changes in the case of significant educational or financial impacts.”

[HCR3045](#) is a suggested study of how the automation of [State Library](#) data should be updated to better track its inventory, books and other items that patrons have borrowed, orders that have been made and bills that have been paid.

[HCR3051](#) seeks a study of North Dakota's new learning standards for [math](#) and [English](#) and how they were developed, and an examination of how potential changes to federal education law will change "federal requirements regarding standards, student assessments and overall accountability."

[SB2013](#), Section 23, suggests a study of school busing programs and the adequacy of the state reimbursement that offsets the cost of operating them.

[SB2013](#), Section 24, asks for a study of teacher retention policies, including an exploration of why many new teachers leave the profession early in their careers. It would require the Department of Public Instruction to provide exit interview forms that school districts would use when a teacher departs. The information would be compiled and reported to the [Legislative Management Committee](#).

[SB2013](#), Section 25, is a proposed legislative study of North Dakota's education service providers, including the [Education Standards and Practices Board](#), the [North Dakota STEM Network](#), the [Center for Distance Education](#), [EduTech](#), and North Dakota's [eight regional education associations](#). The study is aimed at suggesting ways of how the organizations can improve their services and work more closely together.

[SB2031](#), Section 36, requests a study of [career and technical education opportunities](#) available to North Dakota students, including a look at how well CTE programs are funded, equipped and monitored to ensure they provide up-to-date skills.

[SB2031](#), Section 37, seeks a study of North Dakota's teacher training programs, including which courses they include, student teaching opportunities, and the availability and quality of teacher mentoring programs.

[SCR4012](#) asks for a study of North Dakota's laws on the privacy, security and sharing of data and how they interact with federal data privacy and security laws. The resolution says that "current privacy, security and data sharing protections may not meet the reasonable expectations of the citizens of North Dakota."

[SCR4018](#) seeks an interim study of seclusion and restraint procedures used to isolate students, saying the state does not track use of these practices. The study resolution says North Dakota is one of 18 states that “does not have laws directly addressing the use of seclusion and restraint procedures in schools.”

Now that the Legislature has done its work, the labors of implementation start. Good luck, everyone, and thank you for your support.

**Department of Public Instruction  
Legislative Bill Tracker  
Friday, May 1, 2015**

<b>School Construction and Transportation</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">HB1121</a>	Transportation	Changes commercial driver’s license rules.	Senate Transportation	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">HB1182</a>	Mooney, Bowman	Requests an interim legislative study of bidding procedures on public works projects.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 3/25
<a href="#">HB1284</a>	Bellew	Requires a ballot for a bond election to include the maximum amount of debt being proposed, how long it will take to pay off, the proposed increase in property tax rates, and the impact on a taxpayer’s property tax bill.	Senate GVA	Signed by governor, 4/13
<a href="#">HB1426</a>	Steiner	Increases the financial threshold at which the superintendent of public instruction is required to approve a school construction project from \$100K to \$150K.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 3/25
<a href="#">HB1443</a>	Carlson, Cook	Creates a \$150M infrastructure revolving loan fund at the Bank of North Dakota to provide loans to political subdivisions for essential infrastructure projects.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/23
<a href="#">HB1470</a>	Kelsh	Requires a health care provider who gives a physical to a school bus driver to forward any bill to the driver’s insurance company. Any charges left after the insurance company’s payment must be paid by the school board.	Senate Transportation	Signed by governor, 3/16

