

Dog Days of Session

Today marks Day 22 officially of the 2023 Legislative Session. The countdown to crossover has begun, and many of the policy type bills have had hearings. Both chambers’ Appropriations Committees are crunching the numbers and budgets before crossover, with still some legislation requiring NDTOA’s attention.

**HB 1012** The House Appropriations Government Operations subdivision committee approved not only carrying over the \$10 million in township grants from last session, but also taking the ‘federal match’ restriction off of the funds. Should this pass, it will allow townships to apply directly for state funds for infrastructure projects without having to wait for any federal matching funds.

**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.

The hearing was held in the House Agriculture Committee on Feb 2. The Agriculture Commissioner along with the ND Farm Bureau spoke in favor. NDTOA registered opposition in addition to others. The author of the bill suggested a “task force on model ordinances” be created as both the State model ordinance statutes and many political subdivisions have outdated ordinances.. [You can view the hearing with this link.](#)

Legislative Session Terminology 101

Let’s explore some common terms, not commonly used in everyday life – unless you are a legislator or lobbyist!

- **CROSSOVER** – The date when all the bills that survived in one house (Senate or House) are sent to the other house for consideration. Bills that are defeated by the House do NOT crossover to the Senate, and vice versa. This year crossover is scheduled for Feb 24, with a recess period until Feb 28.
- **HOG HOUSE** – A hog house amendment either combines sections of several bills or rewrites an entire bill. Hog House Amendments many times are used toward the end of a session in order to pass the bill.

NDTOA Bill Tracking Update

<a href="#">HB 1012</a>	NDDOT Budget	Monitor/Support
<a href="#">HB 1147</a>	Establish county & township bridge fund	Support
<a href="#">HB 1236</a>	<b>Township officers</b>	<b>Passed House 88-4</b>
<a href="#">SB 2113</a>	DOT Flexible Transp. Fund	Support; Passes Senate 46-0
<a href="#">SB 2178</a>	<b>Township special road fund</b>	<b>Passed Senate 47-0</b>
<a href="#">SB 2183</a>	Emergency snow removal grants	Passed Senate Approps w/amendments
<a href="#">SB 2275</a>	Moves municipal infrastructure “Prairie Dog bucket” up in priority	Hearing held; no Cmte action
<a href="#">SB 2365</a>	Provides a legislative study regarding township participation in national flood insurance program	<b>Passed Senate 47-0</b>

**SB 2183** is an appropriation for emergency snow removal grants. Senate Appropriations Committee amended the bill, dropping the total available to \$25 million, and removing the State from the eligible grant recipients.

**SB 2329** requests a portion of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenue be designated for township road funding. The ND League of Cities and the ND Assn of Counties have reservations if the bill reduces their share of the State Aid Distribution funds, which are come from the Motor Vehicle Excise taxes.

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](mailto:larry.ndtoa@gmail.com)

Click to find the whole [NDTOA watch list](#) at Legiscan

