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ND House passes changes to Gaming Commission

The group is independent with members appointed by governor

BY GRANT COURSEY
The Bismarck Tribune

BISMARCK — The North Dakota House passed a bill on Wednesday, April 16, that would make changes to the state Gaming Commission.

The Gaming Commission is an independent entity whose members are appointed by the governor. The commission

acts as an added buffer between the Attorney General's Office and the Administrative Rules Committee composed of legislators.

Senate Bill 2224, introduced by Sen. Janne Myrdal, R-Edinburg, was originally intended to eliminate the Gaming Commission. This version of the bill passed the Senate in a 25-21 vote.

After speaking with the governor's office, the Attorney General's Office and the chair of the Gaming

Commission, she said, she chose to bring amendments to the bill and make changes to the Gaming Commission so it works as intended instead of eliminating it.

"We just need to make clear that the Commission is now going to be full," Myrdal said. "You are going to have five members on there. It's going to be active. It wasn't under (former Gov. Doug) Burgum for several years and that's why I wanted to kill it because why are you having a Commission if

you're not going to be active? Right?"

The amended version of the bill lays out the procedure for the attorney general to pursue potential violations of gaming rules in the state, makes it so the commission meets at least quarterly and specifies that the commission may go into executive session when necessary.

The amended bill passed the House in a 88-4 vote. It now goes back to the Senate for a vote of concurrence.



Tanner Ecker / The Bismarck Tribune
Rep. Carrie McLeod, R-Fargo, speaks on Senate Bill 2224, focused on the Gaming Commission, gaming stamp requirements, and the attorney general's regulation of gaming, at the North Dakota Capitol on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.



ND Gov. Kelly Armstrong answers questions from audience members at a UND event Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Eric Hylden/Grand Forks Herald

Armstrong: Tech 'ideology will change real quick' for ND energy

Armstrong delivers wide-ranging address, Q&A session at UND

BY JOSHUA IRVINE
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS

Gov. Kelly Armstrong says North Dakota's energy reserves gives it the power to push back against "liberal ideology" in the major tech firms that want to set up data centers in North Dakota. Tech demand for North

Dakota energy means the state can change tech companies' attitudes toward fossil fuels, socially conscious investment and other issues that "started on Slack chats from employees in Silicon Valley," Armstrong told attendees at an event at the University of North Dakota.

"We can help reset that narrative, because when

they need you to make their next billion dollars in profits, their ideology will change real quick," Armstrong said to the Grand Forks Herald when asked to clarify his comments.

Armstrong delivered a wide-ranging address to UND's Memorial Union on Wednesday night before answering questions from students and

Grand Forks residents.

He expressed concern about the decline of Americans' Fourth Amendment rights — protection from unreasonable searches and seizures — in the digital era and said people need to have more empathy and understanding for those who disagree with them.

"I'm going to let you in on a little-held view," he

said. "Fifty percent of the country isn't evil, and 50% of the country isn't stupid."

Armstrong visited UND at the behest of the university's chapter of Turning Point USA. The group's national arm is well-known for its combative attitude against liberal or left-wing ideas,

Public notice bill sent to ND governor

BY PEYTON HAUG
Forum News Service

BISMARCK — A bill to update how state agencies and political subdivisions notify the public of their activities, and who is in charge of publishing the notices, has been approved by the North Dakota Legislature.

Under Senate Bill 2069, a notice published either on the North Dakota Newspaper Association's website or the "proper" governmental website satisfies the legal requirement if a newspaper fails to publish a notice. A posting is still required to print in the relevant newspaper.

Some entities are legally required to post notices of their meetings in the newspaper. Under North Dakota Century Code, if they neglect to do so or the newspaper fails to publish the notice, the meeting has to be rescheduled.

"We are not removing any requirements for notification posting," said Sen. Kristin Roers, R-Fargo. "What it does is create a backstop in the event that there's an error."

The bill was brought by the Public Service Commission, a three-member board that regulates utilities in the state and is one of the entities required to notify the public of their meetings.

The existing law led to some meetings being canceled due to a newspaper failing to publish their

ENERGY on A2

NOTICE on A3

Safe Kids Grand Forks braces for possible county funding cut

BY ISAK DINESEN
WDAY

GRAND FORKS — Safe Kids Grand Forks, a local nonprofit focused on preventing accidental injuries in children, is warning that proposed budget cuts from the Grand Forks County Commission could significantly

harm its ability to serve the community.

The commission is undergoing a comprehensive review of its 2026 budget and is considering cuts across multiple agencies. While most departments could see reductions between 1% and 3%, one commissioner proposed eliminating the

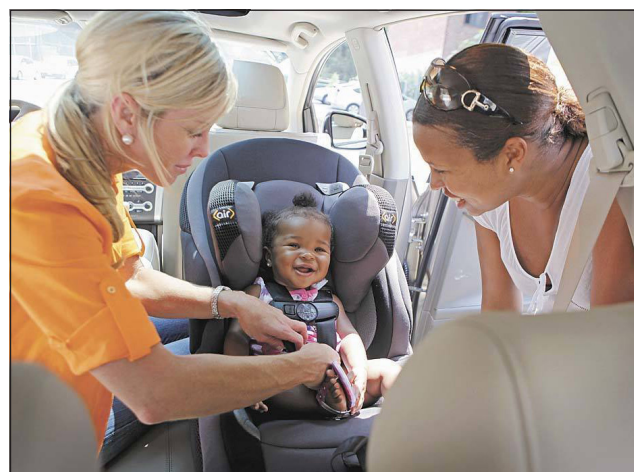
entire \$25,000 line item allocated to Safe Kids Grand Forks.

"That funding, a little bit goes a really long way in the work that we do," said Carma Hanson, coordinator for the organization.

Safe Kids Grand Forks provides education and outreach on injury

prevention for both children and adults. The nonprofit's services include car seat consultations for parents and medication take-back events to keep homes safe for visiting grandchildren.

Hanson said that while the group receives



Forum file photo
Safe Kids Grand Forks offers safety programs such as car seat checks and medication take-backs.

KIDS on A2