

February 19, 2021

Hallelujah!! [HB 1464](#) has passed out of House Finance and Tax this week. HB 1464 was sent back to committee for reconsideration late last week. The "gas tax" bill originally carried a one-time 6 cent/gallon increase in the state's gas tax. House Republicans have been engaging in an interesting back and forth discussion as whether or not to support such a sizable tax increase. This week in committee the bill was amended to a **one-time 3 cent/gallon tax increase** and **received a 8-6 "DO PASS" recommendation out of committee**. In a meeting with several House Republicans this week, I've learned there will likely be a large sum of Cares Act Dollars (\$40-60 million) dedicated by the Federal Government to Infrastructure and roads to make up for the loss of state gas/fuel taxes due to the pandemic. In addition, rumblings in DC are still saying it's a very strong possibility we will see a 10-15 cent/gallon federal gas tax being proposed in Congress. HB 1464 will be up for a very intriguing floor vote early next week in the House.

Other Bills of note that receiving some action in House and Senate the week of February 15-19:

[HB 1341](#): State **minimum wage increase**. NDRA/NDPMA Testified in **opposition** to a bill with minimum wage step increases in it. Bill received a 12-2 "DO NOT PASS" out of House IBL. **HB 1341 failed** on House Floor by a 12-82 vote.

[HB 1434](#): Relating to compensation **history of prospective employee**. This bill would have restricted an employer's rights when it comes to gathering information about a prospective employee's salary history. **NDPMA/NDRA testified in opposition**. **HB 1434 failed** on House floor by a 14-80 vote.

[HB 1330](#): This is the **data privacy** bill. NDRA submitted written testimony in **opposition to the bill**. It ended up 12-1 "DO NOT PASS" out of House IBL. **HB 1330 failed** on House floor by a 19-75 vote.

[HB 1376](#): This was another Covid **business liability bill** dealing strictly with Employer/Employee relationship. **It passed** on the House floor by a 80-14 vote.

[HB 1315](#): This bill would raise **ND speed limit** on Interstate highways to 80 mph. As expected this topic generated a lengthy floor debate. **HB 1315 failed** on the House floor by a 38-56 count.

[HB 1446](#): This was a sizable **property tax relief** bill for all ND property owners funded with Legacy Fund earnings. **HB 1446 failed** on the House floor by a 24-69 vote.

[HB 1441](#): This is a **paid family medical leave** bill. The House IBL Committee has changed the bill into a potential legislative management study. This study would look at the feasibility of such a statute based on the level of employee participation and the financial impact on employers. In addition, the committee felt more work needed to be done regarding the long-term financial sustainability of HB 1441. **HB 1441 passed as a study** on the House floor by a 75-18-1 vote.

[HB 1339](#): relating to **dangerous weapons**. This bill removes language from the NDCC declassifying BB guns, air rifles or CO2 guns from the dangerous weapons category. This bill if passed could certainly impact the type of weapons individuals could carry in a retail setting. The House Judiciary Committee has turned this bill into a **potential legislative study** as well. It will be on the House Floor for full vote next week.

[HB 1419](#): This is another attempt at **charging a utility fee** in lieu of special assessments. It's supposed to be more business friendly to larger retail properties. This bill had extended discussion in committee this past week. In a nutshell if passed, HB 1419 will essentially allow cities in ND to take to the voters a proposal to replace special assessments with a continuing utility fee to pay for ongoing local street maintenance work. Any city proposal would need 60% approval from local voters to move forward. The bill received a 11-3 "DO PASS" recommendation out of House Political Subdivisions. HB 1419 will be on the House floor for full vote next week. The Association will continue

to monitor this bill.

Week of February 22-26:

The Legislative Assembly has 4 days remaining until crossover. There will be no committee hearings to follow next week as all the bills must be voted out of both the House and Senate Chambers before lawmakers take a short break.

You can click [here](#) to view all bills NDPMA/NDRA/NDPGA are following at this time.