



# North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff  
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## STUDY DIRECTIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT FOR THE 2023-24 INTERIM

The following table identifies the bills and resolutions prioritized by the Legislative Management for study during the 2023-24 interim under the authority of North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-02 (21 required studies and 59 optional studies):

Yes	No	Bill or Resolution No.	Subject Matter
<b>Agriculture and Natural Resources</b>			
		2365 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Study the roles of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services, and Department of Water Resources in relation to the tracking and updating of the relevant primary land use authority on lands outside a municipality's jurisdiction. The study must include a method of tracking all organized townships within the state and maintaining updated contact information, certified annually by December 31 <sup>st</sup> ; consider a formal process for organized townships to request, establish, and track the yielding of land use authority to an adjacent jurisdiction; consider how insurance producers access the necessary information, including updated contact information of the authority, to appropriately associate potential insurance policyholders with the relevant land use authority for the purposes of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national flood insurance program; and consider how a member of the public may access the relevant land use authority associated with a specific parcel of land.

Yes	No	Bill or Resolution No.	Subject Matter
		2371 § 4	<p><b>(Required)</b> Study the number of persons that own or control any real estate or commercial assets or operate a business within this state which is owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of foreign adversaries or individuals acting on behalf of or in conjunction with foreign adversaries or persons listed on the Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions list. The study must attempt to craft a definition of foreign adversary and ascertain the number of such persons residing in this state which operate a business or a charitable enterprise or have obtained a beneficial interest in real estate, commercial assets, or a business or charitable organization in this state. The study must consider which federal foreign adversary list would be best suited for use for the security of this state and the impact of implementing and using a federally created list. The study must determine how to define, create, and implement a security review verification system that monitors and reviews the actions of foreign adversaries that operate a business or a charitable enterprise or have obtained a beneficial interest in real estate, commercial assets, or a business or charitable organization in this state. The study must identify optimal methods for state officials to work and collaborate with national intelligence agents at the state and federal level regarding background checks, national security, and state security; outline what constitutes a national security threat and which person or agency has the authority to declare a national security threat and security threat to this state; identify which state agencies are best equipped to create, implement, and operate a security review verification system that monitors and reviews foreign adversaries operating a business or a charitable enterprise or that have obtained a beneficial interest in real estate, commercial assets, or a business or charitable organization in this state; identify the proper structure and function of a security review verification system; identify the individuals and persons eligible to operate a business or a charitable enterprise or that have obtained a beneficial interest in real estate, commercial assets, or a business or charitable organization in this state, under the security review verification system; and identify other necessary changes to current industry practices relating to ownership of real property or commercial assets and the operation of business or charitable entities by a foreign adversary. The study also must include under which circumstances, if any, foreign adversaries are prohibited from owning real property in this state, and under which circumstances, if any, foreign adversaries are permitted to own real property in this state.</p>
		2009 § 22	<p>Consider studying plans for mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental impacts and monetary payments made to state agencies, contractors, nongovernmental organizations, and others by applicants or other persons for mitigation during the siting and operation of energy conversion or transmission facilities. The study must include consideration of the provisions of law that affect the ability of developers to effectively mitigate adverse wildlife habitat and environmental impacts, applicant payments used for the purchase of perpetual or nonperpetual conservation easements, the distinction between an adverse direct environmental effect or an adverse indirect environmental effect, methods to monetarily quantify adverse direct or adverse indirect environmental effects, and alternative programs that may be used or developed for the mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental effects.</p>
		2101 § 1	<p>Consider studying the state's regulation of petroleum products and antifreeze and the relevance of these regulations. The study must include Chapters 23.1-13 on petroleum products and 23.1-14 on antifreeze regulation, the legislative history of these chapters, any other current regulations on petroleum products and antifreeze related to these chapters, and input from interested agencies and industries, including the Department of Environmental Quality.</p>