<a href="#">SB2149</a>	Burckhard, Frantsvog	Requires that architectural or engineering plans, drawings and specifications be stamped and sealed by the time a public improvement project is put out for bids. Says the project must be advertised in a daily newspaper with circulation in the project area.	House Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 3/20
<a href="#">SB2171</a>	Klein, Amerman	Allows a governing board to negotiate a general, electrical or mechanical amendment to a construction contract worth up to \$150K without rebidding the project.	House IBL	Signed by governor, 4/8
<a href="#">SB2178</a>	Schaible, Kempenich	Specifies that a school facility built by a nonprofit corporation and leased back to the school district is a “public facility” owned by the school district. Affects contracts made between Nov. 1, 2013, and Dec. 31, 2013. Law expires June 30, 2017.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/28
<a href="#">SB2181</a>	Rust, Kelsh	Requires the school board to keep its minutes permanently and its payroll and expenditure records for five years. Gives the school board explicit authority to supervise, hire, fire and discipline the school district’s business manager, unless the board has approved an alternative supervisory structure. Requires the business manager to personally present all financial reports to the school board.	House Education	Signed by governor, 4/8
<a href="#">SB2188</a>	Klein, Louser	Allows civil financial penalties to be levied against unlicensed contractors. Says working as a contractor without a license is a crime, punishable by a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Provides for felony prosecutions for construction fraud, depending on the amount paid to a fraudulent contractor.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/15
<a href="#">SB2246</a>	Klein, Brandenburg	Threshold for bidding the procurement of plans, drawings or specifications from an architect or engineer for construction of a public improvement increased from \$100K to \$150K for projects not involving water, sewer or solid waste disposal. Requests a legislative interim study of bidding thresholds.	House Political Subdivisions	Failed in House, 19-69, 3/23

<a href="#">SB2375</a>	Bekkedahl, Hatlestad	Requests an interim legislative study about the potential use of community facilities districts to finance public improvements.	House Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 3/30
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## School Finance

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1033</a>	Legis Mgmt	Specifies how budget director calculates the Legacy Fund balance.	Senate Appropriations	Vetoed by governor, 4/15; veto sustained when Senate tabled bill, 4/28
<a href="#">HB1034</a>	Legis Mgmt	Specifies the procedure used for across-the-board budget reductions ordered by the governor.	Senate Appropriations	Signed by governor, 4/15
<a href="#">HB1055</a>	Legis Mgmt	Use cents instead of mills to calculate property tax owed. Suggests that counties provide financial information in a uniform format.	Senate F&T	Failed in Senate, 4-42
<a href="#">HB1168</a>	Pollert, Dotzenrod	Requests an interim legislative study on how school districts should be required to demonstrate an enrollment decline.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">HB1176</a>	Kempenich, Bowman	Increases the local government share of oil production tax revenues from 25 percent to 30 percent. Original bill pegged the local share at 60 percent. Expands the definition of "hub cities" that are eligible for additional oil tax revenues.	Senate Appropriations	Signed by governor, 4/27
<a href="#">HB1193</a>	Klemin, Burckhard	Broadens ability of school districts to invest in government debt, housing finance bonds and private commercial paper.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 3/26
<a href="#">HB1194</a>	Klemin, Burckhard	Allows school districts to borrow up to \$500K, using future revenues as collateral, from a North Dakota bank or credit union.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 4/9
<a href="#">HB1216</a>	B. Koppelman, Laffen	Requests an interim legislative study of how the state education funding formula should handle problems caused by enrollment fluctuations.	Senate Education	Failed in Senate, 5-42, 3/12
<a href="#">SB2015</a>	Appropriations	Budget for Office of Management and Budget.	Conference Committee	Passed in Senate, 45-2, and House, 72-16, 4/28

<a href="#">SB2031</a>	Legis Mgmt	Main education funding bill. Sets weighting factors and per-student payments to school districts.	Conference Committee	Passed in Senate, 47-0, and House, 86-4, 4/27
<a href="#">SB2103</a>	Armstrong, Louser	The “surge” bill. Allocates \$1.1B to local governments for public works projects and oil impact aid.	House Appropriations	Signed by governor, 2/24
<a href="#">SB2172</a>	Bekkedahl, Frantsvog	Specifies when the state treasurer must distribute certain oil tax revenues, and when the money must be counted as revenue.	House F&T	Signed by governor, 3/27
<a href="#">SB2217</a>	Unruh, Dockter	Requires unelected governing boards that can levy property taxes to provide annual financial reports that disclose their ending fund balances.	House F&T	Signed by governor, 3/25
<a href="#">SCR4003</a>	Legis Mgmt	A constitutional amendment that changes the flow of oil money into the foundation aid stabilization fund and allows the Legislature to spend money from the fund for “education-related purposes” if its balance is greater than 15 percent of the general fund appropriation for state aid to school districts. .	Conference Committee	Passed in Senate, 47-0, and House, 68-21, 4/28

