

# **LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Management delegated to the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee the Legislative Management's authority under North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-11 to make arrangements for legislative sessions. Legislative rules also are reviewed and updated under this authority. The Legislative Management also delegated to the committee the Legislative Management's responsibility under Section 46-02-05 to determine contents of contracts for printing of legislative bills, resolutions, journals, and Session Laws; and the power and duty under Section 54-35-02 to determine access to legislative information services and impose fees for providing such services and copies of legislative documents.

Committee members are Senators Rich Wardner (Chairman), Joan Heckaman, Ray Holmberg, Jerry Klein, Larry Luick, and Erin Oban and Representatives Joshua A. Boschee, Kim Koppelman, Scott Louser, Alisa Mitskog, and Chet Pollert.

## **SPECIAL OR RECONVENED SESSION ARRANGEMENTS**

At the time of the committee's most recent meeting, the Governor had not committed to calling a special session for legislative redistricting. The committee approved arrangements to accommodate either a special or reconvened session. The committee reviewed four areas of consideration for the special or reconvened session--legislative rules, session employees, a bill draft regarding printing services, and miscellaneous matters.

### **Legislative Rules**

The committee received testimony regarding the legislative rules amendments adopted during previous special sessions. The amendments primarily addressed the introduction of measures, length of time to consider a measure after it is reported from committee, length of time to reconsider a measure, and special committees during the special session. The committee recommends changes to legislative rules which are substantively similar to those rules amendments adopted during the 2001 and 2011 special sessions. The committee recommends creation of Joint Rules 303 and 304; amendment of Senate Rules 318(4), 333, 337, 347, 401(1), 402, 403, 501, 504, and 601; House Rules 318(4), 337, 347, 401(1), 402, 403, 501, 504, and 601; and Joint Rules 202, 207, 302, and 501(4); and repeal of Senate Rule 502, House Rule 502, and Joint Rule 208.

The recommended rules provide bills and resolutions, other than bills and resolutions introduced by the Legislative Management, must be introduced through the Delayed Bills Committee of the house of introduction. The requirement for approval by the Delayed Bills Committee is intended to limit introduction of measures to those measures of significant importance for consideration during the special or reconvened session, which is intended to address legislative redistricting and appropriations of certain federal funds received by the state. By requiring measures to be introduced through the Delayed Bills Committees, bills and resolutions would be screened to assure promotion of the session objectives.

The recommended rules eliminate specific meeting days for committees. Instead, the rules amendments allow the committee chairman or a majority of committee members to call a committee meeting. Specifically listing the days on which committees may meet could create misconceptions if the committees met on other than regularly scheduled days.

The recommended rules authorize a measure to be considered on the same day it is reported from committee or placed on the consent calendar. The normal time frame for consideration of a measure is shortened from the day after a measure is reported from committee or placed on the consent calendar.

The recommended rules allow an amendment made upon second reading in the Senate of a bill providing for redistricting of the Legislative Assembly to be proposed as a concept. Upon approval of the concept, the redistricting bill would be rereferred to the Joint Redistricting Committee for preparation by the Legislative Council of the exact language required for the amendment. The Joint Redistricting Committee then would report the amendment back to the Senate for action. This change is intended to limit the time taken for drafting and proofing exact legal descriptions of legislative districts to those floor amendments supported by a majority of the Senate members.

The recommended rules authorize a measure to be transmitted from one house to the other immediately after approval unless a Majority or Minority Leader gives notice of intention to reconsider. If notice is given, the measure cannot be transmitted until the end of that day. Without this amendment, the normal procedure would be to retain the measure until the end of the next legislative day.

The recommended rules allow either house to consider receding more than once on the same day before a conference is called. Without the amendment, reconsideration could not be made until the next legislative day.

The recommended rules require the return of a fiscal note within 1 day of the request instead of 5 days. This recommendation recognizes the shortened time frames for considering bills and resolutions during the special or reconvened session.

The recommended rules establish a Joint Legislative Redistricting Committee and a Joint Technical Corrections Committee and provide for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and procedural committees to meet during the special or reconvened session. The Joint Legislative Redistricting Committee would be responsible for all bills and resolutions relating to redistricting. The Joint Technical Corrections Committee would be responsible for all bills and resolutions relating to other substantive matters except appropriations. Voting in joint committees would be by house and would operate similarly to voting in conference committees.

### **Session Employees**

The committee reviewed the employee positions filled during the 2011 special session. The committee determined the House Employment Committee may hire up to 11 employees and the Senate Employment Committee may hire up to 10 employees for the special or reconvened session. The rates of pay for employees during the special or reconvened session would be the compensation levels established by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4003 (2021).

### **Printing Services**

During the 2019-20 interim, the committee authorized the Legislative Council to solicit bids for printing legislative materials for the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Despite soliciting bids twice, no bids were received. Central Duplicating Services within the Office of Management and Budget provided printing for the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and will provide printing during the special or reconvened session. The committee received testimony noting several sections of the Century Code could be clarified to authorize Central Duplicating Services to provide legislative printing services. The committee recommends a bill draft providing the legislative branch the option of having legislative materials printed by Central Duplicating Services or soliciting bids for a private printing vendor. This bill is recommended for consideration during the special or reconvened session so the Legislative Assembly may consider contracting with Central Duplicating Services during the 2021-22 interim to print materials for the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

### **Miscellaneous Matters**

The committee recognizes the nature of the special or reconvened session will be limited in scope. Many services or items normally available during a regular session would not be feasible or economical during the special or reconvened session. The committee received testimony the bill and journal room has not been open to the public during special sessions. Committee hearings often are called on short notice during special or reconvened sessions, and printed schedules would become outdated quickly. Instead, measures, journals, and other documents have been made available on the legislative branch website and may be available through the North Dakota Legislative Daily application. Information on hearings also will be available on kiosks and signs throughout the Capitol. Journals typically have been printed after special sessions adjourn. The committee did not recommend any changes to these practices. The Legislator's Automated Work Station (LAWS) will be available to legislators during the special or reconvened session. Committee schedules and documents will continue to be available online, and the public may view committee meetings and floor sessions online as has been the practice since early 2020.