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<b>Education</b>			
		1238 § 2	<b>(Required)</b> Study the implementation of effective parameters for the ending fund balance for a school district so a school district is able to achieve credit scores sufficient to bond at a reduced cost to taxpayers while ensuring equitable and adequate education. The study must include identification of efficient ways to analyze information on district expenditures; a review of the ending fund balance's impact on a district's short- and long-range planning, related facilities, staffing, and programming; an evaluation of possible trends between state investment, district expenditures, and student performance; and a review of the dramatic increase in behavioral and mental health issues of students, which are addressed by schools with school budgets, in addition to the traditional scope of academic preparation.
		2284 § 13	<b>(Required)</b> Study school choice models implemented nationally for K-12 schools, including charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, voucher systems, and home schools. The study must include input from stakeholders, including public and nonpublic teachers and administrators, parents of students, representatives from the Department of Public Instruction, a representative from the Governor's office, and representatives from regional education associations. The study also must include a review of regulations implemented by state regulatory agencies to ensure accountability for various school choice models; a comparison of nontraditional school choice models implemented by other states; an analysis of the impact of enrollment fluctuation, including the impact on state aid; a review of the state's student population and enrollment capacity and tuition costs of nonpublic schools; and a review of services nonpublic schools are able to offer students with special needs.
		1149 § 1	Consider studying the impact of the North Dakota High School Activities Association on students. The study may include a review of the makeup of the board of the association; the association's bylaws and policies, including eligibility and transfer rules; and the role of the state as it relates to the association's performance of a quasi-governmental function.
		2284 § 12	Consider studying the composition of the State Board of Public School Education. The study must include an analysis of the State Board of Public School Education boundaries, including a comparison of methodologies for creating the boundaries; an analysis of the inclusion of representatives from small, large, urban, and rural schools on the board; an evaluation of term limits for board members, including staggering terms to ensure continuity of knowledge; an evaluation of the benefits and consequences of requiring the composition of the board to include two school district superintendents, two members of a board of a school district, and two citizens at large; an evaluation of the benefits and consequences of requiring a minimum or maximum number of candidates to be submitted to the Governor and permitting the Governor to request a new list of potential candidates once; and an analysis of the role and practices of the County Superintendent of Schools.
		2284 § 15	Consider studying the feasibility, desirability, and impact of replacing storm days with virtual instruction days. The study must include input from the Department of Public Instruction, public school administrators and teachers, and other stakeholders. The study also must include a review of relevant statutes, plans approved by school boards, and current practices related to storm days.

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		3022	Consider studying and clarifying the roles of the State Board of Public School Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the boards of public school districts, and the North Dakota High School Activities Association, as they relate to proper spectator conduct, including the clarification of expectations and consequences for violating those expectations, and the promotion of good sportsmanship and good citizenship, including embracing diversity. The Legislative Management may receive input from a task force which may include one member of the State Board of Public School Education; the Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent's designee; three members of the boards of public school districts appointed by the North Dakota School Boards Association; the President of the North Dakota High School Activities Association or the President's designee; one representative from each of the four tribes that have schools located in North Dakota, appointed by each Tribal Chair; and one parent appointed by the Indian Education Director of Bismarck Public Schools.
<b>Elections and Legislative Process</b>			
		2192 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Study the impact of term limits on the manner in which the Legislative Assembly conducts business. The study must include an assessment of the desirability of providing increased educational opportunities for legislative members due to shortened tenures in the Legislative Assembly, increasing the number of Legislative Council policy staff available to assist new members, and holding legislative sessions on an annual basis.
		1529 § 1	Consider studying the provisions of Chapter 16.1-08.1 related to campaign contribution statements for purposes of eliminating duplicative provisions, clarifying inconsistent or unclear provisions, pursuing uniformity for required contribution and expenditure reports, and rearranging provisions in a logical order.
<b>Energy Development and Transmission</b>			
		1012 § 16	Consider studying the effect of electric vehicles in the state. As part of the study, the Legislative Management shall consider the assessment of fees to offset reductions in motor fuel tax revenues; the impact of electric vehicles on electric demand and the electrical grid; the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure by private and public entities, including potential funding sources; the impact to public services and public transportation providers; and the effect on employment opportunities and other economic impacts, including tourism, automobile dealers, the energy industry, and the critical minerals industry. The study must include input from key stakeholders, including electric vehicle manufacturers, electric vehicle dealers, electric utilities, electric vehicle charging station manufacturers, and other transportation entities.
		1512 § 1	Consider studying statutory provisions governing certification of site compatibility for electric energy conversion facilities. The study must include a review of the provisions of the North Dakota Century Code that allow the Public Service Commission to issue a certificate of site compatibility for electric energy conversion facilities, the certification process for site compatibility for electric energy conversion facilities, and the impact of certifying site compatibility of electric energy conversion facilities in conjunction with subsurface mineral rights for mineral owners or mineral lessees.
		2366 § 1	Consider studying the accessibility of natural gas in small communities. The study must include a review of existing programs to assist small communities with gaining access to natural gas and accessibility assistance programs that may need to be extended.

