

Grand Forks Legislative Committee
Friday, April 4, 2025

Attendees:

Tami Lazur, Tangee Bouvette, Candi Stjern, Al Grasser, Ryan Brooks, Dana Sande, Jason Freedman, Dale Bergman, Maureen Storstad, Jaxen Bratcher

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 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 1020 (Water Resources)

This bill is the Water Resources budget. This bill currently includes \$260 M for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project and \$25 M for Municipal Water Projects. This bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. We understand there may be adjustments to some of the funding amounts within the bill. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill and supports funding for both Municipal Water Projects and the RRVWSP to keep the project moving forward.

HB 1537 (Water Agreements)

This bill would protect political subdivisions that have been operating under a water service agreement. This bill was in the Senate Industry and Business Committee on

Monday, March 31, 2025 at 9:00 am and passed as amended with a 5-0-0 vote. On Friday, April 4, 2025 the Senate passed the amended bill 44-1-2. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS the original version of this bill and, at a lesser level, we support the current version.

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 Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 9:00 am as was passed with a 6-1-0 vote and referred to Appropriations. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

Testimony

Written or verbal testimony will be provided for the following bills

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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.