2009 NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL AND RESOLUTION SUMMARIES

HOUSE

House Bill No. 1024 - Occupational and Professional Law Violations. This bill incorporates suggestions received from occupational and professional licensing boards or commissions to make statutory language specific as to the conduct that constitutes a violation under certain occupational and professional licensing laws. (Administrative Rules Committee)

House Bill No. 1025 - Agriculture Laws - Rewrite. This bill rewrites the laws pertaining to agricultural commodities and assessments. (Agriculture Committee)

House Bill No. 1026 - Noxious Weed Control - Rewrite. This bill rewrites the laws pertaining to noxious weed control. (Agriculture Committee)

House Bill No. 1027 - Additional Full-Time Equivalent Positions. This bill allows the Budget Section, based on a recommendation from the Emergency Commission, to authorize state agencies to hire full-time equivalent positions in addition to those authorized by the Legislative Assembly. (Budget and Finance Committee)

House Bill No. 1028 - Health Education - Course Requirement. This bill requires each student to complete one-half unit of health education as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Committee)

House Bill No. 1029 - State Employee Service Awards, Employer-Paid Tuition, and Employer-Paid Professional Organization Membership and Service Club Dues. This bill establishes statutory requirements for state employee service awards, employer-paid tuition, and employer-paid professional organization membership and service club dues. (Employee Benefits Programs Committee)

House Bill No. 1030 - State Employee Performance Bonus Program. This bill increases the state employee performance bonus limitation from $1,000 per biennium to $1,000 per fiscal year and authorizes Human Resource Management Services to approve pay bonuses above the 25 percent limitation upon a showing of special circumstances. (Employee Benefits Programs Committee)

House Bill No. 1031 - State Recruitment and Retention Bonus Program. This bill defines the term hard-to-fill occupation for purposes of the state recruitment and retention bonus program. (Employee Benefits Programs Committee)

House Bill No. 1032 - Siting Jurisdiction for Certain Gas Pipelines. This bill excludes from the siting jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission construction conducted wholly within land for which a utility has previously obtained a certificate of site compatibility or a route permit from the commission and excludes actions conducted wholly within land on which is located an energy conversion facility or transmission facility that was constructed before April 9, 1975. In addition, the bill excludes from the siting jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission pipelines with an inside diameter of four inches or less or a length of one mile or less or gathering pipelines as defined by federal law. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

House Bill No. 1033 - Siting Decision Deadline. This bill reduces the time allowed for the Public Service Commission to designate the route for a transmission facility from six months to three months after receiving the application. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

House Bill No. 1034 - Legislative Council Study - Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Services. This bill directs the Legislative Council to study the provision of services to children and adults who are deaf or hearing-impaired and provides an appropriation for obtaining consulting services. (Higher Education Committee)

House Bill No. 1035 - Workforce Safety and Insurance Reserve Level. This bill provides that the level of financial reserves plus available surplus of Workforce Safety and Insurance may not exceed 150 percent of the actuarially established discounted reserve. The bill excludes from the calculation of available surplus any funds designated or obligated to specific programs or projects pursuant to a directive or specific approval by the Legislative Assembly. (Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

House Bill No. 1036 - Workforce Safety and Insurance Premiums. This bill requires Workforce Safety and Insurance to establish premium rates annually on an actuarial basis. The bill provides the statewide average premium rate level may not deviate by more than five percentage points from the recommended actuarial indicated premium level for that year. (Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

House Bill No. 1037 - Workforce Safety and Insurance Independent Performance Evaluation. This bill requires that the biennial independent performance evaluation of Workforce Safety and Insurance address performance measurements, including a review of trends in workplace injuries; whether claims are being handled fairly and efficiently; whether claims or premium decisions have been subject to inappropriate political influence; whether safety and loss prevention programs are effective in reducing claims and the severity of claims; whether injured employees, employers, and service providers are satisfied with the services of the organization; whether litigation rates and the number of contested claims are appropriate as compared with other workers' compensation programs or systems; and whether premiums are appropriate and reserve levels are adequate. (Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

