



North Dakota Legislative Council

Approved by the Legislative Management
LC# 27.9003.02000
May 2025

STUDY DIRECTIVES APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT FOR THE 2025-26 INTERIM

The following table identifies the bills and resolutions prioritized by the Legislative Management for study during the 2025-26 interim under the authority of North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-02 (20 required studies and 47 optional studies, including the required appointment of five special committees or task forces and one optional study by a specially designated committee):

Yes	No	Bill or Resolution No.	Subject Matter
Agriculture			
x		2157 § 1	(Required) Insurance Discount for Agriculture Safety Course Completion - Study the feasibility and desirability of creating a program that would allow a farmer or rancher to complete a safety course to receive a discount on insurance relating to the individual's farming or ranching operation. The study must include the development of a proposed safety course, the feasible amount of an insurance premium discount, and eligibility requirements for applicants seeking to participate in the discount program. The study must include input from the Insurance Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, the North Dakota State University Extension Service, and farm, livestock, and agricultural insurance agencies operating in the state.
	x	1151 § 1	Regulation of Cell-Cultured Protein - Consider studying cell-cultured protein and the status of litigation in federal and state courts to prohibit cell-cultured protein. The study must include the outcome of litigation in other states and an analysis of the regulatory landscape, stakeholder impact, and feasibility of adopting a prohibition on cell-cultured protein in the state.
Education			
	x	1012 § 46	Student Truancy and Absenteeism - Consider studying truancy and student absenteeism in K-12 public schools.
x		1530 § 1	Special Education Teacher Shortages - Consider studying special education teacher shortages, circumstances, and collective needs. The study must include a review of special education teacher workload, including significant and inequitable disparities in caseload numbers and complexities between educators; addition of students to a special education's workload throughout the year without consideration of impact on students' needs and teachers' workload; lack of a subjective formula for teaching, workload, and case management assignments; unsatisfactory policies and formulas adopted without special educator involvement, adequate training, or with general or vague language; and burdensome workloads threatening compliance with student individual education plans and state and federal law. The study must include special education student and staff safety, including the unmet need for accessible, understandable, and effective emergency and crisis plans, procedures, protocols, and trained personnel available to implement them; lack of training in de-escalation techniques and preventative strategies and necessary protective equipment; lack of training in the use of protective equipment and restrictive procedures; uncompensated time for planning and implementing behavior intervention plans separate from teacher preparation time; lack of adequate space to meet the needs of students demonstrating violent behavior; the unmet need for additional highly qualified paraprofessional support in situations

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			involving students with violent behavior; and the inequitable treatment of injured staff who must use sick leave or unpaid leave due to injuries that occurred at work. The study must include a review of special education paraprofessional management duties, including an additional expectation that education, training, and professional development of paraprofessionals are an obligation of the special education teacher; an additional requirement that special education teachers schedule and annually evaluate paraprofessionals; the inadequate availability of highly qualified paraprofessionals; inadequate training in management of paraprofessionals; and failure to provide additional time and compensation for paraprofessional management duties. The study must include a review of special education paperwork requirements and supports, including the lack of compensation for extensive federal, state, and disability-related required paperwork; the lack of compensation to attend individual education plan evaluation meetings outside the teacher's workday or during teacher preparation time; and the lack of additional time, training, mentoring, administrative and professional support and assistance necessary to manage mandatory reporting, compliance, and due process issues and requirements. The study also must include additional or broader considerations, pertinent data review, and plans for remediation of inequities, including projected costs and implementation timetables.
x		4019	Mathematics and Reading Proficiency Among Disabled Students - Consider studying reading and mathematics proficiency rates among students in the state with disabilities and the effectiveness of current educational policies, programs, and resource allocations in addressing any disparities. The study must include an examination of academic disparities, analyzing the latest student performance data on statewide reading and mathematics assessments to identify trends and disparities affecting students with disabilities and comparing the subgroup performance to overall state proficiency rates; an identification of contributing factors, evaluating systemic barriers contributing to low proficiency rates, including funding for special education services, limited access to trained teachers and support staff, geographic disparities between rural and urban areas, and accessibility of evidence-based curriculum and instructional strategies; an assessment of existing policies and programs, reviewing the implementation and impact of current state and federally funded programs and identifying gaps in policy, funding, and program effectiveness; the engagement of stakeholders, soliciting input from parents and families of students with disabilities to ensure parent involvement in decisionmaking, educators, school administrators, special education professionals, and advocacy groups focused on disability rights; research of best practices, examining successful models and initiatives in states that have effectively reduced proficiency disparities and exploring innovative approaches in early literacy, numeracy, and equitable education practices; and consideration of actionable policy and funding recommendations aimed at reducing proficiency disparities, expanding access to high-quality, evidence-based educational programs, enhancing transparency in costs and resource allocation, and improving accountability and data transparency.
Child Custody Review Task Force			
x		2186 § 2 Task Force	(Required) Child Custody Review Task Force - The Legislative Management shall create a Child Custody Review Task Force. The membership of the task force includes one member of the Supreme Court self-help program, appointed by the Supreme Court; one member representing the district courts, appointed by the Supreme Court; one member appointed by the State Bar Association; two members of the House or Senate Judiciary Committees, appointed by the Chairman of the Legislative Management; one member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; one member of the House, appointed by the House Majority Leader; two members representing parents subject to a child custody order; one member representing law enforcement; one member

