



# NORTH DAKOTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 10, 2023 - No. 11

### **Appropriations Committees Receive Budget Update**

Pencil sharpening will need to happen in the second half of the legislative session. At a presentation to the legislature's appropriation committees on Friday, March 3, Legislative Council provided a budget update that noted if every remaining bill makes it through the session, the general fund will be overspent by roughly \$1.2 billion and the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund (SIIF) will be overspent by \$447 million.

The total state budget at crossover was \$20.2 billion. The budget's starting point was \$14.1 billion with the governor's recommended budget at \$18.4 billion. The starting point for appropriations spending was \$4.2 billion and has reached \$6.5 billion at crossover, accounting for the \$1.2 billion shortfall. The House bills general fund spending totaled \$893 million, and the Senate's spending totaled \$212 million.

Special funds spending totaled \$2.8 billion for House bills and \$1.7 billion for the Senate, and one-time spending thus far totals \$617.5 million. In the second half of the session, the legislature also has \$14.2 million in remaining COVID-19 relief dollars to be allocated.

The appropriations committees will receive updated revenue forecasts next week, which will help inform their final decisions on bills in the second half of the session.

### **Key Action this week**

#### **HB 1003 - North Dakota University System budget (Support)**

Public testimony was held for HB 1003 this week. Dr. Beaudoin offered testimony on behalf of NDVMA in support of the bill on Wednesday before the Senate Appropriations Committee-Education and Environment Division. This bill funds the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) at \$3.7 million. The Committee will continue to work on this bill over the next several weeks.

#### **HB 1004 - Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services budget (Support)**

Public testimony was held for HB 1004 this week. Dr. Johnson offered testimony on behalf of NDVMA in support of this bill on Thursday before the Senate Appropriations Committee- Human Resources Division. This bill funds the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program (VLRP) at \$480,000. The Committee will continue to work on this bill over the next several weeks.

### **Key Bills**

[HB 1003](#) – North Dakota University System budget (Support)

[HB 1004](#) – Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services budget (Support)

[SB 2274](#) – Discrimination based on vaccination status or possession of an immunity passport (Monitor)

### **Hearing Schedule** (March 13-17)

Bill	Description	Short Title	Committee	Room	Date & Time	NDVMA Action
<b>WEDNESDAY (3/15)</b>						
<a href="#">SB 2274</a>	Relating to vaccination and infection information	Relating to vaccination and infection information	House Human Services	Pioneer	<a href="#">03/15/2023</a> <a href="#">02:45 PM</a>	Monitor

### **How to Submit Testimony This Session**

During this Legislative Session, individuals and organizations still can [testify](#) at committee hearings both in person and virtually. This session, however, the permitting of virtual testimony is left to the discretion of each committee chairperson. An instructional video on how to submit written and oral testimony remotely in a committee hearing is available on the Legislative Branch [website](#). To view the video, [click here](#).

### **How to Contact Legislators**

During the session, legislators can be reached at the Capitol through [Contact My Legislators](#) or by leaving a message at 888-NDLEGIS (635-3447) or 701-328-3373 (local). A legislator can also be reached by email, phone or mail as listed in the legislator's online bio: [Senate](#) or [House](#). Detailed information on legislative activities is available on the [Legislative Assembly website](#).

### **2023 Legislative Dates**

May 4          Final day of session (limited to 80 days)

If at any time you need additional information or have pertinent information to include in the legislative update or to discuss, please contact [Pat Anderson](#), executive director, at 701-221-7740 or [Samantha Vangsness](#), government relations liaison, at 701-355-4458.