

North Dakota

Travel Alliance Partnership

January 27, 2023 - No. 5
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tourism Day at the Capitol

Tourism Day was held on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the state capitol. TAP members and other tourism groups had the opportunity to set up exhibits in the Great Hall, meet with legislators and speak to them about their specific areas and tourism needs. Thank you to all TAP members who helped make the event a success.

Bill Introductions Completed

Bill introductions are complete, with the exception of study resolutions and constitutional resolutions. As of today, 959 bills and resolutions have been introduced and are available on the [North Dakota Legislative Branch website](#). More bills could still be posted on the website as they are processed by Legislative Council. There are 538 House bills and 391 Senate bills. A total of 30 resolutions also have been introduced thus far.

There is a process for delayed bills to be introduced, but it is only used occasionally. TAP's focus will be to monitor the many policy and funding bills as they are amended and debated throughout the remainder of the session. We will continue to monitor bills of interest and provide information on changes to those bills in weekly updates.

Bill Testimony Available Online

Submitted bill testimony is available for viewing online through the [North Dakota Legislative Branch](#) website. Specific bills and related testimony can be accessed on the [68th Legislative Assembly](#) page by scrolling down to the "Bills & Resolutions Information" box and clicking on [Bills and Resolutions](#).

Find the bill you would like to view in the numerical bill listing and click on the linked bill number. On the bill's page are titled tabs that include "Testimony." Click the bill's "Testimony" tab to access a list of the submitted testimony, which includes the committee which heard the bill, the individuals who submitted the testimony, the organizations represented, and positions on the bill. Click on the document number at the far right of the list to access the selected testimony.

This is a great resource for better understanding a bill and its impacts. The efforts of the Legislative Council to provide submitted testimony online also helps to make the legislative process more accessible during the session.

Capitol Recap: Jan. 23-27

HB 1018 – Department of Commerce Appropriation (Support)

HB 1018 remained in front of the House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division for committee work on Jan. 23.

HB 1206 - Closure of a Section Line Open to Public Travel

HB 1206 notes if a closed section line includes a bridge, for a nominal fee, the county will transfer all rights, title and interest to the adjacent landowner, and in doing so, is immune from claims or suits related to the bridge after the time of transfer. The bill failed to pass the House in a 6-85 vote. Tap had monitored this bill.

HB 1249 – Participation and Limitations on Use of Government Property (Oppose)

HB 1249 was heard before the House Human Services Committee on Jan. 24. The bill requires schools to designate their athletic teams and sports for male, female, or coed participation and limits the use of governmental property for athletic events. The committee took no action. TAP submitted written and oral testimony in opposition of this bill, specifically Section 2, prohibiting use of publicly funded facilities by organizations with opposing participation guidelines.

HB 1287 – Whitestone Hill Native American Monument Study (Monitor)

HB 1287 was heard before the House Appropriations Committee on Jan. 25. The bill provides \$250,000 to the State Historical Society for the study and design of a monument recognizing native Americans killed at the Whitestone Hill State Historic Site. The committee took no action after some debate on historical interpretations of the event and whether tribes could cover the cost of constructing a monument.

HB 1394 – Highway Logo Sign Program (Support)

HB 1394 was heard before the House Transportation Committee on Jan. 27. The bill establishes a logo sign program for the purpose of providing on the right of way of the state highway system specific information on gas, food, camping, and lodging for the benefit of the motoring public. The bill received a mixed reaction from committee members and asked DOT to report back costs associated and other details. There seems to be less negative feedback and more interest from members than in past sessions. TAP submitted written testimony in support of this bill and attended the hearing.

HB 1408 – Property Tax Exemption for PLOTS Land

HB 1408 was heard before the House Finance and Taxation Committee. The bill provides a partial property tax exemption for land enrolled in the Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program, which exempts 50% of land enrolled in PLOTS from taxation. HB 1408 was amended to change the proposed percentage of the land exempt from taxation from 50% to 10%. The bill was given a 9-3 Do Not Pass committee recommendation and failed in the House by a 19-73 vote.

HB 1473 – School-Sponsored Athletic Events for Exclusively Males or Females (Monitor)

HB 1473 was heard before the House Human Services Committee on Jan. 24. The bill prohibits a school board from knowingly allowing an individual of the opposite sex who is enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school to participate on a school-sponsored athletic team that is exclusively for females or exclusively for males, and requires student restrooms and locker rooms to be designated exclusively for males or exclusively for females. The committee took no action.

HB 1483 – Bans Possession of Firearm at Public Gathering, Federal Building, Courthouse, Liquor Establishment (Monitor)

HB 1483 was heard before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Jan. 26. The bill bans possession of a firearm at a public gathering or in a federal building or courthouse, and repeals North Dakota Century Code relating to the possession of a firearm in a liquor establishment. The committee took no action.

HB 1489 – Participation and Limitations on Use of Government Property (Oppose)

HB 1489 was heard before the Human Services Committee on Jan. 24. The bill requires institutions of higher education to designate their athletic teams and sports for male, female, or coed participation and limits the use of government property for athletic events. TAP submitted written and oral testimony in opposition of this bill, specifically Section 2, prohibiting use of publicly funded facilities by organizations with opposing participation guidelines. The committee took no action.

SB 2017 – Game and Fish Department Appropriation (Support)

SB 2236, the Game and Fish Department Appropriation, was heard before the Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division on Jan. 25. The bill includes special funding authority of \$1.2 million and federal funding authority of \$3.5 million for wildlife habitat and access on private land. Dani Quissell, executive vice president of North Dakota Water Users Association, testified on the importance of funding in the budget to fight aquatic nuisance species.

SB 2019 – North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Appropriation (Support)

SB 2019, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Appropriation, was heard before the Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Division on Jan. 26. The bill includes the governor's recommendation of \$51 million for funding park operations and maintenance. North Dakota Recreation and Park Association member Kevin Klipfel testified in support of the governor's recommendations.

SB 2146 – Designating North Dakota's Shortest Highway (Support)

HB 2146 was heard before the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan. 27. The bill designates state Highway 91 as North Dakota's shortest highway and provides a continuing appropriation. Bill received a 5-0 do pass vote by the committee.

SB 2173 – Travel Insurance and Licensing (Monitor)

SB 2173 was heard before the Senate Industry and Business Committee on Jan. 25. The bill codifies a model law related to the sale and regulation of travel insurance, and amends North Dakota Century Code relating to the licensing of limited lines travel insurance producers. Bill received a do pass as amended by 5-0 vote.

SB 2186 – Eligible Uses for Charitable Gaming Net Proceeds (Monitor)

SB 2186 relates to eligible uses of a charitable gaming organization's use of their net proceeds. The eligible uses do not include the erection, acquisition, property taxes, special assessments, improvement, maintenance, or repair of real property owned or leased by an organization if games are conducted in the same space unless the real property is used exclusively for an eligible use or by a fraternal or veterans organization. The bill passed the Senate in a 34-13 vote.

SB 2236 – Personal Liability of Charitable Organization Employees (Monitor)

SB 2236 was heard before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Jan. 25. The bill states an employee of a charitable organization is not liable for monetary damages for negligence or injuries caused within the scope of employment and the action must be brought against the charitable organization. The committee took no action.

SB 2319 – Microbrew and Brewer Taproom Licenses (Monitor)

SB 2319 was heard before the Senate Industry and Business Committee on Jan. 23. The bill removed the listing of events in which a special events permit would be given to a licensed microbrewer to give samples, sell beer or dispense beer manufactured by the licensee and removed the stipulation the section is subject to local ordinances. HB 2319 was amended to change the timeframe in which licensed microbrews and brewer taprooms can give samples, sell beer or dispense beer manufactured by the licensee from not more than 40 days per calendar year to not more than 40 events per calendar year. The bill was given a unanimous Do Pass committee recommendation and passed the Senate in a unanimous vote.

Key hearings Jan. 30-Feb. 3

Here is the key hearing TAP will be following next week. A list of next week's hearings is attached.

Feb. 3

HB 1538 – Powers of Game and Fish director, relating to fishing contests, 9 a.m., Coteau AB Room

Status of Bills

A report on the status of all tracked bills is attached.