House Bill No. 1038 - Child Custody and Visitation. This bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to issue a restricted operator's license

to an obligor or an individual who fails to comply with a subpoena. The license may be used only during that obligor's or individual's normal working hours. (Judicial Process Committee)

House Bill No. 1039 - Exemptions From Judicial Process. This bill clarifies and revises several of the absolute exemptions, including family books, clothing and wearing apparel, and fuel; clarifies that certain exemptions are available only to the head of household; increases and clarifies the motor vehicle exemption; allows an exemption for a house trailer or mobile home to be taken in lieu of the homestead exemption; for the purpose of claiming an account as exempt, limits the time period within which an individual may contribute to a retirement account; increases the additional exemption for head of a family from $5,000 to $7,500; clarifies the exemptions for pensions, annuity policies, and life insurance; and increases or eliminates the maximum amount of compensation that may be claimed as exempt on account of the debtor's right to receive or property that is traceable to wrongful death or personal bodily injury. (Judicial Process Committee)

House Bill No. 1040 - Missing Persons. This bill establishes a procedure for locating and identifying missing persons. The bill, which is based upon model missing person legislation, establishes a uniform procedure for law enforcement to follow for locating missing persons and identifying and preserving unidentified human remains. (Judicial Process Committee)

House Bill No. 1041 - Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System. This bill relates to statutory changes necessary for the implementation of a statewide automated victim information and notification (SAVIN) system. The victim and other concerned citizens are required to register with the SAVIN system to receive their victim notifications. Some of the notification duties that are currently the responsibility of certain entities, including prosecuting attorneys, courts, or custodial authorities, would be automated under the SAVIN system. (Judiciary Committee)

House Bill No. 1042 - Statutory Revision. This bill makes technical corrections throughout the North Dakota Century Code. (Judiciary Committee)

House Bill No. 1043 - Dementia Care Services Program. This bill directs the Department of Human Services to contract for a dementia care services program in each area of the state served by a regional human service center to provide personalized care consultation services, training, and education relating to dementia; provides a $1.2 million general fund appropriation for the program; and provides for a report to the Legislative Council regarding the outcomes of the program. (Long-Term Care Committee)

House Bill No. 1044 - Program for Services to Transition-Aged Youth. This bill requires the Department of Human Services to develop or contract for a program for services to transition-aged youth at risk. The bill identifies services, including individualized assessments, coordinated services, self-advocacy training, vocational rehabilitation, in-home support, and independent living skills training. The bill provides for the use of a wraparound planning process, provides a transition-aged youth at risk pilot project, and appropriates $700,000 from the general fund for the program and pilot project. (Long-Term Care Committee)

House Bill No. 1045 - Severance of the Right of Access. This bill makes the prohibition on the severance of the right of access for hunting access permanent. (Natural Resources Committee)

House Bill No. 1046 - Emergency Response and Recovery Fund. This bill establishes an emergency response and recovery fund to be used to assist individuals, political subdivisions, and Indian tribes in paying the costs of responding to and recovering from a disaster or emergency declared by the Governor which does not qualify for a presidential disaster declaration. The bill provides an $11 million general fund appropriation to the Department of Emergency Services for deposit in the emergency response and recovery fund in the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1047 - Hazardous Chemicals Preparedness and Response Program. This bill increases the per chemical fee for the hazardous chemicals preparedness and response program from $25 to $52 and the maximum fee for a facility from $150 to $416. The bill provides that the fees collected be distributed one-third to the Department of Emergency Services, one-third to local emergency planning commissions, and one-third to the North Dakota Firefighters Association. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1048 - Mutual Aid Agreements. This bill provides that the Department of Emergency Services prepare and distribute to political subdivisions guidelines and model intrastate mutual aid agreements to provide a system for mutual assistance among political subdivisions in the prevention of, response to, and recovery from a local disaster or emergency. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1049 - Minimum Certification Standards for Special Operations Units. This bill provides that the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board prescribe minimum certification standards and continuing education requirements for all special operations units that operate under the authority of local law enforcement agencies in the state. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1050 - State Radio System. This bill provides a $7.2 million general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for purchasing or leasing infrastructure and equipment for up to eight additional radio towers to expand coverage of the State Radio system during the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1051 - Mobile Data System. This bill provides a $750,000 general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for upgrading the Department of Emergency Services' mobile data system to high-speed broadband access during the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1052 - Computer-Aided Dispatch System. This bill provides a $2 million general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for completing Phase 2 of the Department of Emergency Services'

