

Legislative Report

The 66th Legislative Assembly kicked off yesterday in Bismarck. Gov. Burgum delivered his [State of the State Address](#) to legislators in the afternoon.

More than 200 bills were prefiled, and legislators will continue to introduce bills over the next few weeks. Jan. 14 is the deadline for representatives to file bills, and Jan. 21 is the final day for senators.

Committee hearings began today, although the next floor session is not scheduled until Jan. 8.

Hearing Schedule (January 7 – January 11).

Hearings of bills being tracked by the North Dakota Water Users Association for the next week are included in this report. We are tracking these bills because they have a direct or indirect impact on water issues.

I. This Week at the Legislature

[SB 2037](#) was heard before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Friday, January 4. This bill would add requirements relating to the disposal and transportation of high-level radioactive waste and subsurface storage and retrieval of nonhydrocarbons.

[HB 1026](#) was heard before the House Agriculture Committee on Friday, January 4. This bill proposes mandatory training for soil conservation district supervisors.

[HB 1067](#) was heard before the House Political Subdivisions Committee on Friday, January 4. This bill removes the section stating when certificates of indebtedness need not be advertised for bids and raises the amount for municipalities to enter into contracts for the sale or issuance of its bonds without advertising for bids from one hundred thousand to one million dollars.

[HB 1085](#) was heard before the House Agriculture Committee on Friday, January 4. This bill would amend the drought disaster livestock water assistance program to remove cost share amounts

Garrison Diversion gave an overview of its operations to the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Friday, January 4.

State Engineer Garland Erbele gave an overview of water projects and operations across the state on behalf of the State Water Commission to the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Friday, January 4. Members of the committee presented many questions and were very interactive with Erbele.

II. 2019 Water Day

Mark your calendars for Water Day on February 12! The North Dakota Water Coalition and the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association are hosting a social for all North Dakota legislators **Tuesday, February 12** from **5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** at the **Ramkota Hotel** in conjunction with Water Day at the Legislature. We urge you to take this opportunity to help us host and to discuss our water needs with our legislators.

III. E-mail Version of Weekly Legislative Reports

If you receive this report by mail or fax, please send your email address to jellingson@ndwater.net, for the weekly updates to be more quickly delivered electronically.

IV. 2019 Legislative Deadlines and Dates

Date	Topic
January 14	Deadline for representatives to introduce bills
January 21	Deadline for senators to introduce bills
February 12	Rural Water/North Dakota Water Coalition Legislative Social
February 22	Crossover for bills
February 25-26	Recess
March 6	Crossover for resolutions
April 23	Session is limited to 80 legislative days

V. HEARING SCHEDULE: January 7-11, 2019

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Short Title</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Room</u>
01/08/2019 10:00 AM	HB 1013	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the commissioner of university and school lands; and to provide for distributions from permanent funds.	House Appropriations – Government Operations Division	Medora
01/10/2019 08:30 AM	HB 1014	A BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the industrial commission and the agencies under the management of the industrial commission; and to provide for a transfer.	House Appropriations – Government Operations Division	Medora
01/10/2019 08:30 AM	SB 2020	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the state water commission.	Senate Appropriations	Brynhild Haugland
01/10/2019 09:00 AM	HB 1087	Relating to a permit to construct or modify a dam, dike, or other	House Agriculture	Peace Garden

		device.		
01/10/2019 09:00 AM	SB 2095	Relating to the process of expending funds from the disaster relief fund.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Sheyenne River
01/10/2019 10:00 AM	SB 2109	Relating to the duties and responsibilities of the department of environmental quality; to amend and reenact section 23.1-01-11, subsection 6 of section 23.1-04-15, and section 23.1-08-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties and responsibilities of the department of environmental quality; to repeal section 23.1-06-03 and chapters 23.1-09 and 61-20 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties and responsibilities of the department of environmental quality; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources	Fort Lincoln
01/10/2019 02:00 PM	HB 1024	A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of environmental quality.	House Appropriations – Human Resources Division	Sakakawea
01/10/2019 02:00 PM	SCR 4001	Relating to the process for approving constitutional amendments.	Senate Government and Veterans Affairs	Sheyenne River
01/11/2019 09:00 AM	HB 1086	Relating to waters of the state.	House Energy and Natural Resources	Coteau A
01/11/2019 09:30 AM	SB 2091	Relating to floodplain management community standards for permissible uses within the flood fringe.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources	Fort Lincoln
01/11/2019 09:45 AM	SB 2090	Relating to permits for the appropriation of water; to amend and reenact sections 61-04-01, 61-04-01.1, 61-04-01.2, 61-04-02, 61-04-03, 61-04-03.1, 61-04-04, and 61-04-04.1, subsections 3, 4, and 5 of section 61-04-05, and sections 61-04-05.1, 61-04-06, 61-04-06.1, 61-04-06.2, 61-04-06.3, 61-04-09, 61-04-11, 61-04-14, 61-04-15, 61-04-23, 61-04-24, 61-04-25, 61-04-26, 61-04-27, 61-04-28, and 61-04-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the appropriation of water; and to repeal sections 61-04-07, 61-04-15.1, 61-04-17, and 61-04-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to appeals of permit	Senate Energy and Natural Resources	Fort Lincoln

		application rejections, change in point of diversion or use, surplus water delivery, and a prescriptive water right.		
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VI. Legislative Bills Tracked (To Date)

- [SB 2037](#) Disposal and Transportation of High-Level Radioactive Waste
- [HB 1026](#) Soil Conservation District Manager Training
- [HB 1067](#) Municipal Bid Requirements
- [HB 1085](#) Drought Disaster Livestock Water Assistance Program

VII. Budgeting Process

In 2019, the legislature will introduce all agency appropriation bills at a “baseline” 2017-19 biennium level. The governor’s executive budget recommendation is included as a column on each bill for reference by members of the Appropriations Committees. Legislative Council has prepared a one-page [budgeting process overview](#).

VIII. Security at the Capitol

Public access to the Capitol continues to be limited to the main entrance on the south side of the building. Metal detectors are in place, so plan for a few extra minutes to enter the building if you are visiting the Capitol to testify or talk to legislators.

IX. Measure 1 Ethics Commission

In November, North Dakota voters approved [Measure 1](#), which establishes a state ethics commission. Any organizations involved in advocacy or lobbying should review the measure and take the necessary steps to comply with this new constitutional provision.

Legislative Council drafted a memo to legislators advising them about Measure 1. A few key highlights include:

- Although the measure is in effect Jan. 5, 2019, much of the measure requires legislative action for implementation and some sections have implementation deadlines two to three years after the effective date.
- The ban on gifts from lobbyists is not effective until 2021.