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		3034	Consider studying sustainable energy policies to maximize the economic viability of existing energy sources, assess future demands on electricity in the state, and determine the feasibility of advanced nuclear energy development and transmission in the state.
<b>Government Administration</b>			
		2003 § 22	<b>(Required)</b> Study the services and needs of the State Crime Laboratory, including staffing and equipment needs; the need for forensic scientists with training in firearms and fingerprint analysis; the feasibility and desirability of remodeling current State Crime Laboratory facilities, acquiring other vacant laboratory facilities in the state, and operating additional State Crime Laboratory facilities in the state; services the State Crime Laboratory should have the capability of providing to support law enforcement entities in the state; and whether the State Crime Laboratory should be administratively separate from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.
		1007 § 5	Consider studying current and future governance needs of the Veterans' Home. The study must include a review of the report that must be provided to the Legislative Management by the Veterans' Home by January 1, 2024, regarding the status of implementing recommendations included in the Veterans' Home strategic plan. The study must consider the current duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Veterans' Home Governing Board, and the Veterans' Home administrator and any organizational changes necessary to provide services for veterans and veterans' spouses, increase resident census at the Veterans' Home, accomplish goals included in the Veterans' Home strategic plan, and ensure the long-term viability of the Veterans' Home.
		1242 § 5	Consider studying emergency and interoperable public safety communications system governance needs and options. The study must include an analysis of options to manage and operate state and local emergency and interoperable public safety systems, including the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network; evaluate the current and most appropriate governance roles for each state and local emergency and interoperable public safety government entity; determine the most appropriate state or local emergency and interoperable public safety government entity to have responsibility for the ongoing administrative and operational maintenance cost of the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network; and consider input from the Information Technology Department, Department of Emergency Services Division of State Radio, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee, North Dakota Association of Counties, and local public safety entities.
		1288 § 4	Consider studying infrastructure development by private operators as provided for under Chapter 48-02.1, agency construction management procurement procedures under Section 48-01.2-19, and construction management at-risk delivery methods under Section 48-01.2-20. The study must include input from contractor groups and other stakeholders to determine how public-private partnerships are being used and whether the use of these partnerships has been successful.

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		2015 § 64	Consider studying the policies and procedures of state agencies, excluding institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, for managing, maintaining, and leasing state facilities. The study must include consideration of the most efficient and cost-effective organizational structure for managing, maintaining, and leasing state facilities, including a comparison of allocating funding and full-time equivalent positions to various agencies and centralizing funding and full-time equivalent positions under one agency; the costs and benefits of leasing or owning state facilities; and the appropriate use of contracts for service and full-time equivalent positions for custodial services, mechanical services, snow removal, lawn care, and maintenance.
		2024 § 3	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of establishing a rate structure to offset the operating expenses of the Ethics Commission. The study must include a comparison of the funding method for ethics commissions used by other states within the region.
		3025	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of renovating and constructing an addition to the Liberty Memorial Building or constructing a new building on the grounds of the State Capitol to serve as a new Supreme Court building. The study may include input from the Supreme Court and the Office of Management and Budget. The study also must consider the feasibility and desirability of relocating the State Library or constructing a new building on the grounds of the State Capitol for the State Library, and the relocation of other agencies occupying the Liberty Memorial Building.
<b>Government Finance</b>			
		2015 § 65	<b>(Required)</b> Study the state's guardianship programs. The study must include consideration of the existing structure for the programs under the Office of Management and Budget, judicial branch, and Department of Health and Human Services; the feasibility of consolidating the programs under one agency; and an appropriate level of funding for the programs.
		1008 § 3	Consider studying the appropriation procedures for the Department of Financial Institutions. The study must include an analysis of the feasibility and desirability of alternative appropriation methods, management structures employed, oversight and reporting to the executive and legislative branches of government, staff classifications structures tied to federal or market compensation indexes, and staffing structures which allow for adjustments to market conditions.
		2009 § 23	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of transferring agriculture education programs in the Department of Career and Technical Education to the Agriculture Commissioner. The study must include an analysis of each program, duties and responsibilities of the programs and Department of Career and Technical Education staff, the potential to gain administrative and resource efficiencies if the programs are transferred to the Agriculture Commissioner, and future staffing, operating, and equipment needs of the programs.
		2015 § 63	Consider studying, in collaboration with the Insurance Commissioner and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the feasibility and desirability of changing administration of the state fire and tornado fund and state bonding fund from the Insurance Commissioner to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The study must include an analysis of the statutory changes necessary to accomplish the change in administration and other statutory changes necessary to facilitate the Office of Management and Budget's administration of these funds.