<b>Early Childhood Education</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">HB1410</a>	Hawken, Davison	Appropriates \$4,900 to the Department of Human Services for Head Start grants.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 4/22
<a href="#">SB2080</a>	Human Services	Requires a license for group child care if early childhood services are provided for at least eight and no more than 30 children at any one time (previous top limit was 18 children). Requires a child care center license if early childhood services are provided for more than 30 children.	House Human Services	Signed by governor, 3/18
<a href="#">SB2151</a>	Flakoll, Dosch	Sets out rules and provides a \$3 million appropriation for an early childhood education grant program that would benefit 4-year-olds who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Invites communities to cooperate in applying for state early childhood education grants.	House Appropriations	Signed by governor, 4/17

## Special Education

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1046</a>	Legis Mgmt	Appropriates \$375K to the Department of Human Services to provide services for people with traumatic brain injuries aimed at helping them to work and live independently. Appropriates \$50K to DHS for coordination of services to people with traumatic brain injuries.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/27
<a href="#">HB1108</a>	Human Services	Changes law to refer to “individuals” with disabilities, instead of “persons.”	Senate Human Services	Signed by governor, 3/25
<a href="#">HB1256</a>	D. Anderson	Expands the definition of brain injury beyond “traumatic” injury to include any brain injury not caused by birth trauma.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/16
<a href="#">HB1366</a>	Maragos, Oehlke	Requires the School for the Deaf to collaborate with school districts to ensure children who are deaf or hard of hearing are getting proper services.	Senate Human Services	Signed by governor, 4/15
<a href="#">HCR3005</a>	Legis Mgmt	Asks for a legislative interim study of the state’s system of care for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, whether the system is effective, and whether there are any gaps in services.	Senate Human Services	Filed with secretary of state, 4/6
<a href="#">SB2176</a>	Heckaman, Rohr	Says any medical professional who is “qualified by training and by licensure or certification” to report cases of autism spectrum disorder to the state Health Department’s database. Says an “independent practitioner” may do a physical evaluation of the person suspected of having autism spectrum disorder.	House Human Services	Signed by governor, 4/9
<a href="#">SB2218</a>	Axness, Hawken	Appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Human Services to provide leisure, recreational and educational programs for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities.	House Human Services	Failed in House, 40-53, 4/1
<a href="#">SB2234</a>	Dever, Brandenburg	Requires the Department of Human Services to study medical assistance developmental disability waivers and report to the Legislative Management Committee by Jan. 1.	House Human Services	Signed by governor, 3/25

