



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

May 1, 2017

Honorable Brent Sanford
President of the Senate
North Dakota Senate
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear President Sanford,

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have vetoed Section 7 of Senate Bill 2001, the appropriations bill for Legislative Management.

Section 7 of the bill creates a legislative revenue advisory committee, charged with analyzing executive revenue forecasts while assessing “agency revenues, including an assessment of the delivery and cost of services, staffing, and billing processes, to identify improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of the services that will result in reduced costs for state agencies.” This encroaches upon the governor’s constitutional duty, outlined in Article V, § 7 of the North Dakota Constitution, entrusting the administration of state business to the state’s chief executive. It is the responsibility of the executive branch to analyze and optimize the performance of individual agencies, operating within the budgetary and policy directives of the legislature.

Furthermore, the creation of a parallel legislative revenue advisory committee would result in overlapping and duplicative efforts. The state of North Dakota currently has in place the Advisory Council on Revenue Forecasting, a collection of private and public stakeholders, including legislators, dedicated to ensuring all third-party forecasting done for the state considers on-the-ground realities. While there is certainly room to improve this process, creating another redundant committee does not address the fundamental challenge of revenue forecasting in a commodity-driven economy. If anything, competing groups could result in conflicting revenue forecasts, creating additional challenges for the state’s budgeting process.

Currently, the legislature has the final authority to accept, amend, or reject the executive revenue forecast. Looking ahead, collaboration between the Legislative Assembly and Advisory Council on Revenue Forecasting, focused on achieving an accurate forecast that provides certainty for taxpayers and policymakers, is welcomed and encouraged.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor