



Legislation Summary for the week of Jan. 15-19, 2007

The third week was an interesting week. Tuesday morning attended the lobbyist meeting at the ND G&F building. Bills that have been submitted were discussed. At the present time, no bills have been introduced that will have a direct impact on fisheries, related water or boater issues. The rest of the week was spent contacting local legislators and sitting in on various committee hearings.

The bills that I will following the week of Jan 15-19:

SB 2017 -- Budget No. 720- Game and Fish Department hearing will be held on Monday, Jan 15th at 2:30 pm by the Appropriation Committee in the Harvest Room. The Game & Fish will present their budget and budget request for the coming biennium.

The budget was heard and sent to a sub-committee (Christmann- Chairman, Lindaas & Grindberg) and will report back to full committee at a future date. No date was set for the sub-committee meeting.

I contacted the sub-committee that I didn't think it was appropriate that money be taken out of the G&F budget to do maintenance work on boat ramps at State Parks. State Parks have requested increased funding from ND G&F in each of the past three bienniums. The reason for my objection is that when the ND G&F put money into boat ramps or fishing facilities they are there for the public to use at no charge to them and when we use ramps at State Parks we have to pay a entrance fee. We realize that the State Parks are on a tight budget and know that the ramps are in need of repair but we feel that the monies for these improvements should come from their own budget or the state general fund and not the NDG&F's appropriations.

SB 2019 -- Budget No. 750 - Parks and Recreation (including International Peace Garden will be held on Wednesday, Jan 17th at 8:30 am by the Appropriation Committee in Harvest Room. They will be presenting their budget and budget requests for the coming biennium.

The budget was heard and sent to a sub-committee for future study and will report back to the full committee. No date was set.

Here again I have problems with SB 2019, section 4, lines 10- 16. With the transfer of ND G&F funds being transferred to State Parks for maintenance, operating and extraordinary repairs expenses.

HB 1212 -- Relating to the use of receiver hitches. This bill will be heard in the Fort Totten Room on Thursday, Jan 18th at 9:30 a.m.

The bill was heard and no one testified in favor of bill. No vote was taken at this time.

There are no bills in the hopper for us this coming week of Jan 22 thru 26 at time.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 701.351.0260 or by email at dash@gondtc.com

Report submitted by: Duaine Ash