

Grand Forks Legislative Committee  
Friday, March 21, 2025

**Attendees:**

Tami Lazur, Dave Kuharenko, Todd Feland, Candi Stjern, Tangee Bouvette, Mike Vatnsdal, Brandon Boespflug, Ryan Brooks, Dana Sande, Jason Freedman, Gary Lorenz, Lisa Botnen, Dale Bergman

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The Grand Forks Legislative Committee participated in the weekly conference call with the North Dakota League of Cities.

The GF Legislative Committee addressed the following bills:

**HB 1332** (Ag Facility Incentive Program)

This bill would provide, through the Department of Agriculture, \$30M in an incentive program for value added agriculture facilities. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs committee on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 9:00 am and received a 6-0-0 DO PASS vote. This bill will now go to Senate Appropriations. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

**SB 2254** (Public Transportation Funding)

This bill provides grants for fixed route public transportation systems in North Dakota. This bill was amended in the House Transportation Committee to have the grants available to paratransit only. This bill was given a DO PASS recommendation as amended with an 11-1-2 vote. In House Appropriations this bill received a 19-0-4 DO PASS recommendation and passed the House with an 88-5 vote. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

**HB 1577** (Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program)

This bill would create a Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program. This bill was heard in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Friday, March 21, 2025 at 9:00 am. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill and provided written testimony.

**HB 1176** (Property Tax Reform)

This bill is the Governor's property tax reform. This bill was passed out of the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with a 6-0 DO PASS recommendation. This bill will now go to Senate Appropriations where it has a hearing scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2025 at 2:00 pm. We are hearing there may be a couple of amendments to this bill that may impact the tax caps. The City of Grand

Forks would like the tax caps to be no lower than 3%. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

**HB 1419** (Dispatchers)

This bill would designate 911 dispatchers as first responders and make them eligible to be included in the Public Safety PERS Defined Benefit plan. This bill was heard in the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 3:15 pm. The City SUPPORTS this bill.

**Testimony**

Written or verbal testimony will be provided for the following bills

March 24-28

None at this time.

All of the bills that the City of Grand Forks is tracking can be found online at [www.grandforksgov.com/legislature](http://www.grandforksgov.com/legislature).