

## **2007 Legislative Summary**

The 2007 legislative session efforts were very successful. The following is a summary of the major bills the ND Hospitality Association worked on and the results. These are the results of your membership dollars at work.

### **Hotel Bills:**

**The Associations bill - Supported - Passed SB 2246** - Raised the per diem for state travel from \$50.00 per night to \$55.00 per night. Introduced by – Sen. Krebsbach, Heitkamp, Wardner, Reps. Glassheim, D. Johnson, Boehning.

**Supported - Failed to pass SB 1438** – Prohibited schools from opening before 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after the 1st Monday (Labor Day School opening bill. Sen. Bowman, Lindaas, Wanzek; Reps. Wald, Aarvold, Dosch

**Supported - Tourism Budget –HB 1018** - Provides \$8.3 million for the Tourism Division, which includes a \$100,000 grant with a 2 to 1 match and \$10,000 in pageant funds. The Governor's budget recommendation included \$8.1 million, which is the largest general fund increase in North Dakota tourism history. Another provision names the Cold War missile silo, acquired through funds in SB 2018, the Ronald Reagan historic site.

**Opposed - Defeated SB 2258** - Extended 1% Lewis and Clark tourism tax that is collected by the hotels. Bills would have made permanent the lodging gross receipts tax to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date. This bill had a sunset clause and it was to sunset in June. After June 30<sup>th</sup> this tax will not need to be collected. Sen, Oehlke, Krauter, Wardner; Reps. Glassheim, N. Johnson, R. Kelsch

**Supported - Failed HB 1388** – Logo Sign relating to a logo sign program. (Blue sign program) Reps. Dosch, Onstad, Senators, Bowman, Wardner

**Supported - Passed - HB 1258** – I –Con road Signs – (Brown road signs that are not on the interstate roads) Reps. Gulleeson, Amerman, Brandenburg, DeKrey; Senator Heitkamp

### **Bars and Restaurant Issues:**

**Opposed - Defeated – HB 1337** – Relating to state minimum wage. Introduced by Rep. Zaiser, Amerman, S. Kelsch, Kretschmar, Vig; Sen. Potter.

**Opposed - Defeated 2122** - Relating to the state minimum wage rate. Introduced by Sen. Mathern, Rep. Schneider

**Supported – Passed – HB 1436** – Relating to the sale of wine with dinner. Introduced by Rep. Weiler, Grande, Thoress, Sen. Holmberg, Nelson.

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**Opposed - Defeated SB 2164** - This is the smoking bill that would have prohibited smoking in the bars. State law controls, however many city councils, have expanded this law. You need to check with your city councils for any differences. Introduced by: Sen. Kilzer, Fischer, Lindaas, Reps. Kaldor, Kingsbury.

**Opposed - Defeated –SB 2269** – Drinks Discount bill that would have prohibited having two drinks in front of a customer after 11:00 pm.

**The Association bill - Passed – SB 2329** – Sentence for Minor trying to purchase alcohol –now required mandatory education on alcohol.

**Supported - Failed to pass SB 1438** - – Prohibited schools from opening before 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after the 1st Monday (Labor Day School opening bill. Sen. Bowman, Lindaas, Wanzek; Reps. Wald, Aarvold, Dosch

**The Association Bill - Passed – Catering Bill 2344** – relating to the provision of catering services by institutions of Higher Education and school districts. Introduced by Sen. Lee, Klein, Rep. Belter, Carlson, DeKrey. This bill took much more work than we anticipated, but should finally resolve public entities competing with private businesses.

**Opposed – Defeated - SB 2355** – gift certificates – relating to the redemption of gift certificates. Introduced by Sen. Anderson, Tollefson, Reps. Schmidt

**Supported – Passed - HB 1082** – Alcohol Devise – relating to alcohol with liquid devices, Introduced Reps. DeKrey

**Opposed – Passed - SB 2276** – SADD – Relating to provide duties of the governor’s prevention and advisory council. Received \$100,000 from the legislative session. This is the group that wants to do an initiated measure for the 1 cent tax on all beer. – Introduced by Sen. Wardner, Cook, Robinson, Rep. Aarsvold, Damschen, Price.

**Opposed - Defeated HB 1337** – Relating to Minimum Wage - Introduced by Rep. Zaiser, Amerman, S. Kelsch, Kretschmar, Vig, Senator Potter

**Supported –Passed - SB 2225** – Relating to excise tax upon gross proceeds of licensed gaming organizations for bingo cards and elimination of sales and used taxes for bingo cards. Introduced by Sen. Grindberg, Bowman, Tollefson, Rep. S. Kelsch, Svedjan, Wrangham.

**Supported - Defeated HB – 1051** – Relating to limitations on levies by taxing districts and state-paid property tax relief credit’ relating to contents of property tax statements, income tax rates, priority for tax relief. Introduced by Sen. Cook, Wardner, Rep. Belter, Herbel.

**Supported– - Defeated - HB 1367** – Games of Chance – Relating to the games of chance that may be conducted by licensed organizations at a single site. – Introduced by Rep. Uglem, Griffin, Kretschmar, Wrangham, Sen. Wardner.