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			representing family mediators; and the Director of Legal Services of North Dakota. The task force is required to meet at least once each calendar quarter or more frequently at the call of the presiding officer; address issues involving the withholding of a child in violation of a custody decree and issues relating to a parent or party who provides false information against another parent or party in connection to a child custody order; consider ways to expeditiously and effectively enforce violations of custody orders, particularly the withholding of a child; and consider the development of self-help or artificial intelligence assisted forms and processes, expedited access to ex parte contempt of court orders, and other civil and criminal penalties, including possible additional compensatory time, and successful remedies used in other states.
Emergency Response Services			
x		2340 § 1	(Required) Fire Service Response Needs - Study the evolving fire service operational and response needs of the state. The study must examine the coordination of efforts of existing state resources for improved fire emergency service organization, distribution, mobilization, training, and oversight; creation of fire service regional response teams; establishment of authority for response, standardized training, wildland-urban interface fire prevention codes, and emergency response operational initiatives and responsibilities; evaluation of existing staffing abilities to cross-train, provide further services, provide backfill during extended or complex emergencies, minimum training requirements, staff firefighting authorities, firefighting benefits, necessary equipment, and structural needs; identification and implementation of a restructure of fiscal support for state and local fire service in the state, reducing the dependency on local property tax; and changes necessary to state laws and administrative rules to implement a unified model. The study must include consultation with the State Fire Marshal, North Dakota Firefighter's Association, North Dakota Forest Service, Department of Emergency Services, North Dakota Fire Chief's Association, Department of Career and Technical Education, and other stakeholders. The Legislative Management may contract with a consultant to carry out this study.
x		1311 § 1	Emergency Responder Recruitment and Retention - Consider studying volunteer emergency responder recruitment and retention. The study must consider recruitment and retention challenges related to volunteer emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency or disaster volunteers, and community emergency response team members, and identify strategies for encouraging volunteerism. The study also must include input from stakeholders, including disaster emergency organizations, nonprofit associations, representatives of law enforcement, emergency medical service providers, and state and local agencies, departments, and institutions.
x		1322 § 4	Ambulance Service Provider Delinquent Billing Reimbursement Grants - Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of establishing a delinquent billing reimbursement grant system for ambulance service providers. The study must include input from stakeholders, including the Insurance Department, and a survey of ambulance service providers. Section 5 provides an appropriation of \$20,000 to the Legislative Council for the purposes of hiring a consultant to assist in this study.
x		2332 § 1	Grant Funding for Emergency Services and Public Safety - Consider studying options to provide grant funding for emergency services and public safety. The study must include a review of the amount of grant funding needed, potential funding sources, entities to be eligible to receive a grant, types of expenses to be eligible for reimbursement through a grant program, the appropriate agency to administer a grant program, and options to establish a grant program oversight committee.

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Energy Development and Transmission			
x		1025 § 1	(Required) Feasibility of Advanced Nuclear Power - Study the feasibility, siting, and deployment of advanced nuclear power plants in the state. The study must include evaluation of siting locations, including potential greenfield and brownfield sites, the identification and assessment of undeveloped land suitable for construction, developed land suitable for rehabilitation and reuse, geographical locations, environmental impacts, proximity to infrastructure, and community acceptance; electric grid connectivity, including the capacity of the electrical grid and integration of a nuclear power plant to the state, necessary upgrades and expansions to ensure reliability, and recommendations adhering to national and state electric standards and regulations; land use considerations, including long-term sustainability of proposed sites, environmental and social factors, land use patterns and zoning regulations, potential impacts on local land use, and proposed mitigation strategies; economic impacts, including potential tax revenue, job creation during construction and operation of a nuclear facility, economic impacts on local and state economies, and investor appeal; temporary and permanent nuclear waste storage, including in-state and out-of-state siting locations; small modular and micro nuclear reactors, including the feasibility of constructing and operating small modular and micro reactors to generate power in the state; and provisions of North Dakota Century Code that place restrictions on advanced nuclear energy development, if any. The study must invite participation from an institution of higher education for assistance in evaluating social interests and community acceptance of potential siting locations. Section 2 appropriates \$300,000 from the general fund, and up to \$300,000 from special funds derived from grants or donations from nonstate sources, to the Legislative Council for purposes of contracting for consulting services for the study.
x		1579 § 1	(Required) Impact of Large Energy Consumers on Electrical Grid - Study the impact of large energy consumers, including data centers, on the electrical grid of the state, regulatory structure, and economic development. The study must include an evaluation of the electrical grid reliability and infrastructure requirements within the state, including the capacity of the electrical grid; necessary upgrades to accommodate large energy consumers; the cost of necessary upgrades to accommodate large energy consumers; how the cost of necessary upgrades to accommodate large energy consumers are allocated; effects of congestion on the electrical grid caused by increased development; best practices for integrating high-demand users while maintaining reliability for all ratepayers; regulatory consistency throughout the state, including an assessment of the manner in which state and local laws and regulations impact large energy consumers; whether the certificate of public convenience and necessity process is appropriate for private-sector end users; whether regulatory inconsistencies exist between investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, municipal power providers, and independent power producers; economic impacts affecting the energy industry of the state, including an assessment of job creation, tax revenue generation, and long-term investment trends tied to data center development and other large energy consumers; market dynamics of the local and national energy industry, including the role of demand-side management, local versus regional energy market participation, and the ability of large consumers to support grid stability through off-peak consumption or other grid-supportive practices; costs and impacts of all regulated and exempted public utilities, including best reporting practices; and regulatory and exemption criteria relating to load size, system integration, application processes, impacts to consumers and access to the regional grid systems, electrical generation sources, the feasibility of colocated backup generators at various facilities, and generation sources, including legacy electric generation units. The study must include input from representatives of data center operators, and other large energy consumers operating or

