



## Legislative Update

There were a few more bodies roaming the Capitol Halls this week as the session is kicking into high gear. NDRA, NDPMA and NDPGA presented testimony and monitored a number of bills. The floor sessions in both chambers have been moving a bit slowly, so it's likely the House and Senate will be staying in session for a few more hours a week in the days ahead.

You Association had another marketer testifying in person on behalf of the propane gas dealers in ND on [HB 1159](#). **Please be ready and willing to contact your local legislators should it be needed.** The Association will be front and center doing its best to represent and protect the business interests of all ND retailers. That being said, don't be afraid TO MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD! If there are any bills you need more information please contact the association office. We are here to help you.

HB 1159: This bill is designed to take 100 Million Dollars out of Legacy Fund earnings to support natural gas development grants in ND. NDPGA testified in opposition to the bill. Minot Propane Retailer Jarett Schatz told the Full House Appropriations Committee to let the free-market system work. Don't provide financial incentive for one competing industry over another. My guess is HB 1149 (Liquefaction bill) and HB 1159 will likely be turned into Legislative Study bills.

HB 1159 is the bill that will give 100 MILLION DOLLARS to the NDIC for the purpose of natural gas development. **The hearing January 26, 2021** in House Appropriations Committee.



House Appropriations



January 29, 2021

[SB 2188](#): SB 2188 is still in committee, NDPMA/NDRA finalized discussions with the League of Cities trying to find common ground on the bill's language. NDPMA/NDRA still have the bill in good position for marketers with a few amendments to the original draft. It should be passed out of Senate Political Subdivisions late next week. Best guess, the bill will come before the full Senate for vote in the next 10 days. **The Association office will keep you posted on when you will need to contact your local Senator and urge them to VOTE YES on SB 2188.**

[HB 1175](#): **Covid-19 liability protection** for businesses. NDRA/NDPMA and NDPGA testified in **support**.

[HB 1414](#): Relating to a deduction of **retailer sales tax** remitted. Retailers with 16 employees or less would be allowed to keep all state sales taxes collected on their first \$100,000 of sales during this current year. NDRA/NDPMA and NDPGA will continue to monitor this bill.

[HB 1419](#): This is another attempt at charging **an infrastructure fee** in lieu of special assessments. It's supposed to be more business friendly to larger retail properties. NDRA/NDPMA and NDPGA will continue to monitor this bill.

[HB 1374](#): Relating to an income tax deduction for COVID-19 relief benefits - NDRA/NDPMA submitted written testimony in **support** of businesses.

#### **Bills of note that received full House and Senate Votes the week of January 25-29:**

[HB 1204](#): Limitations on requirements to wear a **face mask at work**. NDRA/NDPMA and NDPGA **opposed** bill. Received an 11-2 "DO NOT PASS" out of IBL Committee. **Failed on House floor by 74-19 margin.**

[SB 2190](#): Relating to on-line sales of **tobacco products**. NDPMA testified in a neutral capacity. Bill is still in Senate IBL Committee. Received a 6-0 DO NOT Pass out of Senate IBL. **Senate defeated the bill** on the floor by a 44-3 vote.

[HB 1299](#): Prohibiting a retail establishment from refusing to **accept cash as payment**. NDRA/NDPMA testified in **opposition**. Bill received a "DO NOT PASS" recommendation out of House IBL. **Full House voted NO on the bill by a 70-21 count**

#### **Bills the Associations will be testifying on and monitoring the week of February 1-5:**

[HB 1464](#): Relating to tax imposed on motor vehicle fuels and special fuels. Bill calls for a 2 cent/gallon gas tax increase in 2022 and another 2 cent/gallon increase in 2023. NDPMA will be working this bill.

[HB 1341](#): State minimum wage increase.

[HB 1408](#): Relating to the definition of wages for purposes of workers' compensation benefits.

[SB 2298](#): Relating to providing sales tax exemption cards to enrolled tribal members.

[HB 1434](#): Relating to compensation history of prospective employee

[HB 1412](#): Relating to an exemption from the coal conversion facilities privilege tax and the imposition of a lignite research tax

[HB 1420](#): relating to the legalization of marijuana

[HB 1441](#): Relating to a paid family medical leave program and an income tax credit for contributions paid into the paid family medical leave fund on behalf of eligible employees

[HB 1398](#): Relating to prohibitions on political subdivisions regulating paid family leave

[HB 1323](#): Relating to limitations on mask wearing requirements

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