**Supported – Passed - SB 2032** – (The property tax relief bill – last to be approved) Relating to allocation of school district property tax relief funds and levy limitations for school districts; homestead tax credit, and income tax marriage penalty elimination: and continuing appropriation of funds from the permanent oil tax trust fund for school district property tax relief. Introduced by Legislative council

**Opposed – Defeated - SB 2177** – Delivery of Alcohol to a Minor. Mandatory Penalty for unlawful delivery of alcohol to certain persons. – Introduced by Sen. Lindaas, Andrist, Kilzer, Rep. N. Johnson, Koppelman, Potter.

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**Neutral - Supported SB 2226** – Relating to allocation of wholesale taxes on wine for a state grape and wine program; allocation of beer and liquor wholesale taxes. Introduced by Sen. Grindberg, O’Connell, Wanzek, Rep. Klein, Pietsch, Ruby. The Association worked with the Beer Wholesalers and the Distilled Spirits on this bill.

**The Association Bill – Defeated SB 2375** – relating to the transfer of administrative hearings from the ND Department of Transportation to the office of Administrative Hearings; and to provide for transition. Passed Senate; failed in House; resurrected in Senate in HB 1017 (below), only to be defeated again in the House). Introduced by Sen. Stenehjem, Lyson, O’Connell, Rep. Carlson, Kretschmar, S. Meyer.

**Supported – Defeated HB 1017** – Provide an appropriation to defray expenses of the Office of Administrative Hearings – Introduced by Appropriations Committee – at the request of the Governor. When bill SB 2375 failed in the house the appropriations the ND DOT hearings to the Administrative Hearings into this bill. This part of the bill Passed Senate; failed in House; resurrected in Senate in HB 1017 only to be defeated again in the House).

**Neutral – Passed SB 2135** – Relating to definitions of bottle or can and in bulk for alcoholic beverage purposes; relating to the definition of twenty-one years of age for alcoholic beverage purposes, manufacture of alcoholic beverages, use of alcoholic beverages, direct sales from out-of-state, sales and tax reporting by domestic wineries, qualifications for a state wholesale license, imposition of tax on sale by domestic wineries, microbrew pubs, and direct shippers, and requirement for alcoholic beverage supplier’s license holders. Introduced by Finance and Taxation Committee. Worked with the Beer Wholesalers on this bill

## **Hunting:**

**Supported – Passed - SB 2147** – Relating to nonresidents hunting geese in Richland and Sargent Counties during the early season. Goose Season for Dickey and Sargent counties. Introduced by Sen. Heitkamp, Rep. Amerman, Gulleason.

## **Other Issues:**

**Opposed – Defeated - HB 1190** – Relating to the tobacco products tax; worked as part of a coalition including Association member Altria. Introduced by Rep. Weiler, Drovdal, S. Kelsch, Sen. – Anderson, Tollefson, Urlacher

**Supported – Passed HB 1251** – Relating to the sale of noncompliant tobacco products; relating to the sale of noncompliant tobacco products; to provide a penalty; and to provide for application. We worked with Altria, AMCON Distributing Co. Introduced by Sen. J. Lee, Reps. Belter, Carlson.

## **Business:**

We worked with a coalition of business groups on general business issues through the ND Chamber of Commerce

## **UI Bills:**

**Supported –Passed - HB 1413** – Relating to determination of unemployment insurance tax rates. Introduced by Rep. Dosch, Keiser.

**Supported – Passed - SB 2035** – Relating to determination of unemployment insurance tax rates. Introduced by Legislative Council.

## **Workforce Safety Insurance**

**Supported – Passed – HB 1460** - relating to employee awards and incentive spending authority; relating to the workforce safety and insurance board membership; and to provide for application and transition. Introduced by Rep. Skarphol, Carlson, Dosch, Senator - Christmann

## **TAXES**

**Supported – Passed – SB 2032** – (The property tax relief bill—last to be approved -\$118 million back to taxpayers) Relating to allocation of school district property tax relief funds a levy limitations for school districts; homestead tax credit, and income tax marriage penalty elimination; contents of property tax statements, and continuing appropriation of funds from the permanent oil tax trust fund for school district property tax relief. Introduced by Legislative council.

**Supported – Failed - HB 1051** – Relating to limitations on levies by taxing districts and a state-paid property tax relief credit, relating to contents of property tax statements, income tax rates, priority for delinquent taxes, the homestead property tax credit, and the discount for early payment of property taxes; to provide an appropriation for state –paid property tax relief; an effective date. Introduced by Rep. Belter, Herbel, Senators Cook, Wardner.

The session was very successful for our association. The team approach we used worked exceptionally well. Thanks to the great guidance and work of Robert Harms, Lance Hagen, and our members --the coalitions and partnerships the Association was able to create, including the ND Farm Bureau, ND Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Alliance Partnership, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, ND Retail Association, ND Grocers, and many other associations helped move our agenda forward in a positive manner. Without these coalitions a lot of times it is impossible to get legislative issues passed.

**A big thank you to all the Senators and Representatives that supported our issues and helped make all this possible.**

**Most of all thanks to all our members, for your financial support, e-mails, phone calls, letters, personal visits, testimony before Committees etc. You helped immensely without you this would have not be possible.**

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For more in depth information of the bills go to the Legislative Council web-site and all the voting, and all the information how the bill did or didn't do, and how the legislators have voted. <http://www.legis.nd.gov>.