

More Township bills head to Gov’s desk!

House Bill 1236 which raises township allowable daily pay rate to \$100 per day, and allows for township annual meetings to be held any day in March will join **Senate Bill 2178** on Governor Burgum’s desk for signature. Additionally, **Senate Bill 2183**, the emergency snow removal grant bill has passed the House. Because it was amended in the House it has to be sent back to the Senate for concurrence.

On the flipside, **Senate Bill 2329** met its demise in the House. SB 2329 would have directed 12.5% of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax to townships for infrastructure needs; a similar amount would go to the counties. It was based on the “road miles” formula and also on the mill levy of each township. However, leadership balked at the \$82 million price tag, the House Finance & Taxation Committee gave it a 13-1 Do Not Pass recommendation and ultimately the full House agreed by a vote of 9 Ayes, and 83 Nays.

Session focus turns to infrastructure

As the Legislative Session reaches Day 46, some of the major agency budgets and infrastructure bills take center stage. For townships, we are monitoring and weighing in on several bills that could provide some needed road funding. **House Bill 1012** is the NDDOT Budget and contains \$115M of flexible funding, \$10M of carryover spending for township road project grants, and \$750,000 of emergency township road repair funding. An anticipated amendment will try to put more money for townships into HB 1012 for a continuing fund.

Senate Bill 2113 is the policy bill for the Flexible Transportation Fund. It is held up pending amendments to reserve part of the funding for township projects.

House Bill 1379 is the Legacy Fund earnings bill, which directs how Legacy Fund earnings are to be allocated. \$60M will continue to flow into the highway tax fund each biennium and an additional \$100M would be directed to township and county bridge projects. **Senate Bill 2367** continues the “Prairie Dog” bucket for political subdivision infrastructure funding derived from oil and gas tax revenues. The Prairie Dog buckets are predicted to fill again in 2025 and will give each non-oil township another \$9,100. However, the county-township bucket will likely be delayed because an additional \$60 million will need to flow into state coffers ahead of the “Prairie Dog”.

NDTOA Bill Tracking Update

HB 1012	NDDOT Budget; includes \$115M DOT “flex funding”	Support: <i>In Sen. Appropriations Committee</i>
HB 1236	Township officers pay and annual meeting	Passed House; Passed Senate
HB 1379	Legacy Fund earnings; including \$100M for township and county bridge funding	Passed House; <i>In Sen. Approps Committee</i>
SB 2113	DOT Flexible Transp. Fund	Being held for poss amndmts
SB 2178	Township special road fund increase to \$500K	Signed by Governor
SB 2183	Emergency snow removal grants Amended by House	Passed Senate; Now on House calendar
SB 2329	Uses portion of motor vehicle excise taxes for township and county road funding	FAILED in House 9-83
SB 2365	Legislative study regarding township participation in national flood insurance program	Signed by Governor
SB 2367	Oil & Gas revenue disbursement bill	Passed Senate; in House Approps Cmte



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