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		2016 § 15	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of a Cold War trail project. The study must consider potential sites to include on the trail and options and costs of the construction, addition, maintenance, and equipment for new and existing North Dakota Cold War historic sites; providing educational resources regarding North Dakota's role in the Cold War; and promoting tourism for North Dakota Cold War historic sites.
<b>Health Care</b>			
		2012 § 53	<b>(Required)</b> Study the benefits of basing provider reimbursement rates for the Medicaid program in accordance with a provider's performance under established and accepted value-based care metrics.
		2158 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Conduct a study, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services, Board of the Comprehensive Health Association of North Dakota, and Public Employees Retirement System to determine the steps necessary for the dissolution of the Comprehensive Health Association of North Dakota under Chapter 26.1-08. The study must include analysis of the enrollees, transitioning of the current enrollees' plans to potential Affordable Care Act plans, Medicaid programs, and Public Employees Retirement System plans, and any other options determined by the study. The study also must include a process to discontinue any new enrollment into the Comprehensive Health Association of North Dakota immediately and transition all major medical plans in effect as soon as plan year 2024.
		1413 § 1	Consider studying the impact of third-party payments and accumulator adjustment programs on North Dakota patients' out-of-pocket costs, medications adherence, and health care systems costs and impacts. The study shall assess health benefit participants' usage and prevalence of third-party payments in North Dakota. The study also shall review data from states with accumulator adjustment program bans since 2019 and shall seek input from all relevant stakeholders in the health care industry.
		1476 § 1	Consider studying the impact of entities that receive Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion funding utilizing contract nursing agencies.
		2389 § 1	Consider studying prior authorization in health benefit plans. The study must include consideration of the extent to which prior authorization is used by health insurance companies in this state, including the types of services and procedures for which prior authorization is required; the impact of prior authorization on patient care, including the effects on patient health outcomes, patient satisfaction, health care costs, and patient access to care; the impact of prior authorization on health care providers and insurers, including the administrative burden, time, and cost associated with obtaining prior authorization, and the appropriate utilization of health care services; state and federal laws and regulations that may impact prior authorization; and input from stakeholders, including patients, providers, and commercial insurance plans. The study may include consideration of issues related to response times, retroactive denial, data reporting, clinical criteria and medical necessity, transparency, fraud and abuse, reviewer qualifications, exceptions, and an appeal process.
		3018	Consider studying strategies to increase the number of North Dakotans who receive health benefits coverage.
		4009	Consider studying whether health insurance should provide coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without imposing cost-sharing requirements.

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<b>Health Services</b>			
		2085 § 3	<b>(Required)</b> Conduct a comprehensive study of the delivery of emergency medical services in the state. The study must include consideration of funding, taxation, access critical areas, demographics, volunteer training, volunteer retention, systems approach to rural areas, employment options, including access to a public safety pension, and educational reimbursements. The study also shall include consideration of distressed ambulance services, which are ambulance services that have indicated an intention to close or change their license level, or an ambulance service that fails to meet performance standards as established by the Department of Health and Human Services.
		1026 § 1	Consider studying the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 North Dakota behavioral health system study conducted by the Human Services Research Institute and the 2022 acute psychiatric and residential care needs study conducted by Renee Schulte Consulting, LLC.
		2201 § 6	Consider studying, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, the administrative costs involved in certifying a compassion center. The study must include information on the amount and frequency of certification fees, a description of additional costs associated with certification, an explanation of how the department uses the certification fees once they are collected, a recommendation of the best way to lower administrative costs while maintaining the integrity of the department's medical marijuana program, and a prediction on whether the lowering of administrative costs will help to lower consumer costs on medical marijuana purchased from a compassion center.
		3017	Consider studying the increasing need for inpatient mental health care for children and whether there are adequate home- and community-based care and outpatient services for the number of children and the location of need.
		3021	Consider studying whether the services provided in the state relating to the care and treatment of individuals with brain injury are adequate, including a review of the state's existing programs to identify potential pathways and treatment options for individuals with brain injury, gap identification with programmatic recommendations identifying potential strategies to address the gaps, potential federal and state funding sources for services, and developing a method to evaluate the efficacy of new programs.
<b>Higher Education</b>			
		1003 § 43	<b>(Required)</b> Study funding for dual-credit courses. The study must include a review of all funding sources relating to dual-credit courses in the state, including tuition and fees, the higher education funding formula, elementary and secondary education integrated formula payments, institution scholarships, state scholarships, and the Bank of North Dakota. The study also must include a review of funding for dual-credit courses in other states.
		2145 § 2	Consider studying the statute for the authorization to operate postsecondary career schools.
<b>Human Services</b>			
		1480 § 3	Consider studying the pay for success funding model as a tool to identify ways for state and local government to provide outcomes-based services. The study must include a review of the ways the pay for success model may be implemented at the state and local level, examine pay for success programs of other states, and include input from the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services and the State Treasurer.