Bills Tracked to Date

[HB 1009](#) – State Fair Appropriation
[HB 1018](#) – Department of Commerce Appropriation
[HB 1111](#) – International Health Regulations
[HB 1151](#) – Baiting Deer for Hunting
[HB 1175](#) – Posting of Leased Grand Lands
[HB 1206](#) – Closure of a Section Line Open to Public Travel
[HB 1209](#) – Historic Opera House Restoration Grant Program
[HB 1224](#) – Possession of Handguns and Use of Dogs in Recovery of Big Game Animals
[HB 1233](#) – Youth White-Tailed Antlerless Deer Permits
[HB 1249](#) – Athletic Team Participation Designations and Use of Property
[HB 1260](#) – Habitat Development and Antlerless Elk Depredation
[HB 1287](#) – SHSND Appropriation for Whitestone Hill Site
[HB 1308](#) – Suspension of Recreational Licenses for Delinquent Child Support
[HB 1315](#) – Factors for Determining Sites, Corridors, Route Applications
[HB 1346](#) – Snowmobile Registrations
[HB 1366](#) – Wearing Life Preserver While Barefoot Skiing
[HB 1377](#) – Party Hunting for Deer
[HB 1394](#) – Highway Logo Sign Program
[HB 1408](#) – Property Tax Exemption for Land in PLOTS Program
[HB 1409](#) – Youth Hunting License for Small Game and Waterfowl
[HB 1414](#) – Resident Family Member Small Game License
[HB 1449](#) – Relating to microbrew pubs, taprooms, distilleries events
[HB 1459](#) – Relating to increased penalties for drug offenses within 300 feet of a public park
[HB 1484](#) – Relating to gaming site authorization
[HB 1489](#) – Athletic Team Participation Designations and Use of Property
[HB 1483](#) – Relating to firearm possession
[HB 1497](#) – Relating to gaming site number limits, electronic pull tab device limits, fees
[HB 1504](#) – Alcoholic beverage tax credit for microbrew pubs and brewer taprooms
[HB 1538](#) – Powers of Game and Fish director, relating to fishing contests
[SB 2017](#) – Game and Fish Department Appropriation
[SB 2018](#) – State Historical Society Appropriation
[SB 2019](#) – North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Appropriation
[SB 2097](#) – Wild and Scenic River Designations
[SB 2110](#) – Cooperative Maintenance Agreement with TRNP
[SB 2146](#) – Designating North Dakota’s Shortest Highway
[SB 2173](#) – Sale and Regulation of Travel Insurance
[SB 2179](#) – Firearms and Ammunition Used for Hunting Big Game
[SB 2186](#) – Eligible Uses of Charitable Gaming Net Proceeds
[SB 2236](#) – Personal Liability of Charitable Organization Employees
[SB 2294](#) – Discretionary Special Allocation Hunting Licenses
[SB 2298](#) – Recreational Activities on Land Owned or Leased by the State
[SB 2319](#) – Microbrew Pub and Brewer Taproom Licenses
[SCR 4005](#) – Commemorative Theodore Roosevelt Library Coins
[SCR 4008](#) – Commemorative Theodore Roosevelt Library Postage Stamp

Legislative Updates

A Legislative Update will be sent to TAP members each Friday during the 2023 Legislative Session.

If at any time TAP members have pertinent information or updates they would like included in the next Legislative Update, contact Scooter Pursley, executive director, at spursley@clearwatercommunications.net or 701-355-4458.

How to Submit Testimony This Session

During this Legislative Session, individuals and organizations still can [testify](#) at committee hearings both in person and virtually. This session, however, the permitting of virtual testimony is left to the discretion of each committee chairperson. An instructional video on how to submit written and oral testimony remotely in a committee hearing is available on the Legislative Branch [website](#). To view the video, [click here](#).

Session and the standing committees for the [House](#) and the [Senate](#).

How to Contact Your Legislators

During the session, legislators can be reached at the Capitol through [Contact My Legislators](#) or by leaving a message at 888-NDLEGIS (635-3447) or 701-328-3373 (local). A legislator can also be reached by email, phone or mail as listed in the legislator's online bio: [Senate](#) or [House](#). Detailed information on legislative activities is available on the [Legislative Assembly website](#).

2023 Legislative Deadlines

Feb. 24: Crossover

Feb. 27-28: Recess

April 28: Final day of session (limited to 80 days)

For more details, check out the complete list of [legislative deadlines](#).