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Larry Bellew

North Dakota Representative, HD-038 (R)

freedomindex.us/7948/



ND Legislative Scorecard 2023: 80%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Red-Flag Law Prevention: Would have prevented state or local agencies from implementing or enforcing "red flag" gun-control laws, and it would have prevented them from accepting federal money to enforce those laws.

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Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: None · HB1401 · Rejected 33–60 · 02/20/2023

2. Firearm Merchant Codes: Prohibits financial entities' use of merchant codes to track firearm and ammunition-related purchases.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1487 · Passed 81–10 · 04/24/2023

3. Sound Money: Changes North Dakota's definition of money to ban free-market-based cryptocurrencies and pave the way for a government-issued Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **No** · HB1082 · Passed 84–9 · 02/15/2023

4. Ranked-Choice Voting Ban: Prohibits ranked-choice voting in North Dakota.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1273 · Passed 71–17 · 04/10/2023

5. Drones & Autonomous Vehicle Grants: Provides appropriations to the department of career and technical education and agriculture commissioner for uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology (drone) grants.



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$1.50/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **No** · HB1519 · Passed 82–10 · 04/26/2023

6. Mandatory Dyslexia Screening: Creates a dyslexia and literacy task force, reading instruction competency for teacher licensure, and the dyslexia screening and intervention program.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1231 · Passed 88–5 · 04/25/2023

Why do these votes matter?

1. Red-Flag Law Prevention

HB1401 would have prevented state or local agencies from implementing or enforcing "red flag" gun-control laws, and it would have prevented them from accepting federal money to enforce those laws.

The North Dakota State House of Representatives rejected HB1401 on February 20, 2023 by a vote of 33 to 60. We have assigned pluses to the nays because red-flag laws are a gross violation of our 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendment rights. Ultimately, the right of the American people to keep and bear arms is protected by the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and should not be infringed upon.

2. Firearm Merchant Codes

HB1487 prohibits financial entities' use of merchant codes to track firearm and ammunition-related purchases.

The North Dakota State House of Representatives passed HB1487 on April 24, 2023 by a vote of 81 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the workaround by credit card companies to track ammunition and firearm purchases violates several constitutionally-protected rights, including the First, Second, and Fourth Amendments. This is a large invasion of privacy, opens the door for illegal searches, and potentially deters people from making firearm purchases.

3. Sound Money

HB1082 changes North Dakota's definition of money to ban free-market-based cryptocurrencies and pave the way for a government-issued Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

The North Dakota State House of Representatives passed HB1082 on February 15, 2023 by a vote of 84 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), a powerful organization known for advocating consistent state laws that align with Federal legislation and international commitments, strongly supported this bill. The ULC's agenda also includes harmonizing state laws with those of other nations, which is not something allowed in the Constitution. The U.S. Constitution states that only the U.S. Congress has the power to "coin money," and HB1082 violates that important provision.

4. Ranked-Choice Voting Ban

HB1273 prohibits ranked-choice voting in North Dakota.

The North Dakota State House of Representatives voted to override the Governor's veto on April 10, 2023 by a vote of 71 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because ranked-choice voting adds complexity to the election process and raises concerns about potential election manipulation. Moreover, ranked-choice voting could potentially result in voter disenfranchisement or errors that undermine the integrity of elections.

5. Drones & Autonomous Vehicle Grants

HB1519 provides appropriations to the department of career and technical education and agriculture commissioner for uncrewed aircraft system, autonomous vehicle, or other autonomous technology (drone) grants.

The North Dakota State House of Representatives passed HB1519 on April 26, 2023 by a vote of 82 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the nays because funding drone research and autonomous technologies should not be the responsibility of the government. Government-issued grants often grant the government or bureaucracy the authority to choose winners and losers, leading to an expansion of government and increased interference in the private sector.

6. Mandatory Dyslexia Screening

HB1231 creates a dyslexia and literacy task force, reading instruction competency for teacher licensure, and the dyslexia screening and intervention program.

The North Dakota State House of Representatives passed HB1231 on April 25, 2023 by a vote of 85 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this is something that schools and the government should not be involved in. Mandatory dyslexia screening would require students to undergo a specific assessment to identify learning disabilities. This process could involve the collection of sensitive personal information and medical data, raising privacy concerns for both students and their families. This infringes upon an individual's right to privacy, which is protected under the U.S. Constitution. The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government, and requiring students to undergo this screening is in violation of this constitutionally-protected right.