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		2012 § 52	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of the Legislative Assembly enacting the social work licensure compact. The study may include consideration of whether the public and the social work community support enactment and whether the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners has the capacity to participate in the compact.
		2012 § 54	Consider studying the payment rates for intermediate care facilities, including options to increase the rates. The study must consider the funded percentage of costs for services including day and small group care, individual employment, in-home supports, respite care, habilitative care, independent habitation, and residential habitation.
		2155 § 2	Consider studying the expansion of federally qualified health care centers. The study must include consideration of increasing the number of federally qualified health care centers in the state and improving federally qualified health care center collaboration with local public health units.
		2291 § 1	Consider studying the utilization of federal temporary assistance for needy families block grant funding received by the state. The study must include a review of the recent history of the use of the funds and an assessment and determination of the appropriate use of the funds for administrative costs, direct and indirect client financial and other support, and other purposes.
		3030	Consider studying homelessness and barriers to housing, including consideration of the effectiveness of the RentHelp program; the provision of housing financial support; legal assistance programs available to tenants; state, local, or federal educational programs for tenants and landlords regarding rights and responsibilities; month-to-month eviction rates by human service zone area; definitions of homelessness or homeless rates used by government entities; barriers to accessing housing; the manner in which homeless children receive services; historical rates of homelessness; and how a community-based approach to homelessness may reduce rates of homelessness.
		4004	Consider studying accessible transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities in the state. The study must include an evaluation of statewide challenges to system services and barriers to expanding the state's accessible transportation infrastructure, an examination of the fiscal impact of providing accessible transportation, an assessment of effective long-term modification of funding formulas to support accessible transportation, and an evaluation of modifications to anticipate the responsibilities of public entities under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
		4011	Consider studying the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly and the benefits of expanding the program.
		4016	Consider studying the availability of adequately accessible housing in the state for individuals with mobility impairments or physical disabilities. The study must include an evaluation of statewide challenges and barriers to expanding the state's inventory of accessible housing, an assessment of the need for and availability of accessible housing for individuals with mobility impairments or physical disabilities, and an evaluation of the effective, long-term home modifications that could support and increase the availability of accessible homes.

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<b>Information Technology</b>			
		1003 § 44	Consider studying the emergence of artificial intelligence and the potential impacts on the state's institutions, agencies, businesses, citizens, and youth. The study must include a review of the effect of artificial intelligence on the provision of health care, effects on student learning, potential opportunities or threats to the integrity of state services, the potential impact on electoral processes, including mitigating action to be taken leading up to the 2024 state elections, opportunities for state investment or policy changes to promote artificial intelligence businesses, and cybersecurity implications across all state institutions.
		1528 § 6	Consider studying the records management policies of state agencies, including boards and commissions. The study must include a review of policy uniformity and training resources; an analysis of technological capabilities and limitations; evaluation of the feasibility of providing electronic mail and file service solutions for statewide public entities, including boards and commissions; and an analysis of the development, implementation, enforcement, and auditing of records management policies and practices.
		2018 § 11	Consider studying the records management programs of state agencies and institutions related to records deemed historic in value. The study must include a review of state agencies' and institutions' compliance with the records management programs.
<b>Judiciary</b>			
		1195 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Study, in collaboration with the Commission on Juvenile Justice, the North Dakota Criminal Code to ensure equitable application to youths charged with juvenile delinquencies. The study must include consideration of the desirability and feasibility of a separate juvenile delinquency offense code, whether a separate and unique classification of criminal offenses for juveniles should be created, and which criminal offenses should receive a distinct classification for juvenile offenders, if any. In conducting the study, the Legislative Management and the Commission on Juvenile Justice may seek technical assistance, as appropriate, from the Council of State Governments' Justice Center.
		1341 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Study those provisions of the North Dakota Century Code that place restrictions on carrying firearms and dangerous weapons. The study must include an examination of the state's current firearm and weapon possession prohibitions as compared to the nation's historical regulations and restrictions on the time, place, and manner in which firearms and dangerous weapons may be restricted. The study must include an assessment of recent federal court cases relating to firearm restrictions, including public carry, and an examination of the definition of a dangerous weapon and whether the current definition of a dangerous weapon should be maintained, narrowed, or expanded. The study must include input from the Attorney General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a representative of the North Dakota University System, and representatives of the Supreme Court, the Association of Counties, the League of Cities, the State's Attorney Association, the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents, the Peace Officers Association, and an association or organization with an interest in firearm legislation.