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			considering investment in the state; investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, municipal power providers, and independent power producers; the Public Service Commission; the Lignite Energy Council; the North Dakota Transmission Authority; regional transmission organizations; the Petroleum Council; and any other relevant state or federal agency.
x		2360 § 1	Feasibility of Developing Geothermal Energy - Consider studying the feasibility of developing geothermal energy in the state. The study must include an evaluation of the state's geology and the feasibility of resource exploration and production of geothermal energy in the state; support opportunities for startup geothermal companies, including fostering innovation and promoting economic growth within the state's energy sector; the application of geothermal energy to nonproductive oil and gas wells to extend the life of the well through the use of a complementary energy extraction method; and other opportunities to advance geothermal energy opportunities in the state.
Government Administration			
x		1197 § 1	(Required) Costs and Benefits of Regional Correctional Facilities - Study the costs and benefits of regional correctional facilities, the impacts of deferred admission, and the prioritization of inmates sentenced to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR). The study must include input from representatives of counties with a population of 7,500 or more, representatives of counties with a population of fewer than 7,500, representatives of local law enforcement officials, representatives of DOCR, representatives of the Office of Management and Budget, and representatives of the Attorney General.
	x	1027 § 18	Political Subdivision Removal from State Fire and Tornado Fund - Consider studying, in collaboration with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund, the feasibility and desirability of removing political subdivisions from the state fire and tornado fund. The study must include an analysis of the statutory changes necessary to accomplish the change and the impact removing political subdivisions may have on premiums.
	x	2007 § 6	Usage of Veterans' Home Facilities - Consider studying the usage of the Veterans' Home facilities. The study must consider any organizational changes necessary to increase resident census at the Veterans' Home, potential uses for unoccupied space, and federal requirements.
	x	2278 § 1	Requiring Libraries to Retain Original Copies of Materials - Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of requiring libraries maintained by state agencies, including the State Library and libraries at institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, to retain a copy of any book or other written material that contains the material's original text if the publisher of the material publishes a new version to update language that was common when the material was originally published to language that is considered more socially progressive, politically correct, inclusive, or less socially offensive. The study must include an analysis of how artificial intelligence has or will affect the retention of library materials, how library materials are updated or altered using artificial intelligence, and the fiscal and operational impact of collection management.
Government Finance			
x		2254 § 2	(Required) Fixed Route City Transportation Network Funding Needs - Study the funding needs of fixed route city transportation networks. The study must include a review of how the fixed route transportation networks can address population growth, economic development, workforce needs, and health care needs. As part of the study, the Legislative Management shall develop a proposed funding formula within the Department of Transportation's budget for fixed route city transportation systems.
	x	1329 § 1	Government Spending Database Establishment - Consider studying the feasibility of establishing a government spending database. The study must

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			include a review of training services necessary for school board members, superintendents, principals, and business managers regarding the government spending database, including best practices, personnel management, financial operations, facility planning, and regulatory compliance. The study must review the feasibility of establishing a database that compiles expenditure information, including the amount paid, payment date, recipient name, paying entity, employee position for personnel payments, a standardized categorization using United States Census Bureau codes for state and local transactions, nationally recognized standardized codes for school districts and institutions of higher education, and for educational materials for a school district the description of the curriculum, publisher and author of a textbook, and a description of software specification and developer identification. The study also must include consideration of the feasibility of establishing a database capable of providing search capabilities, data aggregations tools, download options in common formats, anonymous salary and benefit information, and regular updates of information.
x		1580 § 1	State Employee Total Rewards Compensation System - Consider studying the classified state employee total rewards compensation system, including a review of the determination of pay grade, classifications, and health care benefits. The study must include a review of the history of changes to the classification and pay grade levels; comparisons among state employees across all departments and comparisons between state employee compensation levels to similar private sector jobs; use of equity funding and bonuses to retain employees; payment of prevailing wages on state projects and wage levels in awarding contracts for state projects; the impact of changes to health plan benefits; and premium rate structures for single and family coverage and the impact of proposed changes.
x		4024	Use of Capitol Building Fund for Legislative Office Building - Consider studying using dedicated funds in the Capitol building fund to build a legislative office building.
Health Care and Insurance			
x		2370 § 1	(Required) Prescription Drug Transparency Reporting - Study establishing reporting requirements for covered entities in North Dakota which participate in the federal Drug Discount Program under 42 U.S.C. 256b, and how reported data could be used to develop public policy that directly benefits patients in North Dakota. The study must include consideration of the various entities participating in the Drug Discount Program that should be required to report data to this state, including health care facilities, contract pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, drug manufacturers, pharmacy benefits managers, and health insurers; consideration of the specific data elements that each entity should be required to report; exploration of methods of reporting, compiling, and sharing the compiled data which provide the greatest benefit to patients in North Dakota; analysis of issues relating to the confidentiality and disclosure of the data; and consideration of reporting enforcement mechanisms, including civil penalties for failing to report. The study must include input from and consultation with stakeholders, including a professional association representing hospitals in North Dakota, a professional association representing pharmacies in North Dakota, a professional association representing federally qualified health centers in North Dakota, a professional association representing rural health in North Dakota, a professional association representing innovative pharmaceutical manufacturers, the Insurance Department, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy, hospitals participating in the Drug Discount Program, federally qualified health centers, pharmacies that have contracts with covered entities participating in the Drug Discount Program; and health insurers.
	x	1012 § 47	Access to Maternal Health Services - Consider studying access to maternal health services. The study must include consideration of the availability of