computer-aided dispatch system during the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1053 - Emergency Management Organizations. This bill requires each county to maintain an emergency management organization that serves the entire county or be a member of a regional emergency management organization that serves more than one county. The bill provides a $1.5 million general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for providing grants to counties that merge emergency management efforts during the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1054 - Adjutant General Study - Next Generation 911. This bill provides that the Adjutant General study the effects of Next Generation 911 on the public safety answering points in the state during the 2009-10 interim. The bill provides a $100,000 general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for the 2009-11 biennium for conducting the study. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1055 - Regional Training and Exercising Activities. This bill provides a $400,000 general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for providing grants for regional cross-discipline and cross-jurisdictional training and exercising activities for fire departments, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and public communications dispatchers for the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1056 - Adjutant General Study - Multidiscipline Emergency Responder Academy. This bill provides that the Adjutant General study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a multidiscipline emergency responder academy in the state. The bill provides a $100,000 general fund appropriation to the Adjutant General for the 2009-11 biennium for conducting the study. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1057 - Department of Veterans Affairs, Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Delivery of Veterans' Services. This bill requires county veterans' service officers to maintain accreditation by the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers; provides that the general supervision and governance of the Veterans Home is vested in a Veterans Home Governing Board, which consists of seven members appointed by the Governor; provides that the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs be appointed by the Governor; requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to be located in Bismarck or Mandan; reduces the size of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs from 15 individuals to 7 individuals with the commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs serving as the chairman of the committee; and revises the powers and duties of the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs to remove the supervision of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Home and to provide that the committee create and implement a strategic plan for the delivery of veterans' services. (Public Safety Committee)

House Bill No. 1058 - Financial Assistance to Tribal Colleges. This bill expands the definition of nonbeneficiary student, requires tribal college grant applications include documentation of enrollment status, increases the grant from $4,581 to $5,304, and includes reporting requirements to the Budget Section and Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee. The bill is declared an emergency. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

House Bill No. 1059 - Indian Affairs Commission Members, Powers, and Duties. This bill corrects the tribal names of the members of the Indian Affairs Commission and authorizes the commission to accept gifts, grants, donations, legacies, and devises from any source which are appropriated for the purposes of the commission. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

House Bill No. 1060 - Committee on Tribal and State Relations Extension. This bill extends the Committee on Tribal and State Relations through July 31, 2011. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

House Bill No. 1061 - Workers' Compensation Coverage of Artificial Members. This bill expands the workers' compensation coverage of artificial members by expanding the definition of artificial members to include a prescriptive device that is an aid for a natural part, organ, limb, or other part of the body if the damage to the prescriptive device is accompanied by an injury to the body. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

House Bill No. 1062 - Workers' Compensation Rehabilitation Services. This bill expands workers' compensation rehabilitation awards by allowing Workforce Safety and Insurance to provide an additional 20 weeks of benefits for injured employees participating in retraining programs and to provide an additional two months of benefits while the injured employee is participating in work-search activities. The bill also directs Workforce Safety and Insurance to implement a system of pilot programs to assess alternative methods of providing rehabilitation services. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

House Bill No. 1063 - Workforce Safety and Insurance Coverage of Preexisting Conditions. This bill limits the circumstances under which Workforce Safety and Insurance may deny medical coverage or recoup medical payments. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

