



Legislative Update

March 13, 2009 - No. 11

Key Hearings Held March 9-13

SB 2040 – Support

SB 2040 was heard before the House Finance and Taxation Committee March 9. This bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for new or replacement equipment used for telecommunications infrastructure development. The bill was amended in the Senate to define telecommunications and to include an interim study examining all taxes imposed on telecommunications services in this state. ITCND Executive Director Deana Wiese provided testimony in support of SB 2040. The testimony is attached.

SB 2062 – Support

SB 2062 was heard before the House Education Committee March 9. ITCND was monitoring the initial SB 2062, which relates to student opportunity grants. However, SB 2226 (expansion of the technology loan forgiveness program), which ITCND supports, was amended into SB 2062 by the Senate. The bill now contains the policy language that would make the program available to students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). It would also increase the maximum amount and duration of loan forgiveness from \$1,000 for up to three years to \$2,000 for up to five years. The funding for this expansion was originally \$2.6 million and was in SB 2003 (North Dakota University System appropriation). The appropriation was reduced by \$1 million by the Senate, for a total of \$1.7 million, and is now split between SB 2003 (\$696,000) and SB 2062 (\$1 million). ITCND Executive Director Deana Wiese provided testimony in support of SB 2062. The testimony is attached.

Status of Key Bills

SB 2110 – Support

SB 2110 passed the House March 9. This bill contains the policy language to expand the Operation Intern program to include apprenticeships and participation from 11th and 12th graders. The \$1.2 million in funding for the expanded program is in SB 2018.

Hearing Schedule and Status Report (March 16-20)

Most of the committee hearings for bills ITCND is monitoring are completed. The work will now take place in subcommittees and conference committees. A status report for the bills being tracked by ITCND is attached.

For More Information

If at any time you need additional information or know of others who are interested in receiving this report, contact Annika Nelson, ITCND assistant executive director, at office@itcnd.org or 701-355-4458.

Copies of bill drafts and information about the 61st Legislative Session can be found at the Bills and Resolutions link on the North Dakota Legislative Council website at www.legis.nd.gov/.

How to Contact Your Legislators

During a 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) or 701-328-3373 (local). These numbers 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 legislator's bio online under the 61st Legislative Assembly link at www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009.

Addressing Mail Correspondence

To a Senator:
Honorable (full name)

To a Representative:
Honorable (full name)

State Senator
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

State Representative
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Senator (last name)

Dear Representative (last name)

2009 Legislative Deadlines

Date

April 10

April 30

Topic

Good Friday

Session is limited to 80 legislative days

Legislative Bills Tracked (to date)

Appropriation Bills

[SB 2003](#) – North Dakota University System – Support

[SB 2016](#) – Job Service North Dakota – Support

[SB 2018](#) – North Dakota Department of Commerce – Support

[SB 2019](#) – North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education – Support

[SB 2021](#) – Information Technology Department – Support

Other Bills

[HB 1144](#) – Relating to confidentiality of information contained in records – Track

[HB 1202](#) – Relating to entrepreneurship awards; relating to the Bank of North Dakota and North Dakota development fund, incorporated, use of funds for entrepreneurship awards; and to provide an expiration date – Track

[SB 2040](#) – Sales and use tax exemption for telecommunications infrastructure equipment – Support

[SB 2062](#) – STEM loan forgiveness program – Support; Opportunity grant program – Support

[SB 2110](#) – Expands Operation Intern to include apprenticeships and participation from 11th and 12th graders – Support

[SB 2131](#) – Relating to service charges for recycling and disposal for surplus property – Track

[SB 2269](#) – Relating to angel fund investment income tax credits – Support

[SB 2325](#) – Relating to the streamlined sales tax agreement – Track

[SB 2347](#) – Relating to gross receipts from the sale of items delivered electronically – Track

[SB 2390](#) – Relating to the establishment and development of certified technology parks – Track