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			prenatal and childbirth services, including provider shortages and service use; development of strategies to increase the number of obstetricians, family doctors, and midwives providing maternal health services in this state; a review of coverage and reimbursement for doulas and midwives, including training and certification needs; consideration of insurance and public policy options to improve maternal health outcomes, including through the Medicaid program; and input from health care providers, insurers, public health officials, and maternal health experts.
	x	1371 § 1	Provision of Public Employees Retirement System Health Insurance Benefits for Retired Peace Officers - Consider studying the impact of providing Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Uniform Group Insurance Program health insurance benefits for retired peace officers. The study must include a thorough review of benefits provided for peace officers and consideration of health insurance benefit options, premium costs, eligibility requirements for retirement, years of service limitations, eligibility for Medicare, potential costs to the state and political subdivisions, the effect of providing benefits on recruitment and retention, any impact on the state's financial reporting of postemployment benefit-related unfunded liability, and establishing a retired peace officer health insurance pool.
	x	1543 § 1	Prescription Drug Pricing - Consider studying prescription drug pricing and the maximum fair price for a drug as published by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The study must include consideration of federal drug price negotiations under the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and overlap with current drugs paid for by PERS to determine usage and potential cost-savings to the state and consumers. The study must include input from PERS, the Insurance Commissioner, the State Board of Pharmacy, and other stakeholders.
	x	1566 § 1	Uses and Regulation of Kratom - Consider studying potential uses of kratom and the implementation of regulations related to uses of kratom in the state, including production, manufacturing, distribution, and retail sale of kratom products.
x		1567 § 1	Unmet Dental and Oral Health Needs of Children and Individuals with Disabilities - Consider studying the unmet dental and oral health care needs of low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities. The study must include an overview of the dental and oral health care status of Medicaid recipients, including low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities, both on and off reservations; evaluation of the importance of receiving dental and oral health care services, the impacts and outcomes of not receiving services, general health consequences, complications, and expanded costs of future care; review of state and federal regulations, policies, and procedures limiting or perceived as limiting dentist provider enrollment in Medicaid, including impediments to enrollment, length of credentialing and recredentialing, reasons for provider termination, prior authorizations, attachments, appeals, and timely payments; availability of, and access or barriers to, complex dental services for Medicaid recipients with disabilities or dental conditions which might require anesthesia or critical care; review of Medicaid dental reimbursement rates for a selection of preventative and treatment services in this state compared to other states, private payers, and in comparison to real cost for dental teams to determine potential need to increase reimbursement rates; review of barriers and opportunities relating to expanding education for dentists and dental staff, including consideration of a new dental school in this state, long-term partnership with regional dental schools, and increased dental student residencies located in this state; consideration of the expansion or promotion of programs that offer support and resources to enable on-the-job training and apprenticeships for dental assistants, including the visibility of providing state and federal resources to support providers offering such training; consideration

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			of expansion or creation of volunteer and charitable dental programs and nonprofit services; evaluation of ways to improve accessibility to dental and oral health care services for Medicaid recipients, including low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities, both on and off reservations; exploration of the feasibility of partnerships between state programs and tribal health organizations to enhance delivery; review of programs designed to recruit and retain dental health providers, such as loan forgiveness or incentives for dentists working in underserved communities, including tribal communities; exploration of the use of telehealth solutions to reach rural areas, including tribal communities; review of dental provider participation with dental insurers, including the percentage of dental providers in-network and out-of-network for the largest dental insurers; review of charges covered by dental benefit plans and out-of-pocket costs for dental care; review of dental program preauthorization and service coverage in adherence to clinical guidelines of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; review of the provider relations program for answering questions from providers and staff, online and in-person education and training to providers and staff to promote efficiency and effectiveness; consideration of program staff credentials for appropriate oversight of clinical care for claim preauthorizations and approvals; consideration of the administrative system addressing grievances and appeals of submitted claims and preauthorizations to assess the system's responsiveness and review the ability to submit additional documentation, such as x-rays and photos using an online portal; review of parity in the submission of claims between private offices, nonprofit dental clinics, and federally qualified health centers; consideration of the potential effects of dental Medicaid expansion and increase in adult Medicaid-eligible enrollees on access to dental care, administrative efficiency, and participation of dentists in the Medicaid program; review of dental claims administration including the percentage of preauthorizations and denials; review of call center management including the number of calls, average hold time, and caller satisfaction; review of cases and decisions by a program administration related to audits and claims review to determine what percentage were completed with a peer review committee that includes a licensed dentist and a licensed dentist of a specialty; review the quality improvement system that assists providers in providing clinically appropriate care in accordance with the guidelines of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry clinical guidelines; analysis of the information required by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Form 416, in compliance with Medicaid early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment, including the percentage of eligible children receiving any dental service, preventative service, or sealants; analysis of provider participation and recredentialing of dental providers with Medicaid, the average benefit paid per user and beneficiary, the geographical distribution of active providers with active recipients in the state, and provider participation surveys; and a review of ambulatory surgery and hospital facility claims for dental rehabilitation procedures that require monitored anesthesia for children to compare with other medical providers providing similar same-day surgical services. The study may include a focus on solutions to identified needs including a review of scope of practice and additional providers and provider types. The study also may include broader considerations of unmet needs for dental services for all Medicaid recipients, data for those recipients, and any current plans for remediation with goals, objectives, projected costs, and implementation timetables.
	x	2113 § 39	Non-Opioid Treatment Options to Reduce Pain - Consider studying options to help patients with moderate to severe pain reduce pain while safely improving functional outcomes and quality of care. The study may include an examination of non-opioid pharmacological treatment options and existing opioid settlement