House Bill No. 1064 - Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Workers' Compensation Benefits. This bill shortens to three years the period of time after which an injured employee receiving temporary total disability benefits or permanent total disability benefits qualifies for supplementary benefits and shortens to three months the period of time an injured employee is required to be off wage-loss benefits before Workforce Safety and Insurance recalculates benefits. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

House Bill No. 1065 - Operation Intern and Marketing to Out-of-State Students. This bill provides funding for the Department of Commerce Operation Intern program and directs the department to administer a program to market North Dakota higher education opportunities to out-of-state students. (Workforce Committee)

House Bill No. 1066 - Tax Credits for Automation and Innovation. This bill provides three types of tax

credits for taxpayers that are primary sector businesses--a credit for purchases of manufacturing machinery and equipment for the purpose of automating manufacturing processes, a credit for qualified expenditures necessary for implementing lean manufacturing, and a credit for qualified research expenses. (Workforce Committee)

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3001 - Agriculture Laws - Rewrite. This concurrent resolution directs the Legislative Council to continue its study of laws pertaining to agriculture. (Agriculture Committee)

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3002 - Legislative Council Study - Workforce Safety and Insurance Governance. This concurrent resolution provides for a Legislative Council study of the governance structure of Workforce Safety and Insurance and determine the feasibility and desirability of mutualization of Workforce Safety and Insurance. (Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3003 - Sustainability of Tribal Social Service Programs Study. This concurrent resolution directs the Legislative Council to study the sustainability of tribal social service programs. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3004 - Legislative Council Study - Indian Education Issues. This concurrent resolution provides for a Legislative Council study of Indian education issues. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2026 - Agency Rules Filing Deadline. This bill advances the filing deadline for agency rules by 15 days to allow more time for preparation and delivery of proposed rules to Administrative Rules Committee members. This will allow sufficient time for delivery of proposed rules to committee members for adequate study before the meeting at which the rules will be considered. The change will not delay the effective date of rules. (Administrative Rules Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2027 - Joint Jurisdiction in Extraterritorial Zoning Area. This bill requires joint jurisdiction of the city and the entity that otherwise would have had jurisdiction in the area of extended zoning jurisdiction of a city for any zoning change or subdivision plat approval or change in zoning or subdivision regulation. The bill identifies eight factors to be used by an administrative law judge when deciding any dispute. (Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations)

Senate Bill No. 2028 - Community Service Supervision Fee. This bill repeals the $50 community service supervision fee that courts are required to impose on participants in community service programs. (Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration)

Senate Bill No. 2029 - Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration Extension. This bill extends the existence of the Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration until June 30, 2013. (Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration)

