

Session bills that have been signed by the Governor

By Ann Estvold,
Legislative Intern

ND Newspaper Association
BISMARCK, N.D. — Gov. Kelly Armstrong has now signed 490 bills into law as Friday, April 25, 2025. Below are summaries of some of the bills signed into law in the past week:

Hunting and Outdoors

HB 1470 increases several hunting and fishing fees in North Dakota, as well as increasing the annual fishing outfitter license fee and permit fees for gun dog trainers.

SB 2245 allows waterfowl hunters to use a boat for retrieving ducks and geese as long as a motor isn't used. The bill's supporters said this would allow hunters to retrieve their game more easily.

Under SB 2216, resident waterfowl hunters must buy a \$5 electronic waterfowl habitat restoration stamp. Stamp fees will be used for a waterfowl habitat improvement fund and to collect data on the number of resident waterfowl hunters in North Dakota.

SB 2137 prohibits the state Game and Fish Department from banning deer baiting, which is the practice of putting out feed to attract deer for harvesting. At present, deer cannot be hunted over feed in areas where chronic wasting disease (CWD) is prevalent. CWD is a contagious brain disease that affects deer, elk, moose and reindeer.

Schools and Education

Under HB 1223 a school district would have more flexibility in considering the length of a student expulsion or suspension.

HB 1437 allows the State Board of Higher Education to develop and adopt a new policy for evaluating tenured faculty and faculty on the path for tenure.

HB 1562 requires school teachers, administrators, librarians and counselors to participate in a training program to spot suspected child abuse or neglect.

SB 2241 allows for the authorization and administration of public charter schools. A public charter school is defined as one that attempts to achieve specific educational objectives. A charter school would be a public school within the state's system. A charter school is not subject to state or local laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures. It is subject to federal education laws and regulations.

Healthcare

Under HB 1341 a person who assaults a hospital worker while the worker is caring for patients can be charged with a class C felony, which carries a penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

HB 1468 allocates \$16 million to increase the number of beds at behavioral health facilities in the west central human service center region. The region provides counseling and mental health services in Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux counties, as well as the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and part of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

Under HB 1511, a physician may not perform an abortion unless they have reviewed an instructional course within the previous two years.

Under HB 1297, approval voting or ranked-choice voting may not be used in any North Dakota election. "Approval voting" allows voters to vote for all candidates that the voter approves of in each race for public office; the candidates receiving the most votes are elected until all necessary seats are filled in each race. Ranked-choice voting describes a method in which a qualified elector may rank candidates for public office in order of preference, and all submitted ballots are tabulated in multiple rounds until a single candidate attains a majority of votes. The bill abolishes the use of ranked-choice voting in Fargo, where it is used to elect the mayor and four city commissioners. Fargo voters approved the ranked-choice option in 2018.

Under SB 2269, an elected member serving on a city, park district or school board is subject to recall by a petition of electors equal to 35% of the voters from the most recent election. This also applies to a member who was appointed to fill a vacancy.

Infrastructure

Under HB 1058 the Department of Environmental Quality will adopt rules about maintaining, reporting,

taking corrective action, and establishing standards for construction and performance of above-ground petroleum fuel storage tanks.

Under HB 1258, before an electric transmission facility is approved, the applicant must comply with the road use agreements of the impacted political subdivision. When an application for a facility is filed, any affected townships, cities and counties must be notified and have a public hearing.

SB 2204 requires sellers of real property to disclose to the buyer any knowledge of radon concentrations on the property. The seller must provide any test results and evidence of mitigation to the buyer.

Grant Opportunities

HB 1591 designates \$1.5 million for grants to county agriculture fair associations for the planning, designing and construction of infrastructure projects. Local fair associations would have to provide at least \$1 for every dollar of state support.

HB 1581 allocates \$100,000 for tribal tourism grants. A tribal government in the state may apply for a grant up to \$20,000 to promote and enhance tribal tourism opportunities. The tribal government must match any grant funds.