## Teacher and School Effectiveness

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1045</a>	Legis Mgmt	Disclosure required of changes to the accreditation status of private colleges. Institutions must inform potential students about any accreditation problems.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">HB1087</a>	Nathe, Heckaman	Require students to pass civics exam before they may graduate from high school.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 1/30
<a href="#">HB1151</a>	Nathe, Armstrong	Extends higher education “challenge grant” program into 2015-17 biennium, with \$23.5M appropriation. Provides \$1 in public funds for \$2 in private donations. Prohibits use of grant funds for athletic scholarships and building construction and repairs, provides money for administration of grants, and requests an interim legislative study of the effectiveness of the program.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/23
<a href="#">SB2074</a>	Heckaman, Delmore	College students retain eligibility for North Dakota academic or career and technical education scholarships if they take a 12-credit load that includes at least six credits for an internship or other “external experience.”	House Appropriations	Signed by governor, 4/20
<a href="#">SB2075</a>	Heckaman, Delmore	Students may use a North Dakota academic or career and technical education scholarship to help pay for graduate school if they have completed three or fewer years of an undergraduate program or have collected less than the \$6,000 scholarship maximum.	House Appropriations	Signed by governor, 4/20
<a href="#">SB2089</a>	Education	Counts credits earned in high school at a North Dakota college toward the eligibility requirement for a North Dakota academic scholarship.	House Education	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">SB2210</a>	G. Lee, D. Johnson	Changes the criteria for establishing regional education associations.	House Education	Failed in House, 40-48, 3/12
<a href="#">SB2288</a>	Schaible, Brandenburg	Authorizes the Bank of North Dakota to develop a “gap scholarship program” to supplement student financial aid.	House Education	Failed in House, 21-67, 3/23
<a href="#">HCR3058</a>	Mock	Requests an interim legislative study of school attendance incentives.	House Education	Failed in House, 23-70, 3/16

## Safe and Healthy Schools

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1029</a>	Legis Mgmt	Child abuse and child neglect made into separate offenses.	Senate Judiciary	Signed by governor, 3/20
<a href="#">HB1195</a>	Kiefert, Armstrong	Gives the board of a public or private school the authority to allow a person to carry a concealed gun on school grounds, if the person has a state concealed-carry permit, training in emergency response and protection of potential victims, and permission from the board.	Senate Education	Failed in Senate, 17-28, 3/20
<a href="#">HB1347</a>	Meier, Davison	Includes “victim of human trafficking” in the definition of a deprived child. Includes human trafficking within the state definition of the crime of disorderly conduct.	Senate Judiciary	Signed by governor, 4/1
<a href="#">HB1450</a>	B. Koppelman, Larsen	Allows someone to bring a gun onto college or university property if it is locked in the person’s vehicle. Says a handgun with a magazine or clip is not considered loaded unless there is a round in the gun’s chamber.	Senate ENR	Signed by governor, 4/15
<a href="#">SB2046</a>	Legis Mgmt	Allows the Department of Human Services to make Medicaid payments to licensed marriage and family therapists on behalf of clients, starting Jan. 1.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/22
<a href="#">SB2047</a>	Legis Mgmt	Gives the Department of Human Services rulemaking authority to define which mental health professionals may provide supervision and treatment plans at a psychiatric facility for children.	House Human Services	Signed by governor, 3/13
<a href="#">SB2048</a>	Legis Mgmt	Requires licensed North Dakota teachers to have training in spotting youth mental health disorders, and provides time for North Dakota teachers and those coming in from out of state time to get the needed training.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/27
<a href="#">SB2104</a>	Anderson, Rick C. Becker	Someone using a Naloxone “rescue kit” on a drug overdose victim would be protected against being sued or charged with a crime for doing so. Naloxone is a drug used to help in the recovery of someone who has overdosed on narcotics.	House Human Services	Signed by governor, 4/8

<a href="#">SB2209</a>	Heckaman, Hunskor	Requires school districts to provide at least two hours of training annually for middle school and high school instructional staff, teachers and administrators on spotting suicide risk indicators.	House Education	Signed by governor, 4/1
<a href="#">SB2348</a>	Heckaman, Mock	Says anyone who is expected to use an automated external defibrillator should have training in its use, using the most recent nationally recognized course.	House Human Services	Signed by governor, 4/13
<a href="#">SCR4005</a>	Legis Mgmt	A proposed legislative interim study of behavioral health needs for children and adults, including procedures for terminating parental rights.	House Judiciary	Filed with secretary of state, 3/31

### Child Nutrition

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1027</a>	Legis Mgmt	Schools may buy milk at wholesale prices. Included in an overhaul of the law that governs the Milk Marketing Board.	Senate Agriculture	Signed by governor, 3/16

### Indian Education

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1129</a>	House IBL	Allows workforce grants for tribal community colleges to be used to improve training programs as well as to develop them.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">HCR3006</a>	Legis Mgmt	Asks for a legislative interim study of possible disparities in services provided to juvenile delinquent youth in tribal courts versus state courts, and whether it is workable to have state, tribal and federal collaboration in providing services to juvenile delinquents in tribal courts.	Senate GVA	Filed with secretary of state, 4/6
<a href="#">HCR3053</a>	Oversen, Heckaman	Requests an interim legislative study of American Indian support programs at North Dakota's colleges.	House Education	Failed in House, 45-48, 3/16

<a href="#">SB2226</a>	Schaible, D. Anderson	Authorizes the governor to negotiate oil and gas tax sharing agreements with the Standing Rock Sioux and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa tribes. The governor is already authorized to negotiate an agreement with the Three Affiliated Tribes.	Conference committee	Passed in House, 89-2, 4/24
<a href="#">SB2241</a>	Marcellais, Nelson	Requests a legislative study about whether the Department of Commerce should establish satellite offices on each of North Dakota's five American Indian reservations.	House IBL	Failed in House, 25-63, 3/23

## Policy and Governance

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1019</a>	Appropriations	Career and Technical Education budget.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/24
<a href="#">HB1083</a>	Becker, Dever	Required study of the cost of federal mandates.	Senate GVA	Signed by governor, 4/8
<a href="#">HB1171</a>	Ruby, Armstrong	Requires traffic fines to be deposited in the state highway tax distribution fund, instead of the state common schools trust fund, beginning August 1, 2015.	Senate Transportation	Failed in Senate, 3-44, 3/16
<a href="#">HB1188</a>	Sukut, Krebsbach	Asks the Legislative Management committee to consider creating a task force to discuss school district boundary issues and the rules affecting annexations, reorganizations and dissolutions.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 4/8
<a href="#">HB1251</a>	Monson, Luick	Shortens the minimum time period that a teacher has to accept or reject a proffered contract from 30 days to 14 days. Requires negotiations to begin no later than 30 days after the school district recognizes the teacher bargaining unit. Bars retroactive salary increases if negotiations haven't been completed before school begins.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 3/27
<a href="#">HB1283</a>	B. Koppelman, Larsen	Says a parent may tell a school district not to give a specific assessment to a student, as long as it is not required to finish a grade or graduate from high school. Test refusal directives are good for one year and may not apply to the ACT or WorkKeys assessments. The test refusal law expires on June 30, 2017.	Conference Committee	Failed in House, 7-83, 4/13

<a href="#">HB1315</a>	Monson, Luick	Allows a school board to raise the pay for a vacant teaching position to attract a highly qualified teacher, even if the salary is not in compliance with the school district's contract with its teachers. The higher salary could not be reduced in future years.	Senate Education	Failed in Senate, 6-40, 3/25
<a href="#">HB1316</a>	Monson, Luick	Says a school administrator who serves as both a principal and superintendent must have the procedural rights of a superintendent when he or she is evaluated. The school board must follow the procedures used for a superintendent when taking steps to terminate the person, or non-renew the person's contract.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 3/25
<a href="#">HB1459</a>	Boehning, Klein	Requests a legislative interim study of alternatives to political subdivision bonding, such as building authorities, as a way to finance building construction.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Failed in Senate, 0-46, 3/31
<a href="#">HB1466</a>	Schatz, Larsen	Creates a school district administrator compensation review commission and requires it to compile a report that compares salaries and benefits for school district and college administrators, both statewide and nationally.	Senate Education	Failed in Senate, 2-43, 3/19
<a href="#">HB1470</a>	Kelsh	Requires a health care provider who gives a physical to a school bus driver to forward any bill to the driver's insurance company. Any charges left after the insurance company's payment must be paid by the school board.	Senate Transportation	Signed by governor, 3/16
<a href="#">HB1471</a>	Looyesen, Grabinger	Outlines the rights of student journalists at North Dakota colleges and public schools.	Senate Education	Signed by governor, 4/9
<a href="#">SB2015</a>	Appropriations	Budget for Office of Management and Budget	House Appropriations	Passed in House, 45-2, and Senate, 72-16, 4/28
<a href="#">SB2039</a>	Legis Mgmt	Creates new funds to provide college scholarships and low-interest loans for school construction. Provides money transfers into the funds if voters approve <a href="#">SCR4003</a> , a constitutional amendment that would allow the money to be switched from the foundation aid stabilization fund.	Conference Committee	Passed in Senate, 47-0, and House, 90-0, 4/27
<a href="#">SB2088</a>	Education	Authorizes the superintendent of public instruction to create a North Dakota Education Foundation with a board of seven members.	House Appropriations	Failed in House, 36-56, 4/15