Senate Bill No. 2030 - State Penitentiary Renovation and Expansion. This bill provides an appropriation of $25 million from the general fund and $42 million from the State Penitentiary land fund to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to complete Phase 1 of the renovation and expansion of the State Penitentiary project, including replacement of the East Cellhouse and construction of new health services, reception and entry, segregation housing, and central control facilities. (Correctional Facility Review Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2031 - Property Tax Reduction for Wind Towers. This bill extends the reduction of taxable value from 3 percent to 1.5 percent of assessed value for a centrally assessed wind turbine electric generation unit with a nameplate generation capacity of 100 kilowatts or more from January 1, 2011, to January 1, 2015. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2032 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Wind Towers. This bill makes permanent the sales and use tax exemption for materials used in the construction or expansion of a wind-powered facility. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2033 - Income Tax Credit for Renewable Energy Devices. This bill extends the 15 percent income tax credit for the installation of geothermal, solar, wind, or biomass energy devices from an end date of January 1, 2011, to an end date of January 1, 2015; allows a credit carryover of 10 years; and limits the sale of unused credits to the credits earned before January 1, 2011. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2034 - Oil Extraction Tax Exemption for Tertiary Recovery Using Carbon Dioxide. This bill extends the oil extraction tax exemption for tertiary recovery projects using carbon dioxide from 10 years from the date of incremental production to an unlimited duration. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2035 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Beneficiated Coal Plant and Severance Tax Exemption for Beneficiated Coal in Agricultural Commodity Processing. This bill includes a power plant that uses beneficiated coal within the sales and use tax exemption and includes a severance tax exemption on coal purchased for coal beneficiation which is used in an agricultural commodity processing facility. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2036 - Coal Conversion Tax Exemption for Repowering Beneficiated Coal Plant. This bill extends the coal conversion tax exemption for repowering to include an electrical energy generating unit that uses beneficiated coal. The exemption from the coal conversion tax is limited to electrical energy generating units instead of the current application to electrical generating plants. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2037 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Gas From Oil Wells. This bill includes within the sales and use tax exemption for the construction or expansion of a system used to compress, process, gather, or refine gas from an oil well, rather than only a gas well, and provides for a certificate of qualification for the exemption from the Tax Commissioner. (Energy Development and Transmission Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2038 - North Dakota University System Budget Request, Appropriation, Performance Measures, and Legislative Council Study. This bill continues through June 30, 2011, the continuing appropriation of higher education institutions' special revenue funds and through July 31, 2011, the authority for the North Dakota University System to continue at the end of the biennium unspent general fund appropriations and the requirement that the budget request and appropriation of the North Dakota University System include block grants for a base funding component, an initiative funding component, and an asset funding component. The bill provides for a Legislative Council study of higher education and provides performance and accountability measures to be included in the State Board of Higher Education performance and accountability report pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 15-10-14.2. (Higher Education Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2039 - State Board of Pharmacy Membership and Connection to Pharmaceutical Association. This bill adds two members to the State Board of Pharmacy and repeals the statutory connection between the State Board of Pharmacy and the North Dakota Pharmaceutical Association. (Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2040 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Telecommunications Infrastructure Equipment. This bill creates a sales and use tax exemption for equipment used in telecommunications infrastructure development. (Industry, Business, and Labor Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2041 - Criminal Justice Information Sharing Board. This bill expands the membership of the Criminal Justice Information Sharing Board and provides that board members who are not state employees are entitled to compensation and expense reimbursement. (Information Technology Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2042 - Child Custody and Visitation. This bill provides for changes in the terminology used in family law; requires that in any proceeding to establish or modify a judgment providing for parenting time with a child, a parenting plan is required to be developed and filed with the court; adds several best interest factors; clarifies several current best interest factors; and establishes a parenting coordinator program. (Judicial Process Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2043 - Racing Commission. This bill provides that the Racing Commission is subject to the supervision and direction of the Attorney General. (Judiciary Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2044 - Basic Care and Nursing Facility Bed Moratorium. This bill extends the moratorium on the state's licensed basic care bed capacity and the state's licensed nursing facility bed capacity from July 31, 2009, to July 31, 2013. (Long-Term Care Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2045 - Written Advance Notice of Transfer or Discharge. This bill requires at least a 30-day written advance notice of any transfer or discharge from a nursing home, swing-bed hospital, basic care, or assisted living facility. (Long-Term Care Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2046 - Health Facilities Construction and Renovation Projects Survey Program. This bill requires the State Department of Health to conduct surveys during construction or renovation projects of health facilities licensed by the State Department of Health. (Long-Term Care Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2047 - Emergency Training Grants. This bill provides a $128,400 general fund appropriation to the State Department of Health for providing emergency training grants to rural law enforcement officers during the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2048 - Mandatory Trauma Designation and Quick Response Unit Licensure. This bill provides for mandatory hospital participation in the state's trauma system and mandatory licensure of quick response units. (Public Safety Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2049 - Emergency Medical Services Operations Grant Program. This bill provides for the expansion of the emergency medical services (EMS) operations grant program, including the assessment of EMS operations, the provision of leadership training, and the development of an annual statewide EMS recruitment drive. The bill provides a $4,524,000 appropriation from the insurance tax distribution fund to the State Department of Health for the expansion of the program for the 2009-11 biennium. (Public Safety Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2050 - Emergency Medical Services Licensure, Property Tax Levies, and Communications. This bill amends the definition of emergency medical services (EMS), provides that the Health Council's rules relating to the licensure of EMS operations may include response time standards, amends provisions relating to property tax levies for EMS, and provides that the State Department of Health may regulate the communications methods and protocols for EMS operations. (Public Safety Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2051 - Oil and Gas Gross Production Tax Cap Eliminated for Political Subdivision Allocations. This bill eliminates statutory caps on oil and gas gross production tax allocations to counties and eliminates the cap on allocations to the oil and gas impact grant fund. (Taxation Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2052 - County Implementation Deadline for Soil Survey Use in Assessments. This bill extends the deadline from 2010 to 2012 for county implementation of soil survey use in agriculture assessments. (Taxation Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2053 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Purchases by an Indian Tribe. This bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for purchases by an Indian tribe. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2054 - Department of Transportation Agreements With Tribal Governments. This bill removes the limitation that Department of Transportation agreements with tribal governments may not exceed $25,000. (Tribal and State Relations Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2055 - Workers' Compensation Firefighter and Law Enforcement Presumption. This bill clarifies the burden of proof under workers' compensation law that provides a presumption for firefighters and law enforcement officers. The bill provides the presumption that the impairment is work-related can be overcome by clear and convincing evidence, rather than by competent evidence, the impairment is not work-related. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2056 - Workers' Compensation Mileage Reimbursement. This bill amends the workers' compensation calculation for medical travel mileage reimbursement to an injured employee so actual mileage is used to compute the reimbursement instead of using