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		2376 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Study, with the assistance of the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws, the recording practices of local and state law enforcement during custodial interrogations to determine the feasibility and desirability for uniform implementation of recording practices. The study must include the number of law enforcement agencies currently recording custodial interrogations and any policies regarding how the recording of interrogations is conducted; the storage and retention practices associated with recording interrogations; the types of equipment used to record interrogations; the types of locations at which interrogations are recorded; the types of criminal investigations in which interrogations are recorded and the frequency those interrogations are recorded; the current disclosure of recorded interrogations in criminal discovery; best practices and current requirements for the recording of interrogations, including adoption of the Uniform Electronic Recordation of Custodial Interrogations Act; the financial costs associated with the recording of custodial interrogations and implementation of uniform practices; and any barriers to uniform implementation of the recording of custodial interrogations. The Legislative Management may seek the assistance of the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws in the development of recommended policies and procedures.
		1415 § 2	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of creating a multijurisdictional sexual predator task force. The study must include input from stakeholders, including representatives from law enforcement, regarding the need for or desire to have a sexual predator task force. The study also must include an analysis of interagency coordination.
		1536 § 4	Consider studying the implementation of Chapter 27-19.1. The study must include a review of federal statutes related to Indian child welfare, relevant case law, and input from stakeholders.
		2080 § 6	Consider studying the laws and practices of the child welfare system. The study must include a review of the implementation of the revisions in juvenile court procedures and the new model of practice; the laws, administrative rules, and practices of the foster care and adoption systems; the timeliness of termination of parental rights; the timeliness of permanency; and the availability of resources to support children and families experiencing out-of-home placement or risk of out-of-home placement.
		2238 § 1	Consider studying the statewide criminal history record check process. The study may include a comparison between the statewide and nationwide criminal history record check standards, a review of the average processing time of a requested criminal history record check, and an evaluation of methods to improve efficiency and processing times of the statewide criminal history record check process.
		2278 § 1	Consider studying the laws and procedures relating to courts established under Chapter 40-18. The study must include an examination of the number and geographic location of existing municipal courts; access to municipal court ordinances; jurisdiction of the municipal courts; municipal court judge qualifications and training; transfer of cases to district court; appeal of cases to district court; Supreme Court general oversight of municipal courts; applicability of judicial administrative rules to municipal courts; requirements for recording proceedings in municipal court; and requirements to report information to the Supreme Court on the establishment or abolition of a court, the election, appointment and removal of municipal court judges and clerks, and annual caseload data and annual financial information on the imposition, collection, and disposition of fines and fees.

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		2321 § 1	Consider studying the state's policies and relevant case law regarding open adoptions to determine the feasibility and desirability for legislation relating to clarifying communication and the rights of biological parents. The study must include existing state policies regarding open adoptions; the current practices of collection and storage of personal, contact, and medical information of biological parents; benefits and consequences of adopting legislation that would extend legal enforceability to open adoption agreements; best practices for keeping birth children and their adoptive parents aware of health complications in biological family members over time; any information relevant to open adoption or open adoption agreements that the Legislative Management deems important in understanding the totality of the issue; the potential financial costs to adoptive families, adoption agencies, and the court system; and any barriers to extending legal enforceability to open adoption agreements in the state of North Dakota. The Legislative Management may seek the assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services and adoption agencies that partner with the state of North Dakota.
		2327 § 1	Consider studying, with the assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services and the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws, the parentage and adoption practices currently in statute. The study must include a review of current policies on determining and notifying a biological parent of parentage or a hearing on a petition for adoption; the current practices of collection and storage of personal information of parents; best practices for protecting the privacy of individuals involved in the adoption process, including those regarding the adequate storage of personal data, methods of notifying a parent of parentage or of a hearing on a petition for adoption, and collecting and keeping correct contact and personal information from involved individuals; the feasibility and desirability of adopting certain language from the 2017 Uniform Parentage Act, particularly those relating to more modern practices with the handling of personal data and the means of notification; any information relevant to the adoption process and its modernization which the Department of Health and Human Services may deem important; the financial costs associated with the establishment and maintenance of a parentage registry within the state; and any barriers to establishment or maintenance of a parentage registry. The Legislative Management may seek the assistance of the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws in the development of recommended policies and procedures.
		3026	Consider studying improving re-entry outcomes for incarcerated adults and youth. The study must include an assessment of current public and private re-entry services, policies, practices, statutes, data, and resource allocation with the goal of identifying opportunities to implement research-based strategies proven to reduce recidivism, improve education and employment outcomes, and maximize resources for the greatest public safety and return on taxpayer dollars. The study also must include an examination of re-entry services in the areas of correctional supervision, employment, job training, housing, transportation, support services, and behavioral health services; levels of collaboration across service systems; and current disparities in re-entry outcomes. The Legislative Management may develop a working group to oversee the study which includes legislators, representatives from nonprofit organizations that assist with re-entry, community members with re-entry experience, and representatives from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, county jails, the Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Supreme Court, job service or business community, adult and postsecondary education institutions, and tribal nations. The Legislative Management may seek technical assistance, as appropriate, from the Council of State Governments' Justice Center or the Crime and Justice Institute.

