

Crossover deadline puts crunch on Committees

With Legislative Crossover just 10 legislative days away, Standing Committees are scrambling to finish policy bills, as both Appropriations Committees start to crunch the numbers. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Brad Bekkedahl (R-Williston) told his committee that they have 74 bills left to act upon, as does the House Appropriations Committee. "We have lots of work to do."

This week's highlights for NDTOA:

Click a bill number to go to that bill's information page.

[HB 1423](#) relates to the model ordinance zoning for animal feeding operations and the ND Insurance Reserve Fund. The bill would prohibit townships from utilizing the NDIRF if they are sued after denying a permit for an animal feeding operation. It also provides a financial incentive to the township if they approve the development, and stay within the model ordinance.

NDTOA Executive Secretary and Lobbyist Larry Syverson is part of a large group working on the bill. Dept. of Agriculture along with ND Farm Bureau seem intent on passing something. Political subdivision groups including the ND Association of Counties and NDTOA are resisting.

[SB 2329](#) requests a portion of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenue be designated for township road funding. An amendment was offered to include oil-producing counties and townships, and the bill was passed 6-0 by the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee.

Legislative Session Terminology 101

- **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE** – Should either chamber amend a bill that previously passed the other chamber, the bill will get sent to a conference committee to work out the differences. Conference Committee work is normally done in the last month of the Legislative Session.
- **FISCAL NOTE** – A fiscal note is attached to any piece of legislation that could have a monetary impact on the state or political subdivisions. Any bill that has a \$200,000 impact to the general fund must go through Appropriations Committees.

NDTOA Bill Tracking Update

HB 1012	NDDOT Budget	Monitor/Support
HB 1147	Establish county & township bridge fund	Support – (see HB 1379)
HB 1236	Township officers	Passed House 88-4
HB 1379	Legacy Fund earnings	In House Appr
SB 2113	DOT Flexible Transp. Fund	Support; Passed Senate 46-0
SB 2178	Township special road fund	Passed Senate 47-0
SB 2183	Emergency snow removal grants	Passed Senate 46-0
SB 2275	Moves municipal infrastructure "Prairie Dog bucket" up in priority	Cmte votes 5-1 DNP
SB 2365	Legislative study regarding township participation in national flood insurance program	Passed Senate 47-0

[SB 2275](#) Moves the SIIF "bucket" to the end of the Legacy Fund earnings appropriation, and fills up the political subdivision infrastructure (Prairie Dog) buckets sooner. Bill received a 5-1 DO NOT PASS vote in Committee, but is still alive on the Senate Calendar. Action Alerts were sent by various groups to make a statement about the importance of rural infrastructure. Two other bills, [SB 2329](#) and [SB 2367](#), both impact this effort. Appropriations Committees are negotiating the best avenue to meet the needs of rural infrastructure funding.

[HB 1379](#) Legacy Fund Earnings bill includes \$15 Million Agriculture Infrastructure and \$100 Million County and Township Bridge Fund so the other bills for those would become redundant.

You can view any Committee hearing or Floor Session via the Legislative website video link here: <https://video.ndlegis.gov/>

If you would like more information or have a question about any legislative issue, contact Larry Syverson. Email: larry.ndtoa@gmail.com

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