<a href="#">SB2092</a>	Education	A school board whose district was part of a voter-approved reorganization plan may not make contracts or obligate the district before the plan takes effect, unless the agreements are approved by the board of every other school district participating in the reorganization.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/15
<a href="#">SB2145</a>	Davison, P. Anderson	Allows public and nonpublic school boards, as well as boards of multidistrict special education units, area career and technology centers and regional education associations, to request criminal history record checks on current employees and prospective new hires. The respective board would be responsible for paying the expense of the criminal history check.	House Education	Signed by governor, 4/1
<a href="#">SB2152</a>	Schaible, B. Koppelman	Allows a school board to delegate to the superintendent, or the district's top administrator, the authority to suspend school district employees, except for teachers, principals or assistant or associate superintendents.	House Education	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">SB2229</a>	Davison, Boehning	Eliminates a requirement that Fargo's school board have nine members. Eliminates outdated provision that ordered school boards with three members to increase to five members.	House Education	Signed by governor, 3/12
<a href="#">SB2315</a>	Campbell, Monson	Raises the damages limit on lawsuits against political subdivisions from \$500K to \$1M for claims involving more than one person. The \$250K limit for an injury to a single person remains the same. This bill is in response to the Larimore school bus accident.	House Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 3/25
<a href="#">SB2355</a>	Davison Carlson	Orders the Education Standards and Practices Board to hire a private company to develop a survey to allow the board's customers to give their opinions about how they were treated. Requests an interim legislative study about how the ESPB and other education services providers can improve how they work together.	House Education	Failed in House, 45-42, 3/23
<a href="#">HCR3014</a>	Kasper, Bowman	Asks that North Dakota request a convention of the states to amend the U.S. Constitution to impose spending restraint, limit the federal government's power and limit the terms of federal officeholders.	Senate GVA	Failed in Senate, 15-31, 3/24

<a href="#">HCR3015</a>	Dosch, Casper	Asks that North Dakota request a convention of the states to amend the U.S. Constitution to propose a balanced budget amendment.	Senate GVA	Filed with secretary of state, 3/31
<a href="#">HCR3017</a>	Fehr, Armstrong	Requests a convention of the states to draft a “countermand amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, which would allow states to repeal “any law or ruling by Congress, the president, or other regulatory body.”	Senate GVA	Failed in Senate, 16-30, 3/24
<a href="#">HCR3022</a>	Skarphol, Armstrong	Amends the North Dakota Constitution to say North Dakota is an “inseparable part” of the Union and that the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land “to which all government, state and federal, is subject.”	House Judiciary	Failed in Senate, 16-30, 3/26
<a href="#">HCR3051</a>	Steiner, Miller	Requests an interim legislative study of “all aspects of the development and implementation” of the Common Core math and English learning standards.	Senate Education	Filed with secretary of state, 4/10
<a href="#">SCR4011</a>	Cook, Meier	Asks Congress to clarify the role of the U.S. Department of Education with state education agencies, and urges closer cooperation between the Education Department and state education agencies.	Conference Committee	Failed in House, 25-64, 4/10
<a href="#">SCR4014</a>	Armstrong, Schneider	Requests an interim legislative study of how the Legacy Fund should be managed.	House GVA	Filed with secretary of state, 3/26
<a href="#">SCR4018</a>	Dever	Requests an interim legislative study of seclusion and restraint procedures used in schools.	House Education	Filed with secretary of state, 3/26

