

Grand Forks Legislative Committee
Friday, March 28, 2025

Attendees:

Tami Lazur, Todd Feland, Candi Stjern, Al Grasser, Ryan Brooks, Dana Sande, Jason Freedman, Dale Bergman

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 did pass on the Senate floor but was referred back to Senate Appropriations. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill and the \$30 M incentive.

HB 1537 (Water Agreements)

This bill would protect political subdivisions that have been operating under a water service agreement. This bill will in the Senate Industry and Business Committee on Monday, March 31, 2025 at 9:00 am. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS the original version of this bill and, at a lesser level, we support the current version. The City will provide written testimony

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 has passed both the House and the Senate. 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 will be heard again in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, April 3, 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 17th with a 6-0 DO PASS recommendation. This bill was passed with amendments out of Senate Appropriations on Thursday, March 27, 2025 with a 16-0-0 DO PASS recommendation. It looks like this bill will go to conference committee. An amendment that was defeated dropped the cap to 2%. Thank you for defeating this amendment. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill with a 3% cap.

HB 1382 (Gas Tax)

This bill will increase the gas tax by 3 cents. This bill was heard in the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee on Monday, March 24, 2025. The City of Grand Forks supports infrastructure funding in all forms.

Testimony

Written or verbal testimony will be provided for the following bills

March 31- April 4

HB 1537 – Monday, March 31

All of the bills that the City of Grand Forks is tracking can be found online at www.grandforksgov.com/legislature.