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			funds and explore options to use those funds to develop and implement an education and awareness campaign on non-opioid treatment options.
	x	2191 § 1	Health Care Services in Correctional Facilities - Consider studying health care services in local correctional facilities. The study must include a review of current state and federal requirements of local correctional facilities regarding health care services; a review of health care services funding patterns for local correctional facilities; a consideration of the challenges of local health care facilities and providers in serving incarcerated individuals in local correctional facilities; an analysis of models of best practices for health care services for incarcerated individuals in local correctional facilities; and a consideration of methods to expand local, state, and federal funding for health care services in local correctional facilities.
x		2249 § 1	Historical Health Care Mandates - Consider studying historical health care mandates. The study must include an analysis of current health care mandates, including when the mandates were enacted, the purpose, effectiveness, and present applicability; a history of health care mandates and step therapy protocol; and input from DHHS, the Insurance Department, PERS, insurance providers, and other stakeholders.
x		2280 § 2	Impact of Prior Authorization Requirements on Patient Care and Health Care Costs - Consider studying prior authorization requirements imposed by PERS uniform group insurance plans under Chapter 54-52.1 and the impact on patient care and health care costs. The study must include input from stakeholders, including patients, providers, and commercial insurance plans. The study must require insurance plans to submit to the Insurance Commissioner by July 1, 2025, for the immediately preceding calendar year for each commercial product the number of prior authorization requests for which an authorization was issued; the number of prior authorization requests for which an adverse determination was issued, sorted by health care service, whether the adverse determination was appealed, or whether the adverse determination was upheld or reversed on appeal; the reasons for prior authorization denial, including the patient did not meet prior authorization criteria, incomplete information was submitted by the provider to the utilization review organization, a change in treatment program, or the patient is no longer covered by the plan; and the number of denials reversed by internal appeals or external reviews. The Insurance Commissioner shall aggregate this data into a report and submit the report to the Legislative Management by November 1, 2025.
x		2280 § 3	Ability to Submit Prior Authorization Reviews for Nonurgent and Emergency Care by Electronic Means - Consider studying the ability for health care systems and providers to submit prior authorization reviews for nonurgent and emergency health care services by secure electronic means. The study must analyze alternatives to facsimile or mail for transmitting prior authorization requests and supporting medical records. The study must include input from stakeholders, including patients, providers, and commercial insurance plans.
Higher Education			
x		2003 § 45 Special Committee	(Required) Higher Education Funding Review Committee and Study - A higher education funding review committee is created and composed of 13 members, including 2 members of the House appointed by the House Majority Leader, 1 member of the House appointed by the House Minority Leader, 2 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, 1 member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, 1 member of the Legislative Assembly to serve as chairman appointed by the Legislative Management, and 6 nonvoting members representing higher education institutions. The committee shall study funding methods for higher education in the state.

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x		2003 § 46	(Required) Dual-Credit Courses - Study dual-credit in the state, including which institutions may offer dual-credit courses, where dual-credit courses may be provided by the institutions, and state funding provided for dual-credit.
x		2242 § 1 Designated Committee	Institutions of Higher Education Under the State Board of Higher Education - Consider studying the institutions of higher education under the control of the State Board of Higher Education. The study must include methods to promote efficiency and collaboration among state institutions; consideration of statewide dual-credit expansion to develop standard 3-year bachelor degree programs; an analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students; consideration of the feasibility and desirability of a system of uniform transcripts and the waiver of fees to transfer credits within the State Higher Education System; consideration of the feasibility and desirability of consolidating colleges and universities and implementing satellite campuses of universities; research on the competitiveness among state institutions; and an analysis of the quality of education provided at each state institution. If selected, the Legislative Management must appoint a committee for the study. The voting members of the committee, who must be appointed by the Legislative Management, are three members of the Senate, two from the party with the largest number of members in the Senate and one from the party with the second largest number of members in the Senate; three members of the House of Representatives, two from the party with the largest number of members in the House of Representatives and one from the party with the second largest number of members in the House of Representatives; and one member of the Legislative Assembly to serve as the committee Chairman. The nonvoting members of the committee are the Chairman of the State Board of Higher Education; the student representative of the State Board of Higher Education; the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System, or the chancellor's designee; one representative of K-12 education; and one representative each of the manufacturing, health care, agriculture, and energy industries.
Human Services			
x		1097 § 1	(Required) Accessibility of Government Services for Individuals with Hearing Difficulties - Study the accessibility of state and local services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences. The study must consider the requirements under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act providing for state and local government entities to communicate effectively with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences and consider challenges or barriers to effective communication for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences when communicating with, including receiving information from and conveying information to, state and local government entities, and identify strategies for improving communication. The study must include input from the Department of Labor and Human Rights, DHHS, employees of the North Dakota School for the Deaf, individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences, information technology professionals, American Sign Language interpreters, and family members of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences.
x		1119 § 1	(Required) Child Care Provider Licensing Laws and Policies - Study the laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to child care provider licensing. The study must include input from DHHS, the Child Care Services Advisory Committee, and child care providers. If the program evaluation of DHHS child care services in Section 2 is selected by the Legislative Council, this study must be informed by the program evaluation.
x		1119 § 2	Legislative Council Program Evaluation of Department of Health and Human Services Child Care Services - Directs the Legislative Council to consider conducting a program evaluation of DHHS child care services. The program evaluation must include review and analysis of state and federal laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to child care; evaluation of the child