## Technology

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1021</a>	Appropriations	Information Technology Department budget.	Conference Committee	Sent to governor, 4/27
<a href="#">HB1053</a>	Legis Mgmt	Requires 29 state agencies, including the Department of Public Instruction, to get desktop support from the Information Technology Department.	Senate GVA	Failed in Senate, 4-43, 3/30
<a href="#">HB1162</a>	Nathe, Poolman	A House version of SB2031. Increases the number of teacher professional development days from two to three, starting with the 2016-17 school year. Makes changes to various weighting factors for state aid to schools.	Senate Appropriations	Defeated in Senate, 2-45, 4/28

<a href="#">SB2326</a>	Poolman, Nathe	Requires school boards to adopt policies on the protection of student data. Requires the state longitudinal data system committee to establish access standards to SLDS data, implement data protection policies, establish a procedure for notifying affected people if a breach occurs, and conduct privacy and security audits of the system every two years.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/20
<a href="#">SCR4012</a>	J. Lee, Holman	Requests an interim legislative study of privacy, security and data-sharing laws in North Dakota.	House GVA	Filed with secretary of state, 3/26

<b>DPI Budget and Fiscal</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">HB1085</a>	Becker, Cook	Requires state agencies to report every two years on the amount of federal funds they receive, and what their plans are if those federal funds are reduced by 5 percent or more.	Senate GVA	Signed by governor, 4/13
<a href="#">HB1138</a>	Skarphol, Hogue	Asks Legislature to adopt an agreement advocating a specific balanced-budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and petition Congress to submit the amendment to the states for ratification.	Senate GVA	Signed by governor, 4/1
<a href="#">HB1294</a>	Oversen, Heckaman	Prohibits an employer from firing, disciplining or discriminating against an employee for discussing employee compensation with someone else.	Senate IBL	Failed in Senate, 20-26, 4/2
<a href="#">HB1444</a>	Schatz	Says state agencies and the higher education system must include in any employment contract a provision that allows the person to be fired for cause without paying the remainder of the contract. Restricts severance payments.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Failed in Senate, 4-43, 3/30
<a href="#">SB2013</a>	Appropriations	Department of Public Instruction budget. Includes \$1.9 billion in state education aid formula payments.	Conference Committee	Approved in Senate, 47-0, and House, 87-3, 4/28
<a href="#">SB2272</a>	Axness, Hogan	Orders the Department of Human Services to increase its payment rates for Medicaid coverage of physical, occupational and speech therapy.	House Appropriations	Failed in House, 17-75, 4/13
<a href="#">SCR4001</a>	Legis Mgmt	Requests a legislative interim study of the financial reports that local governments must submit, whether they are being used, and whether they could be improved, consolidated or abolished.	House Political Subdivisions	Filed with secretary of state, 3/19