HB 1603 allocates \$500,000 to the State Historical Society for the purpose of providing compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The act was enacted in 1990 to address the return of Native American remains and cultural objects that were illegally taken from their homelands. The bill also establishes a compliance committee consisting of tribal historic preservation officers or designees from each state tribe.

SB 2228 allocates \$1 million for one-time sustainability grants to preserve or reopen rural grocery stores. Many North Dakotans live in "food deserts," which are areas where residents must travel 10 or more miles for fresh or perishable foods.

Rules and Regulations

Under HB 1303, the state, a political subdivision, or institution of higher education may not adopt or implement a sanctuary city policy.

Under HB 1305, an individual who unlawfully detains, occupies or trespasses upon a residential dwelling is guilty of a class C felony for the first offense and a class B felony for a second or subsequent offense that occurs at the same dwelling. A Class C felony is punishable by five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine; a Class B felony is punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

Under HB 1375, an individual who refuses to provide proof of identification upon request of a peace officer at a licensed premise that serves alcohol is guilty of an infraction, which carries a maximum punishment of a \$1,000 fine.

Under HB 1203 a registered qualifying patient or designated caregiver may not possess more than 500 milligrams of a cannabinoid edible product at one time.

HB 1351 defines a sexually expressive image as a real, altered or computer-generated photograph or visual representation that exhibits a nude or partially nude human figure. The previous law did not include computer generated images.

HB 1361 creates mandatory minimum sentencing requirements of 20 years, 10 years or five years, based on the class of felony, for human trafficking offenders.

HB 1429 makes a person guilty of an offense if they use a robot to frighten or harass someone else with no legitimate reason for doing so.

Miscellaneous

Under SB 2069, a state agency may request immediate publication of a notice on the North Dakota Newspaper Association's public notice website if a newspaper fails to publish a legal notice in the newspaper.

HB 1479 designates Oct. 1 as North Dakota Constitution Day. Voters approved the state constitution on Oct. 1, 1889. The governor typically issues a Constitution Day proclamation upon request. HB 1479 would make the commemoration part of state law.

NDNA hires an intern and mentor each session to supplement legislative coverage for North Dakota newspapers, through a grant from the NDNA Education Foundation. Visit <https://ndna.com/education-foundation/> to find out how you can support this mission.

Q & A with Averil Lundebrek, OTD, OTR/L – Occupational Therapist at First Care Health Center

PARK RIVER, N.D. — Offering essential services for the community has always been a goal at First Care Health Center (FCHC) in Park River, ND. Last



summer, Averil Lundebrek joined the FCHC team as their own occupational therapist and has been making

big strides in the FCHC Rehabilitation Department, bringing her experience and knowledge to the region. Averil Lundebrek, OTD, OTR/L, helps individuals of all ages who have physical, emotional, or cognitive challenges improve their ability to perform daily activities and live life to the fullest. She collaborates closely with a multitude of professionals to provide comprehensive care, including physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, and caregivers.

Learn more about Averil here, as April – National Occupational Therapy Month – concludes, and if you have any questions or concerns regarding your own abilities or those of a loved one, please reach out to your primary care provider. FCHC is excited to share that outpatient occupational therapy services are offered Monday through Friday, including pediatric occupational therapy, with Averil Lundebrek, OTD, OTR/L.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself – Where are you from – Where did you go to school...

My name is Averil Lundebrek, an occupational therapist at First Care Health Center. I am originally from Thompson, ND; however, my husband, two children, and I currently re-

side near Park River, ND. I graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science in 2018 and from the University of Mary with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy in 2021. My clinical affiliations include vocational day programs, outpatient services, acute care rehabilitation, skilled nursing facilities, and pediatrics.

