

**North Dakota
Hospitality
Association**

ND's Restaurant, Lodging & Beverage Assn.

North Dakota Hospitality Association

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2007 Legislative Updates:

Note: There is information throughout this update, please read to the end.

HOTELS:

Lobby For:

1. State employee traveling allowance – State Employee Per-Diem
 - A. The Room Rate we would ask for is \$55.00 per person - single
 - B. Morning Meal is \$5.00 - we will ask for \$6.00
 - C. Twelve noon to six pm is \$7.50 -we will ask for \$8.50
 - D. six pm – Midnight is \$12.50 – we will ask for \$14.50

1/-5/07 -Update: We have all our sponsors and it is being drafted.

Lobby For: (First Need to find out how much abuse is going on...)

2. Catering Issue – Schools and Colleges receiving ND State funding are in the catering business. One thing is to put on a dinner at the Institution for faculty, it is another thing to do off premise catering to businesses in general. Creates unfair playing field competing against private business. Government should not be the industries competitor.

1/-6/07 -Update: Waiting on a decision from the people involved

Neutral decision:

3. 1% Lewis & Clark Tourism tax that is collected by the hotels. The bill is set to sunset July 2007. Board of Directors position to let the bill sunset and that no active position to lobby against this issue. The majority of NDHA lodging members that responded wanted this issue to sunset. If the additional money for tourism can be provided from the general fund we would not be opposed to this idea.

1/5/07 - Update: Nothing at this time

Lobby for:

The legislator allowance while staying in Bismarck during the legislative session.

1. A bill has been drafted to raise the legislator's per-diem while staying in Bismarck during the legislative session. The bill would be effective in the year 2009. Bill Shalhoob has drafted the bill and he will present the bill and the board of directors has said we will support this bill.

1/5/07 – Update – nothing at this time

BARS:

Oppose: Any legislation that will not retain smoking in bars:

1. Smoking to remain in the bars
 - a. Retain the smoking laws that are in place now. Continuing to fund raise for the other lobbyist.

Update: No bill at this time

Lobby For:

2. Police to not be able to use under age people for Compliance checks
 - a. We are working on this issue to gain supporters

1/6/-7 -Update: We have not submitted any bill at this time

Lobby For:

3. Repeal Double Jeopardy – in regard to DUI's
 - a. Working on getting sponsors for this bill – there was a bill that was killed last session.

1/6/-7 -Update: Sponsors are being approached and the bill will be submitted

4. Underage entering premises to purchase
 - a. Impose more severe penalty or prosecute as a deterrent
 - b. A law is in place at this time and we need to visit and make a decision what kind of penalty would fit the crime. The last time we wanted to take their drivers license away and we were told it didn't fit the crime.

1/6/07 – Update: Sponsors are being approached and the bill will be submitted – We are working to find the best penalty.

Watch For:

- a. Bills that would control happy hour promotions

RESTAURANTS:

Watch for any legislation:

2. Minimum Wage – starting wage – not increasing
 - a. We will watch to see what the Federal level will be. If it comes up at the state level, the association will oppose the bill – unless the members say other wise.
 - b. Protect the tip allocation (tip declaration) currently in place that permits establishments to declare a certain amount of tips towards minimum wage

Lobby For:

2. Recorkage fee – to remove unempty bottles of wine from the restaurant
 - a. This is a new bill and we will see where it goes. It may have some opposition because of the open container.

1/6/07 – Update – this bill will be pulled from the calendar and we are working on regulations.

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HUNTING:

Watch For any legislation:

1. **The association will support any increase of out of state travelers to hunt in the state – less zoning laws.**

TOURISM:

Support the Bill:

1. **Support school opening after Labor Day – Tourism Alliance Partnership will take the front lead on this issue.**
 - a. **The Board of Directors is behind this issue 100%. They see the fact that it would help out many businesses that lose business by school starting before Labor Day.**

1/6/07 – Update: Sponsors are being approached and the bill will be submitted at that time by TAP.

WORKFORCE SAFETY – JOB SERVICE:

Watch and see if there are any increases

TAXES:

We do not want unnecessary increases.