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			care services framework, identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities, including opportunities to streamline the administrative process, to enhance clarity for providers, and to provide services for more children; consideration of licensing requirements, the federal and state assistance programs available, education requirements for program operators, training and certification requirements for staff members, the number of children in an early childhood program, child to provider ratios, and square footage requirements; review and analysis of child care funding sources, expenditures, assistance penetration rates, and the distribution of resources to determine whether the program efficiently and effectively uses and distributes resources to support access to affordable and safe child care; and the review of recently enacted legislation regarding child care services to determine if the policies have been timely implemented and properly administered, including an analysis of measurable goals, performance data, and options to improve enrollment. The Legislative Council must report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Management by August 1, 2026.
	x	1012 § 51	Developmental Disability Services Provided by the Department of Health and Human Services - Consider studying the efficiency, effectiveness, and outcomes of developmental disability services provided by DHHS. The study must include a review of the approval process, an analysis of accountability measures, an assessment of gaps in services, and an evaluation of overall program management; an assessment of whether the department is effectively managing cases and complying with federal law in the provision of support and services to individuals with disabilities; input from advocates, clients from the disability community, zone directors, service providers, and health care providers who serve individuals with disabilities; and collaboration with the Cross-Disability Advisory Council. The Legislative Council may contract with a consultant with expertise in the provision of developmental disability services to assist in the study.
	x	1460 § 3	Licensing of Foster Homes for Adults - Consider studying the licensing of foster homes for adults. The study must consider the barriers to receiving services for older adults and adults with disabilities, any funding or reimbursement limitations in federal and state law, and regulatory restrictions that create challenges for facilities, providers, and caregivers. The study must include input from DHHS, older adults, adults with disabilities in need of services and their family members, residents and their family members, facilities, providers, and caregivers.
x		2014 § 30	Homelessness in the State - Consider studying homelessness in the state. The study must include a review of data and funding available to address homelessness, an analysis of the use of available funds to identify gaps and potential solutions, and input from homeless program service providers.
	x	3029	Services for At-risk Individuals with Neurological Conditions and Behavioral Symptoms - Consider studying inpatient services, community-based services, and existing waivers for treatment and support of individuals with neurological conditions and behavioral symptoms that put the individual at risk for incarceration, inappropriate placement, or homelessness. The study must include an analysis of available data, identification of gaps in services, a review of appropriate treatment and support services, and recommendations for a waiver program, new level of care, and appropriate placement guidelines, to fund and deliver services to meet the care and support needs of individuals living with a neurological condition.
Information Technology			
x		2021 § 11	(Required) State Enterprise Resource Planning System - Study the enterprise resource planning system for the state, including state agencies and institutions of higher education. The study must include consideration of the current system and potential systems, including functionality, technological

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			structure, expected life cycle, costs and benefits of cloud-based and on-premises hosted solutions, support and maintenance costs, and potential implementation costs; the desired functionality for state agency use, including financial management, human capital management, and procurement; the desired functionality for institutions of higher education, including financial management, human capital management, grant management, compliance management, procurement, and student data management; and the costs and benefits of continuing with one enterprise resource planning system or separate systems for state agencies and institutions of higher education.
x		2021 § 10	Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Funding and Emergency Communications Fees - Consider studying fees collected for technology services, including emergency communications, behavioral health crisis response, and the statewide interoperable radio network. The study must include an analysis of the adequacy of current fee structures, financial needs of the technology services, current fees and revenue trends for 911 and 988 services, the statewide interoperable radio network project, the estimated project completion date, estimated ongoing funding needs to operate the network, current funding available for the network, future funding options for the network that will not negatively affect existing emergency communication systems, and a comparison of statewide radio network funding models used in other states.
Judiciary			
x		2015 § 9	(Required) Sentencing, Corrections, and Parole Oversight - Study sentencing, correctional, and parole systems within the state, with a focus on improving transparency, consistency, and outcomes in the administration of justice. The study must include a comprehensive review of sentencing requirements and incarceration impacts, including an evaluation of the potential impacts of requiring offenders sentenced to the custody of DOCR to serve 85 percent of their terms in secured facilities. The study must include cost analyses; consideration of data and trends relating to criminal offenses and sentencing; consideration of recidivism trends; consideration of rehabilitation and re-entry opportunities; definitions of terms related to sentencing and incarceration; and safety and accountability measures for minimum security facilities and transitional facilities. The study also must include a review of the structure and function of the Parole Board, including provisions of Chapter 12-59 and any rules adopted by the Parole Board. The review must include membership structure, appointment process, terms, quorum, and meeting transparency; parole eligibility requirements and determinations; victim rights and notification systems; and the role and input of DOCR in parole-related matters. The study may include input from the judicial branch, including district court judges regarding sentencing decisions; state's attorney and defense attorneys regarding charging practices, plea negotiations, and trial resources; DOCR regarding inmate classification, housing, placement authority, and transitional services, including work or educational release; the Parole Board regarding parole eligibility and release decisions; law enforcement representatives, including the Chiefs of Police Association, Sheriff's Association, and the Attorney General, regarding impacts to public safety and local and regional jails; the League of Cities and Association of Counties regarding impacts to public safety and local and regional jails; justice-involved individuals regarding the impact of current and potential sentencing and parole practices; and crime victims regarding the impact of sentencing.
x		1410 § 1	Crimes Against Children - Consider studying state laws relating to criminal conduct against children, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child neglect, and human trafficking of children. The study must include a review of use of the term "child sexually abusive material" or other language deemed appropriate instead of the term "sexual performance" to describe child pornography or sexual conduct of a minor in Chapter 12.1-27.2; state laws