In the past, I have collaborated with the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center [UMASH] to focus on aging in place within agriculture communities and continue to advocate for the role of occupational therapy and healthy aging within rural communities; and continue to support allied sciences to be involved within the agricultural industry to educate and inform communities of technology, new equipment adaptations, and injury prevention through educational opportunities both in-person and virtually. I also have a background in pediatrics, ranging from coaching to an educator, to be able to provide hands-on learning experiences integrating movement, promoting developmental milestone achievements, and introducing transitional experiences for individuals ages 0-21.

Q: What type of diagnoses do you treat and what does a therapy session involve?

I work with a wide variety of diagnoses including orthopedic injuries (such as post-op surgery); neurological disorders; ADHD/ADD; depression; sensory processing and integration; gross and fine motor skills; and more.

No matter the area treated, I provide individuals of all ages quality care in conjunction with services they may need with an emphasis on injury

prevention, orthopedic management, pediatric care, vocational roles; with emphasis on home safety, environmental adaptations, adaptive equipment education, wheelchair assessments, techniques to aide in memory and executive functions, developmental delays, sensory processing and integration, reflex integration, work exploration and reintegration, hand and arm injury or post-op surgical, and neuro rehabilitation to promote and encourage engagement in daily tasks.

Q: What kind of techniques do you utilize during therapy?

As an occupational therapist, you tend to become a "jack-of-all-trades" and work across a wide range of conditions throughout the lifespan. Techniques vary during each session and are dependent on the person's interests and needs—is it to go back to work? To be able to live at home alone? To be able to play a board game? No matter how big or small a goal is, there is an opportunity to address it!

I first like to determine what deficits are present, the desired skill(s) to work on, does the environment impact performance, and find out what matters most to that person to gain a better perspective and understanding of how I can assist towards improving one's wellbeing as a whole, not just the deficit or the injury.

Q: When you look back on your decision to take on this new role what did that moment look like for you?

With occupational therapy services being a new discipline added to First Care Health Center, it provided the opportunity to have more accessible therapeutic services in the area. I believe access to essential services, like occupational therapy,

shouldn't depend on how far someone lives from a larger city, and by being here, I can help people get the care they need close to home, without having to drive hours for support all while still getting quality care locally—not having to be referred elsewhere. Everyone deserves quality care, no matter the postcode, and being a part of First Care allows me to be a building block in a bigger framework.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your career?

It is incredibly rewarding to know I am not just helping someone during a therapy session. I am helping them stay connected to their home, their family, and their way of life that can become a ripple effect—supporting one person can impact an entire family or community.

Q: Anything else you'd like to share...

I am currently working toward my Hand Therapy Certification as part of my commitment to deepening my skills in upper limb rehabilitation. It is an exciting challenge, and I am looking forward to expanding what I can offer so I can better support the people in the community and surrounding areas to stay strong, capable, and doing what they love.

Lastly, we have pediatric occupational therapy! We are here to not only be a therapy session, but have parents feel supported and confident in their ability to guide their children's growth by sharing tools and resources to support a child's development at home and in the community.

If you or someone you know would benefit from Occupational Therapy, please reach out to your primary care provider for a referral and call 701-284-4682 to schedule.

Late- (Very Late-) Breaking News from Park River - April, 1925

By David Larson
For the Press

Frank Johnson of Brocket committed suicide by slitting his throat. He was 57 and the father of 15. Newspapers might have been a bit more candid a century ago.

The wheat situation was unchanged from the previous month. It opened at \$1.26/bushel, and didn't change noticeably during the month. Not surprisingly foreclosures were rising, but two of the three foreclosures announced during the month were women. Violette M. Verry, unmarried woman, had her mortgage to CD Lord foreclosed. \$3289.23, dated 15 October 1919. (the land is about two miles east and a mile north of town). A second foreclosure involved Maggie Schumacker, a widow. She also owed money also to CD Lord on a November 1916 mortgage. \$3503.40 on half a section.

Among the many advertisements in the Walsh County Farmers' Press was "Vito Giangaspero. Shoe Hospital, across from City Hall." (probably in the building directly to the west, where the bricked-up section is.)