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<b>Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review</b>			
		2004 § 7	Consider studying local government audit services and the challenges of political subdivisions to obtain auditing services.
<b>Retirement</b>			
		1040 § 33	<b>(Required)</b> Study the Public Employees Retirement System main system plan, including funding options and contributions by political subdivisions.
		1040 § 34	<b>(Required)</b> Study best practices for public employee retirement plans, including defined benefit plans, defined contribution plans, and hybrid plans such as side-by-side hybrid plans, cash benefit plans, and stacked hybrid plans. The study must include development of legislation to implement the retirement plan best suited to meet the needs of the state, political subdivisions, and public employees.
		1183 § 5	Consider studying the retirement system for peace officers and public safety personnel in the state. The study must include consideration of the Public Employees Retirement System retirement plans offered to peace officers and safety personnel; how political subdivisions provide retirement benefits to peace officers and safety personnel; how other states provide retirement benefits to peace officers and safety personnel; the level of benefits and contributions in the state, political subdivision, and other state plans; how peace officers and public safety personnel transition between these retirement plans; and factors unique to retirement plans in the public safety sector.
<b>School Funding Task Force</b>			
		2328 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Establish and provide staffing and administrative services to a school funding task force facilitated by a nonpartisan leadership organization. The Chairman of the Legislative Management may add additional, temporary nonvoting members to the task force, as deemed necessary by the task force chair, to serve without compensation. The task force may include public school administrators or business managers, public school teachers, five members of the Legislative Assembly appointed by the Legislative Management, parents of public school students, representatives from the Department of Public Instruction, a representative from the Governor's office, and a representative from a regional education association. The school funding task force shall review litigation the state was a party to relating to school funding and the resulting implications for school funding models; analyze higher education funding sources to determine whether the sources may be used in whole or in part for the K-12 system; review school payment formulas to determine whether education costs can be equalized across the state; study the size, student population, and economics of school districts and the number of facilities within the district per square mile compared with student population; develop and study sliding-scale models within school districts based on size, student populations, and economics; assess the negative impacts of the current funding formula; study school funding formulas used by other states; determine the benefits of and incentives to promote school district consolidation; review school transportation costs considering location, size, and student enrollment; study high-cost student and special education student costs as those costs relate to the formula weighting factors; and analyze the cost of distance education, comparing the costs of different methods of instruction delivery, including synchronous as compared to asynchronous instruction. The task force may study the funding of school building maintenance and repairs considering location and whether buildings are located in a rural or urban area; and review ending fund balances and analyze how the current funding formula impacts ending fund balances.