city limit to city limit mileage. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2057 - Workers' Compensation Permanent Partial Impairment Award for Vision Injury. This bill provides a scheduled workers' compensation permanent partial impairment award for impairment of vision. The bill provides a graduated schedule for vision impairments beginning at 20/80 corrected visual acuity. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2058 - Workers' Compensation Independent Medical Examinations. This bill provides a distinction between a Workforce Safety and Insurance independent medical examination, which contemplates an actual examination of an injured employee, and an independent record review, which contemplates a file review of an injured employee's medical records. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2059 - Workforce Safety and Insurance Office of Independent Review. This bill provides for Workforce Safety and Insurance to pay an injured employee's attorney's fees and costs for a case review. The bill allows an injured employee who uses the services of the Office of Independent Review to be eligible for payment of $500 for attorney's fees and $150 for costs associated with an attorney consultation before an administrative hearing is held. (Workers' Compensation Review Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2060 - Renaissance Zones. This bill expands and modifies the renaissance zone law to include tax incentives for repair or remodeling of utility infrastructure, to provide for transfers of historic preservation and renovation tax credits, and to delete the half-mile requirement for the three-block island provision. (Workforce Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2061 - State Employees Nearing Retirement. This bill directs Human Resource Management Services to study how to retain state workers who are nearing retirement. (Workforce Committee)

Senate Bill No. 2062 - Opportunity Grant for North Dakota High School Graduates and New Graduate Earned Income Deduction. This bill provides a phased-in college tuition grant program for qualified North Dakota high school graduates beginning with the high school graduating class of 2014 and provides an earned income tax deduction for recent college graduates. The bill is designed so the income tax deduction is effective immediately and remains in effect until the opportunity grant program becomes effective. (Workforce Committee)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4001 - Legislative Hearings for Federal Block Grants. This concurrent resolution authorizes the Budget Section to hold public legislative hearings required for the receipt of new federal block grant funds during the period from the recess or adjournment of the 61st Legislative Assembly through September 30, 2011. (Budget Section)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4002 - Legislative Council Study - Workforce System. This concurrent resolution provides for a Legislative Council study of the state's workforce system, the feasibility and desirability of enacting legislation to address the issues identified in the 2007-08 interim Workforce Committee's consultant's report, and the implementation of workforce initiatives enacted by the 61st Legislative Assembly. (Workforce Committee)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4003 - Immigration Reform. This concurrent resolution expresses support for the development of a balanced national immigration policy and urges Congress to work to develop an immigration policy that protects and preserves the safety and interests of the United States and its citizens while also recognizing the needs of businesses to have a stable and legal supply of workers. (Workforce Committee)