

2019 Greater North Dakota Chamber Final Legislative Report



During the 66th Legislative Assembly there were 907 Bills and 74 Concurrent Resolutions introduced. The Greater North Dakota Chamber tracked over 280 bills based on their potential effects to the business climate in North Dakota. The bills listed below are those of the greatest significance to employers in the state and their final status.

Bill #	Position	Bill	Status
1012	Support	The Department of Transportation appropriation includes \$13 million of state funds to match Federal funds that are used for state highway improvements.	Passed
1018	Support	The Commerce Department appropriation includes numerous economic development programs that benefit the state. GNDC is most interested in Operation Intern, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and investments in UAS.	Passed
1019	Support	The Career and Technical Education appropriation provides funding for technical education and training. As approved it does not include funding for career academies that were part of the Governor's budget.	Passed
1020	Support	The Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute appropriation funds needed research of the state's transportation infrastructure.	Passed
1040	Strong Support	Reinstates the expired Automation Tax Credit and provides \$2 million per biennium for a 20% tax credit on equipment and technology used to automate a primary sector manufacturing process.	Passed
1060	Oppose	This bill would assess a 3% to 10% surcharge to employers whose benefits have exceeded their contributions. The current fund is above target and if adjustments are needed it should be done through the rate structure.	Failed
1062	Support	Adjusts the timeline for appointment of board members to the Workforce Safety and Insurance Board to better fit the legislative session.	Passed
1066	Strong Support	Provides infrastructure funding for non-oil producing counties, cities and airports utilizing oil production tax. Up to \$250 million will be available. Also maintains current infrastructure funding for oil producing areas within the state.	Passed
1097	Strong Support	Repeals the Sunday retail closing laws to give business the option be open on Sunday mornings.	Passed
1106	Support	Establishment of a reinsurance pool for the individual health insurance market. This will decrease premiums for individual health insurance plans and will bring stability to the North Dakota health insurance market.	Passed
1111	Support	This would simplify state reporting requirements for the research and experimental tax credit. It would model the current federal alternative simplified method.	Passed
1135	Neutral	Lessens the requirement for signing a mobility impaired parking space. It also allows mobility impaired individuals to occupy two parking spaces if all the designated spaces are taken.	Passed
1156	Support	Allows short duration insurance coverage for travel, events and unmanned aircraft applications.	Passed
1171	Support	The \$12 million Skilled Workforce Student Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program would utilize \$6 million in state funds with private sector match to repay loans and offer scholarships for workforce who enter high demand careers in North Dakota.	Passed
1184	Oppose	This bill would restrict the general use of quick take eminent domain needed for some infrastructure projects.	Failed
1193	Support	Creates regulatory certainty across North Dakota by ensuring local governments cannot impose a minimum wage higher than the State's Minimum Wage.	Passed
1195	Neutral	This legislation would require additional provisions to automatically renewable consumer contracts.	Passed
1200	Support	Prohibits a political subdivision from taxing or additionally regulating an auxiliary container (plastic bags, cups, straws, etc.)	Passed

1247	Oppose	This would lower the minimum WSI premium payment. Although this would potentially benefit some business sectors, others would potentially see an increase in premiums.	Failed
1291	Support	Allows for permanent registration of semitrailers and farm trailers. This will encourage more North Dakota based companies to license their fleets in-state.	Passed
1293	Oppose	Attempted to require employers to give one-day off per seven day work period if requested with no employer protections. This potentially would have created unsafe working conditions in certain industries. State law already exists to provide a day of rest for employees.	Failed
1305	Oppose	Attempted to mandate manufacturers to provide repair information, testing equipment, firmware access and repair parts to any repair provider with minimal restrictions. This would potentially create unsafe operating conditions for employees and have a chilling effect on innovation.	Failed
1317	Oppose	Would have held property owners, lessees and tenants restricting the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon, liable for injury or death caused by a firearm or dangerous weapon on their property. This would have infringed on basic property rights.	Failed
1333	Support	Creates a \$15 million loan program that would offer a three year, 0% interest loan towards applied research and commercialization. The desired outcome is to develop new companies or to expand existing companies to diversify the state's economy.	Passed
1371	Oppose	Would have created a new hire registry mandate for independent contractors for child support. This requirement would be burdensome on employers who utilize independent contractors and further blurs the lines between employee and independent contractor.	Failed
1449 2336	Oppose	These bills would have raised the oil extraction tax from 5% to 6.5%. North Dakota already has the 2nd highest effective oil tax in the country. This tax increase would have negatively impacted small producers and royalty owners the most.	Failed
1450	Oppose	Would have imposed a 100% tax increase of the tobacco products tax rate for cigarettes. This would have negatively impacted North Dakota distributors and local vendors.	Failed
1456	Oppose	Attempted to mandate WSI cover mental injuries that occurred on the job and pre-existing conditions triggered on the job. Finding the true source of these types of injuries is difficult and would have significantly increase employer premiums. Mental injury as a result of a physical injury is currently a covered claim.	Failed
1475	Support	Provides an income tax exclusion for employee education assistance provided by an employer.	Passed
1480	Neutral	A study to evaluate the creation of compressed natural gas fueling stations, creation of a compressed natural gas conversion fund, flaring reduction, and compressed natural gas motor vehicle excise tax.	Failed
1484	Oppose	Includes provisions for a paid family medical leave mandate. Protections already exist at the federal level. These types of programs are already being offered by employers.	Failed
1485	Neutral	A study on best practices for consumer data protection	Passed
1493	Oppose	The bills aims to improve privacy by restricting unmanned aerial system (UAS). Undue targeting to UAS that would impact our UAS industry in the state and laws are already in place to do what this bill is looking to accomplish.	Failed
1509	Oppose	Attempted to institute a state paid family leave mandate to be funded by employers and employees. Protections already exist at the federal level and these types of programs are already being offered by employers, competing for workforce.	Failed
2012	Strong Support	The Department of Human Services appropriation includes funding for Medicaid expansion at corporate rates. This program provides stability to insurance markets and limits increases in premiums.	Passed
2021	Support	The Workforce Safety and Insurance appropriation provides spending authority for the agency from the WSI fund. This agency provides care for injured workers and safety training while maintaining the lowest premiums in the nation.	Passed

2039	Support	This bill creates a skilled workforce scholarship program. \$10 million from the Bank of North Dakota is matched with industry dollars towards tuition support for students who enter in-demand career fields. This bill was merged with 1171.	Failed
2044	Support	Institutes a penalty for tampering with or damaging a critical infrastructure facility or a public utility.	Passed
2191	Support	Institutes sales tax policy for sellers located out-of-state as a result of the Wayfair vs South Dakota Supreme Court decision.	Passed
2209	Support	Adds protections for records related to critical infrastructure and security planning, mitigation, or threats.	Passed
2233	Oppose	Mandated insurers to cover expenses associated with certain healthcare benefits. The coverage would only apply to a limited number of individuals and is currently offered as optional coverage. This would significantly increase health insurance premiums overall.	Failed
2268	Support	Creates a Corridors of Commerce program with special fund authority for the NDDOT to use on the state highway system.	Passed
2306	Support	Grants occupational licensure reciprocity of military members and spouses if they have practiced in another state. Also contains language to give a provisional license if they do not meet licensure board requirements.	Passed
2319	Oppose	Attempted to mandate language restrictions of certain business to business contracts.	Failed