Weekly schedule :

Monday:

Support this bill: House Bill 1082 - 1:00 pm – House Judiciary – Alcohol without liquid devices.

Tuesday:

11:00 am – Senate Judiciary - Watching – Senate Bill 2039 – Exercise of the power of eminent domain.

Wednesday:

House Bill – 1041 – has been pulled at this time – watch for a new schedule.

Thursday:

Watching - House Bill 1079 – Smoking of tobacco products on the state Capitol grounds. --- Want to know how far this is going to go.

Committee that met this week:

Senate Bill 2098 - Met today to clean up some liquor times – the committee had some confusion about times and will vote another day to pass or not pass.

Other bills to watch for in the future:

Senate Bill – 2122 – Minimum Wage rate – not scheduled yet.

Senate Bill – 2135 – Definitions of bottle or can and in bulk alcoholic beverage purposes.

Smoking bill to ban smoking – Senator Kilzer has not filed any bills at this time. Expect them probably next week.

How to Contact Your Legislators

During the legislative session, a legislator can be reached at the State Capitol through e-mail or by leaving a message with the legislative telephone message center at (888) NDLEGIS (635-3447). That number can also be used to obtain information on bills under consideration. Otherwise, a legislator can be reached by mail or e-mail at the address listed in the online legislator's bio under the 60th Legislative Assembly link at www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/60-2007/.

Addressing Mail Correspondence

To a Senator:

Honorable (full name)

State Senator

600 E Boulevard Ave

Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Senator (last name)

To a Representative:

Honorable (full name)

State Representative

600 E Boulevard Ave

Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Representative (last name)

Legislative Deadlines:

Date	Topic
January 3	Session begins
January 15	Deadline for representatives to introduce bills
January 22	Deadline for senators to introduce bills
February 16	Crossover for bills
February 19-20	Recess
March 1	Crossover for resolutions
April 6	Good Friday
April 26	Session is limited to 80 legislative days

The leadership of the two parties include:

Senate

- President – Jack Dalrymple (R)
- President Pro Tempore – Judy Lee (R)
- Majority leader – Bob Stenehjem (R)
- Assistant majority leader – Randy Christmann (R)
- Minority leader – David O’Connell (D)
- Assistant minority leader – Carolyn Nelson (D)
- Republican caucus chairman – Jerry Klein
- Democrat caucus chairman – John Warner

House of Representatives

- Speaker of the House – Jeff Delzer (R)
- Majority leader – Rick Berg (R)
- Assistant majority leader – David Monson (R)
- Minority leader – Merle Boucher (D)
- Assistant minority leader – Kenton Onstad (D)
- Republican caucus chairman – Donald D. Dietrich
- Democrat caucus chairman – Joe Kroeber

Here is the list of committee chairs for the 2007 legislative session:

Senate Committees

- Agriculture – Tim Flakoll
- Appropriations – Ray Holmberg
- Education – Layton Freborg
- Finance and Tax – Herb Urlacher
- Government and Veterans Affairs – Dick Dever
- Human Services – Judy Lee
- Industry, Business and Labor – Jerry Klein
- Judiciary – Dave Nething
- Natural Resources – Stanley Lyson
- Political Subdivisions – Dwight Cook
- Transportation – Gary A. Lee

House Committees

- Agriculture – Dennis Johnson
- Appropriations – Ken Svedjan
 - Education and Environment – Francis J. Wald
 - Government Operations Division – Al Carlson
 - Human Resources Division – Chet Pollert
- Constitutional Revision – Kim Koppelman
- Education – RaeAnn Kelsch
- Finance and Taxation – Wesley Belter
- Government and Veterans Affairs – C.B. Haas
- Human Services – Clara Sue Price
- Industry, Business and Labor – George Keiser
- Judiciary – Duane DeKrey
- Natural Resources – Todd Porter
- Political Subdivisions – Gil Herbel
- Transportation – Robin Weisz

Copies of bill drafts and information about the 60th Legislative Session leadership and committee assignments can be found at the Bills, Resolutions & Journals link on the North Dakota Legislative Council website at www.legis.nd.gov/.