## Human Resources

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Description	Committee	Status
<a href="#">HB1038</a>	Legis Mgmt	Says that state employee health insurance may cover telemedicine services if the coverage is negotiated. Limits telemedicine coverage to two years.	Senate Human Services	Signed by governor, 4/9
<a href="#">HB1062</a>	Legis Mgmt	Technical changes in North Dakota state pension plan.	Senate GVA	Signed by governor, 3/26
<a href="#">HB1080</a>	House GVA	Increase pension contributions, raise retirement age.	Senate GVA	Failed in Senate, 14-33, 4/7
<a href="#">HB1185</a>	Delzer	Says the Emergency Commission may only authorize temporary or contract employees.	Senate Appropriations	Failed in Senate, 1-46, 4/8
<a href="#">HB1202</a>	Ruby, Campbell	Allows a private employer to withhold pay for unused time off if the employee leaves, if the withholding is allowed by company policy and the employee has been told of that policy.	Senate IBL	Signed by governor, 4/9
<a href="#">HB1244</a>	Haak, Davison	Allows state employees to take up to six weeks' sick leave to care for a newborn or adopted child during the child's first six months in the home.	Conference Committee	Signed by governor, 4/20
<a href="#">HB1246</a>	Streyle, Armstrong	Requires that the value of the entire compensation of North Dakota state employees, including wages and benefits, must be included when making any pay and benefit comparisons with other labor markets.	Senate GVA	Failed in Senate, 4-43, 3/30
<a href="#">HB1337</a>	Devlin, Flakoll	Allows public agencies to withhold records in a public records request until a requester pays any money owed from prior requests. Allows an agency to count five or more requests from the same requester within seven days as one request in figuring the time it takes to locate and review records for possible redaction.	Senate Political Subdivisions	Signed by governor, 3/16
<a href="#">HB1403</a>	Schneider, Nelson	Allows state employees to use sick leave to deal with issues relating to domestic violence, sex offenses, stalking or terrorizing.	Senate Judiciary	Signed by governor, 4/16

<a href="#">HB1428</a>	Boschee, Armstrong	Requires state agencies to adopt policies against employee harassment, including sexual harassment. If they do not, they are subject to the policy adopted by the state human resource management services division.	Senate GVA	Signed by governor, 4/8
<a href="#">HB1475</a>	Carlson, Klein	Requires a “seamless transition” to a new state employee health insurance provider if one is chosen through a bidding process.	Senate Human Services	Failed in Senate, 0-46
<a href="#">HCR3003</a>	Legis Mgmt	Asks for legislative interim study of state health insurance benefits, whether state employees should pay a share of these benefits, and whether requiring state employees to pay more than 5 percent of their health insurance premiums would put in jeopardy the health plan’s “grandfathered” status under federal law.	Senate GVA	Filed with secretary of state, 4/6
<a href="#">SB2222</a>	Flakoll, Beadle	Says any Legislative Council request for records of a public agency is itself a public record.	Senate GVA	Failed in House, 29-62, 3/31
<a href="#">SB2258</a>	Oban, Haak	Asks for an interim legislative study of the state employee leave system.	Conference Committee	Failed in Senate, 7-40, 4/15

<b>North Dakota State Library</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">SB2056</a>	Legis Mgmt	Harmonizes language in state law that allows unelected governing boards to levy property taxes. Gives the board that approves property tax requests from unelected boards power to change the requests. Gives city and county commissions authority to ask for financial information from unelected governing boards that want approval for a property tax that benefits the board.	House F&T	Signed by governor, 3/23
<a href="#">SB2091</a>	Education	Allows the president of the North Dakota Library Association to designate someone to serve in his/her place as an ex officio voting member of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council.	House Education	Signed by governor, 3/13
<a href="#">SB2144</a>	Unruh, Belter	Consolidates a number of local property tax levies and repeals others.	House F&T	Signed by governor, 4/22
<a href="#">HCR3045</a>	Hanson, Robinson	Requests an interim legislative study of the automation of library data.	House Education	Filed with secretary of state, 3/31

<b>Federal Title Programs</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">HB1393</a>	Meier, Heckaman	Appropriation of \$100,000 to Department of Career and Technical Education to provide a science, technology, engineering and math advancement initiative.	Senate Appropriations	Signed by governor, 4/15
<a href="#">SB2087</a>	Education	Appropriates \$1.66 million to offset loss of federal money for Title I Part A because of sequestration, if any money is left over in the state school aid grants budget after all of the required payments have been made.	House Education	Failed in House, 19-69, 3/12

Abbreviations:

ENR: Energy and Natural Resources

F&T: Finance and Taxation

GVA: Government and Veterans' Affairs

IBL: Industry, Business and Labor

Legis Mgmt: [Legislative Management](#) (Legislative interim committees)

**Questions or Comments?**

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