The city got a brand new bright red fire truck. A Chevy hook and ladder truck with chemical engines and chemical pumps.

On the 23 of April the Press ran an article on Ruth Neste. She received a package containing a genuine Stradivarius violin sent from her uncle in Outlook, Montana. Mr. Neste came into possession of the violin several years before in Minneapolis.

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out of the same Heartland Gas location two miles west of Park River. The major difference in this transition period will be that phone calls will be transferred as they sort out staffing.

"We want them to be successful," Rebecca said. "We are helping them in this transition every step of the way."

Tim Faust, manager of North Star Co-op, agreed that the customers really won't notice a difference until statements start coming in under the new name.

"It'll probably be the same Heartland truck that comes out. It sounds like Jim is probably going to drive truck for us for a little while, at least," he said noting that tank leases will continue at Heartland Gas's current prices and they will send a letter to customers interested in pre-buying gas for fall.

Tim noted that this is a natural fit for their organization as they are able to balance the seasons of agronomy and propane as a part of their diverse business portfolio.

"We really are not expecting huge, significant changes, and I think that's

what most customers probably want to hear, because they've been happy with the service that they've gotten from Heartland. And so we want to make sure we continue that good service and customer support," he said.

Rebecca said it is bittersweet but it was necessary. They plan to stay right where they are in the community, but plan to take time to enjoy letting someone else be "on call."

Tim said he wanted to thank Jim and Rebecca for their many years of service and her father as well for his dedication to the community.

"This is something that's been in the Park River community for decades," Tim said of the propane business. "For that family to have done it successfully for that long, that's quite a feat in itself. And I think that we as a community should congratulate them on what they have accomplished over all of those years."

As Heartland Gas passes the torch, the legacy of service to the Park River community carries on.

The Hultstrand Studio was being added to—a 10'x22' section on the south side.

The Lyric Theater announced that it would be showing "Peter Pan" for two days. And that was pretty much it for April, 1925.

As you have just read, the news from April 1925 was a bit spare and not really bursting with breath-taking tales of action and adventure, so I wandered to my notes from twenty years earlier, April, 1905, to see if I could find cooler facts and more energizing tales of derring-do. (I'm not sure I succeeded, but at least the amount it took to educate a Park River student should get your attention.)

On April 1 the Park River Gazette published the Annual report of the City Government. In the previous year the City of Park River departments of Lights and Waterworks together took in \$4488.49. The City also paid an average of \$5.32 for a ton of coal.

Dunn's Drug Store was offering Northrup King's Sterling millet seed. And a Dunn customer didn't have to settle for just any kind of millet. He could buy Siberian millet seeds, or German millet seeds, or Hungarian millets seeds.

The local School News mentioned that Fred Smith-Peterson was unable to attend 7th grade on account of rheumatism. And that the pupils of the 8th grade were planning a graduation program that featured a five-act performance of "Hiawatha".

The county physician listed four

new cases of scarlatina, and five of smallpox, including one in Undee Township that was imported from Moorhead where the person had been attending college.

Mr. George Woodard and Miss Grace Kerr were wed. Woodard was one of the old residents of the town and a "good tonsorial artist." (that's another way of saying barber). (You have seen Woodard's name many, many times in your life. If you don't remember where, just wait a while; you'll see it.)

The local library added about a hundred books in March, most of them unremembered today, but there was one that you might remember, the Call of the Wild.

The average expenditure per student in the Park River Schools in 1903 was \$17.03.

Banker Towle received his 18-horsepower Packard this week. It weighed 2000 pounds. Towle was pleased with the vehicle. And well he might have been—a Packard was one of the most expensive vehicles a banker could purchase.

And, in conclusion, just so we don't lose our sense of perspective completely, a "fond" remembrance that perhaps the "Good Old Days" weren't all that great: Banker CD Lord and a few others returned from Grafton in the last week of the month. Because it had rained heavily, it took the group six hours to get back to Park River.

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