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			relating to the use of artificial intelligence for crimes relating to sexual performance of a minor or possession of certain prohibited materials; and other laws intended to protect children and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and trafficking.
x		1417 § 7	Court Fines and Fees - Consider studying court fines and fees, including fines and fees relating to travel permits, presentence investigations, the drug court program, electronic monitoring, alcohol monitoring, and the twenty-four seven sobriety program. The study must consider the total amount collected; rate of fees collected, including any money expended to collect the fines and fees; an evaluation of practices in other states; and the overall impacts on a defendant.
x		1425 § 5	Pretrial Service Program Costs and Savings - Consider studying costs and savings associated with pretrial service programs operating in the state and opportunities to reinvest savings to improve re-entry outcomes. The study must include a review of the effect of pretrial services on admissions to county jail, detention facilities, medical costs of participants, rate of failure to appear in court, rate of recidivism, and rate of participation in treatment programs. The study must identify opportunities for counties, courts, and state agencies to invest cost-savings associated with pretrial services in programs, treatment, and services that will further reduce recidivism and promote public health.
x		1549 § 6	Expanded Access to Criminal Record Sealing - Consider studying expanding access to criminal record sealing. The study must include the automation of record sealing for individuals eligible to file a petition to seal a criminal record under Section 12-60.1-02, the expansion of eligibility for record sealing, and the potential costs and benefits of creating processes for criminal record expungement alongside, or in lieu of, avenues for criminal record sealing.
	x	1582 § 1	False Accusations and Reports of Crimes - Consider studying Chapter 12.1-11, relating to false accusations and false reports of crime. The study must include input from the North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association and defense attorneys.
	x	2015 § 8	Need for Diversion and Deflection Centers - Consider studying the need for diversion and deflection centers in the state. The study must include the appropriate involvement of the state in the planning and establishment of diversion and deflection centers.
	x	2022 § 4	Establishment of Public Defenders' Office as an Administrative Agency - Consider studying the potential impacts of establishing the North Dakota Public Defenders' Office as an administrative agency under the authority of the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents.
	x	2122 § 3	Consolidation of Laws Relating to Receivers - Consider studying all provisions of the Century Code relating to receivers to determine whether the provisions should be consolidated into a single chapter, including a review of Chapters 32-10, on receivers; 32-19.2, on trustees for commercial buildings during foreclosures; and 32-20, on foreclosure of liens on personal property, or any other regulations regarding receivers.
x		2334 § 2	Ownership of Alcoholic Beverage Establishments by Gaming Organizations - Consider studying the ownership of alcoholic beverage establishments by licensed charitable gaming organizations. The study must include the prevalence of the ownership of alcoholic beverage establishments by licensed charitable gaming organizations; the process of obtaining ownership of alcoholic beverage establishments, including the use of subsidiaries, partnerships, and organizations; the benefits and detriments of licensed charitable gaming organizations owning alcoholic beverage establishments; and the interaction between gaming manufacturers and distributors and licensed charitable gaming organizations.

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x		3028	Human Trafficking Victim Service Re-entry Programs - Consider studying human trafficking victim service and re-entry programs. The study must include an assessment of current human trafficking victim re-entry services, including services to protect victims from predatory offenders, policies, and practices, and data and resource allocation with the goal of identifying opportunities to implement services to help victims effectively re-enter society. In conducting the study, the Legislative Management shall seek input from law enforcement, the Attorney General, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders.
x		4017	Detrimental Impacts of Pornography - Consider studying the detrimental impacts of pornography. The study must analyze the current efforts for education, prevention, and research related to the consequences of pornography, examine potential policy changes, and include input from relevant state agencies and other stakeholders.
Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency			
x		1442 § 1 Task Force	(Required) Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency - The Legislative Management shall create the Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency, effective through July 31, 2031. The legislative membership of the task force must include three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the House Majority Leader, and three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader. The Chairman of the Legislative Management shall select one of the legislative members to serve as the Chairman of the task force. The task force is required to meet at least once each calendar quarter or more frequently at the call of the Chairman; review and analyze budgets and reports from executive branch agencies and the Supreme Court; collaborate with and receive testimony from executive branch agencies and the Supreme Court to identify areas to increase efficiency and methods to implement cost-saving measures, determine areas of state government deemed unnecessary or duplicative, target outdated or overly restrictive regulations, and find areas in which partnerships between the state and private industry would create innovative financing models to drive economic growth and job creation; review the effectiveness and necessity of programs and laws created by the Legislative Assembly through previous legislative enactments; and request the State Auditor or an independent private auditing firm to conduct program evaluations for state and local governments.
Special Education Funding Committee			
x		1547 § 1 Special Committee	(Required) Special Education Funding Committee - The Legislative Management shall establish and provide staffing to a committee to study special education funding. The committee may include eight members of the Legislative Assembly, four members from the House of Representatives and four members from the Senate, appointed by the Legislative Management; two multiunit special education directors; one large school special education director; one special education coordinator; one superintendent of a large school; one superintendent of a small or midsize school; one business manager of a large school; and one multiunit special education business manager. The study must include a comprehensive review of special education funding models, including student contracts, high-cost students, residential placement, and reimbursement under the Medicaid program.
Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee			
x		1176 § 27 Special Committee	(Required) Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee - The Legislative Management shall appoint a legislative Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee during the 2025-26 interim to study property tax reform and relief. The committee must consist of three members of the Finance and Taxation Standing Committee of the House of Representatives, three members of the Finance and Taxation Standing Committee of the Senate, one member of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, and one member of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, appointed by the respective