Yes	No	Bill or Resolution No.	Subject Matter
<b>Tax Relief Advisory Committee</b>			
		1158 § 5	<p><b>(Required)</b> The Legislative Management shall appoint a legislative tax relief advisory committee, which must consist of three members of the Finance and Taxation Standing Committee of the House of Representatives and three members of the Finance and Taxation Standing Committee of the Senate, appointed by the respective Majority Leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate. The committee shall study tax relief, including income and property tax relief. Based on information provided by the Tax Department, the study must include consideration of historical income and property tax relief provided by the Legislative Assembly, including the estimated and actual fiscal impact of the tax relief; an analysis of the tax relief provided by the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly through individual income tax rate changes, a primary residence credit, and an expansion of the homestead credit, including the estimated fiscal impact for each method of tax relief and the effect of the income tax rate changes on passthrough income related to income reported on K-1 forms and royalty income reported on 1099-MISC forms; options to implement a flat individual income tax rate, including the estimated fiscal impact of the options; options to adjust the individual income tax structure, including the estimated fiscal impact of the options; and an update on the progress of implementing the primary residence credit, including the status of information technology changes and the amount spent on advertising the credit. The committee may consider input from local taxing districts regarding the administration of the primary residence credit and the homestead credit.</p>
<b>Taxation</b>			
		1247 § 1	<p><b>(Required)</b> Study the provision of a property tax exemption for elevators, warehouses, and other farm structures classified as commercial property, which are privately owned and used to store agricultural products produced by the owner or an individual related to the owner as defined in Section 10-06.1-12. The study must include consideration of the potential shift in property tax burden if the exemption were to be enacted, the definitions of agricultural property and farm plant as used in Section 57-02-08(15), and the impact of abandoned elevators, potato warehouses, and other farm structures classified as commercial property on the political subdivisions in which they are located, including the cost of refurbishment or removal.</p>

Yes	No	Bill or Resolution No.	Subject Matter
		2304 § 6	<b>(Required)</b> Study statewide charitable gaming comprehensively. The study must include input from the Attorney General, stakeholders from large and small charitable organizations, local political subdivisions that authorize sites, gaming equipment manufacturers and distributors, gambling addiction counselors, and other industry leaders. The study also must include an evaluation of the economic impact of charitable gaming on the state in urban and rural areas; an evaluation of gambling addiction and treatment services currently available; an evaluation of the civic benefit of charitable gaming to the communities most closely related to the gaming sites; an evaluation of how site authorization is approved and renewed, including whether charities have equitable access to sites; an evaluation of the gaming tax structure; an evaluation of public support for charitable gaming; an evaluation of statewide local restrictions placed on charitable gaming; an evaluation of gaming expansion; an evaluation of site locations where gaming is taking place; an evaluation of charitable gaming proceeds and the eligible uses of gaming proceeds, including the percentage of proceeds that may be used for administration; an evaluation of the categories of organizations that are allowed to conduct charitable gaming, including the missions of such organizations; an evaluation of the placement of gaming activity within a gaming site, including electronic pull-tab device placement; an evaluation of the rental rate paid by organizations to alcoholic beverage establishments; and an evaluation of the authority of the Attorney General to regulate alcoholic beverage establishments.
		1487 § 2	Consider studying the cost to North Dakota retailers for the collection, remittance, and filing of North Dakota sales and use tax. The study must categorize North Dakota merchants into no less than three classes by sales volume and describe any differences in costs related to sales volume.
		2359 § 1	Consider studying the impact of political subdivisions levying special assessments against other political subdivisions and the overall impact on taxpayers. The study must include analysis of the impact on taxpayers not governed by the political subdivision levying special assessments and explore forms of taxation policy that minimize the levying of special assessments in the form of taxes through political subdivisions.
<b>Workforce</b>			
		2122 § 1	<b>(Required)</b> Study the workforce training center funding distribution model. The study must include the funding distribution model, statewide integration and alignment across workforce training centers, and awarding college credit for workforce training center-offered training.
		1519 § 3	Consider studying the utilization of existing autonomous system capabilities and infrastructure to provide solutions to workforce and safety needs in the state. The study must include an analysis of utilizing autonomous technology for infrastructure inspection, rural emergency service needs, agriculture advancement, energy industry application, and other opportunities for collaboration through the utilization of autonomous system technology.
		2012 § 51	Consider studying the early child care programs and child care services to identify major needs and systemic approaches to stabilize child care infrastructure.
		2170 § 2	Consider studying the feasibility and desirability of creating a state office of apprenticeship. The study must include consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of creating the office in comparison to apprenticeships remaining solely under the control of the federal Department of Labor. The study must identify areas in which the state may exercise more control over the federal labor law to provide more flexibility as it applies to minors at least 16 years of age.

Yes	No	Bill or Resolution No.	Subject Matter
		2284 § 14	Consider studying employer recruitment needs, applicable state regulations, and benefit options for K-12 educators within the state, including potential barriers to military personnel and spouses teaching in the classroom. The study should identify immediate and long-term public policy strategies to address teacher shortages and support for military families and spouses.