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			Majority Leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Legislative Management shall designate the Chairman of the committee. Based on information provided by the Tax Department and input from local taxing districts, the study must include consideration of historical property tax relief provided by the Legislative Assembly; the estimated and actual fiscal impact of the property tax relief provided by the 69 th Legislative Assembly; information from the Tax Commissioner and local taxing district representatives regarding the progress of implementing the primary residence credit and primary residence certification process; information and analysis from the Tax Commissioner regarding the impact of the property tax levy limitation under Section 22 on taxing districts; the feasibility and desirability of revising the content of the real estate tax statement to improve transparency in property taxation, which may include a review of the statutory requirements related to the contents and delivery of the real estate tax statement, available historical real estate tax statements, and information regarding any administrative costs associated with updates to the real estate tax statement; and information and analysis from the Tax Commissioner, State Supervisor of Assessments, and local taxing district representatives related to tax exempt property. By April 1, 2026, the Tax Commissioner shall gather and analyze information from local taxing districts necessary to conduct an analysis of the impact of the levy limitation, including action taken by the taxing districts to implement the levy limitation; taxing district property value increases, separated by increases on existing property and new property; the number of taxing districts required to reduce the taxing district's total levy in dollars to comply with the levy limitation, including the method used by the taxing district to reduce the total levy in dollars and which levies were impacted by the total levy reduction; and suggestions for improvement of the levy limitation. The Tax Commissioner shall provide a summary of the findings to the committee no later than June 1, 2026.
Taxation			
x		1483 § 2	Oil Extraction Tax Exemption for Production from Stripper Wells - Consider studying the oil extraction tax exemption for production from a stripper well property or an individual stripper well. The study must include consideration of the number of oil wells and amount of oil production qualifying for the exemption, the estimated fiscal impact of the exemption, and alternative tax policies for stripper well properties or stripper wells. The study may include input from the Tax Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Mineral Resources, and representatives of the oil and gas industry.
x		1563 § 1	Taxation of Tribal Land Owned by Enrolled Members - Consider studying tribal land taxation issues related to taxation of land owned by enrolled tribal members who reside within the boundaries of any tribal reservation in this state. The study may include analysis of federal law, judicial decisions concerning tribal taxation authority, state property tax exemptions related to property of Native Americans, and the interaction between tribal sovereignty and state law.
Water			
x		1218 § 3	(Required) Economic Analysis Formula for Assessment Drain Projects - Study the formula for conducting an economic analysis for assessment drain projects and the projected cost threshold for conducting economic analyses.
x		1577 § 3	(Required) Establishment of a Wastewater Project Fund - Study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a wastewater project fund to provide grants for upgrading, constructing, or replacing wastewater infrastructure. The study must include input from cities, counties, townships, and water resource districts.
x		2210 § 1	(Required) Water Management Based on Watershed Boundaries - Study the feasibility and desirability of assigning management authority for the waters of the state to the area located in the naturally occurring watershed, rather than assigning management authority based on political subdivision boundaries. The

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			study must review the approaches used for managing water in surrounding states; the powers, duties, and organizational structure of watershed boards; dispute resolution procedures afforded to individuals residing within the boundaries of a watershed district; the mechanism to initiate, implement, and improve works projects within a watershed district; and the role of the Department of Water Resources in mapping and establishing watershed boundaries.
	x	1020 § 18	Designated Appropriations for Water Projects - Consider studying designated appropriations for water projects. The study must include an evaluation of the impact of designating appropriations for water projects and of providing legislative intent for funding to be provided over multiple bienniums for water projects. The study also must consider the appropriate involvement of the Legislative Management's Water Topics Overview Committee in the prioritization of funding for water projects.
x		1020 § 19	Storm Water Project Funding - Consider studying funding for storm water projects in the state, including current funding sources, related statutes, and the policies of the State Water Commission. The study must include information regarding recently completed storm water projects and funding needs for future storm water projects in the state.
x		3018	Wetland Regulations and Inundated Land Taxation - Consider studying water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state. The study must include a review of the different methods to assess and document boundaries for wetlands; an examination of the regulation of water, wetlands, and inundated lands laws of other states; an inventory of all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies relating to the jurisdiction of water and wetlands; an analysis of the environmental protection and public health jurisdictional framework, including an identification of potential conflicts, overlaps, and gaps in authority; and recommendations for improving the clarity, consistency, and efficiency of the jurisdictional framework in water management. The study also must explore viable legal options to fill and drain nuisance areas, examine the impacts of seasonal wet areas on agriculture productivity and soil health, and identify the value of these areas to resident wildlife.