

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS

COMPLETION

3

Fill in the blank with the term being defined.

- _____ 1. A committee made up of members of both houses created to resolve differences over a specific bill
- _____ 2. The power of the people to propose their own laws
- _____ 3. Number of members in the North Dakota House of Representatives
- _____ 4. The allocation of seats in the legislature after each census
- _____ 5. Type of committee used to consider bills and recommend action
- _____ 6. Presiding officer in the North Dakota House of Representatives
- _____ 7. Presides in the North Dakota Senate
- _____ 8. Act of submitting an act of the legislature to a vote of the people
- _____ 9. A person seeking to influence the decisions of the legislature
- _____ 10. Act of the governor in which he rejects a bill passed by the legislature
- _____ 11. A proposal for a law submitted for consideration by the legislature
- _____ 12. Minimum numbers of members required to conduct business
- _____ 13. The records of the proceedings of the legislature
- _____ 14. Length of time the legislature may meet in a biennium

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS**MATCHING****3**

Find the statement in Column B that best fits each statement or phrase in Column A. In the blank provided, write the letter of your answer for each question.

COLUMN A

- _____ 1. Directs studies between legislative sessions
- _____ 2. Legislators helping people in their districts
- _____ 3. The presiding officer in the house of representatives
- _____ 4. Constitutional principle for drawing boundaries for legislative districts
- _____ 5. Number of days the legislature may meet in a two-year period
- _____ 6. Type of committee that holds hearing on bills
- _____ 7. Source of figures used by legislatures for drawing district boundaries
- _____ 8. Power possessed by governor to disapprove bills
- _____ 9. A person who represents an interest group at the legislature
- _____ 10. The people use a petition to propose their own laws for a vote of people
- _____ 11. Submitting an act of the legislature to a vote of the people
- _____ 12. Chosen by the majority party to ensure an orderly flow of legislation through the chamber

COLUMN B

- A. Constituent service
- B. 80
- C. Initiative
- D. Legislative Council
- E. Lobbyist
- F. Majority Leader
- G. 120
- H. One-person, one-vote
- I. Recall
- J. Referendum
- K. 60
- L. Speaker
- M. Standing
- N. U.S. Census
- O. Veto

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS**MULTIPLE CHOICE****3**

Choose the **MOST CORRECT** answer.

- _____ 1. According to the North Dakota Constitution, the legislature may meet as long as:
- it takes to get the job done.
 - 120 days.
 - 80 days.
 - 60 days.
- _____ 2. The requirement that legislative districts have fairly equal numbers of people was imposed by:
- the U.S. Supreme Court.
 - the U.S. Congress.
 - executive order of the governor.
 - the legislature itself.
- _____ 3. Bills may not be introduced into the legislative process by:
- standing committees.
 - the Legislative Council.
 - individual legislators.
 - lobbyists.
- _____ 4. A legislature consisting of only one chamber (house) is called:
- unilateral.
 - unicameral.
 - bicameral.
 - bilateral.
- _____ 5. The presiding officer of the house of representatives is:
- the speaker.
 - the president pro tempore.
 - the lieutenant governor.
 - the majority leader.
- _____ 6. The job of the legislature that includes reviewing spending and agency rules is called:
- passing laws.
 - constituent service.
 - oversight.
 - expressing opinions.
- _____ 7. Using a petition signed by 13,452 or more voters to submit an act of the legislature to a vote of the people is called a(an):
- veto.
 - initiative.
 - blocking.
 - referral.

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS

SELECTIVE ANSWERING

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Circle the LETTERS of the correct answers in each grouping.

1. The following are steps through which bills must usually go to become laws.
 - A. Supreme Court holds hearings
 - B. Referral to a standing committee
 - C. Submission to governor for approval or disapproval
 - D. Joint conference committee if chambers disagree
 - E. Vote of the people in next election

2. Among the functions (or duties) performed by the legislature are:
 - A. Reviewing decisions of the supreme court.
 - B. Overseeing the proper administration of laws.
 - C. Considering executive appointments.
 - D. Passing laws.
 - E. Giving final approval to constitutional amendments.

3. Among the roles of standing committees are:
 - A. Dividing the job of handling over 900 bills.
 - B. Taking advantage of the experience and expertise of legislators.
 - C. Setting the rules of procedure.
 - D. Compromising disagreements over bills.
 - E. Telling the chamber what they think should be done with bills.

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS

ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURE

3

Below are a number of items. Place a check next to each item if that item is a function performed by North Dakota Legislative Assembly.

- _____ 1. Proposes most amendments to the North Dakota Constitution
- _____ 2. Gives opinions to federal agencies
- _____ 3. Passes laws
- _____ 4. Commander-in-chief of the state's military
- _____ 5. Approves key appointments by the governor
- _____ 6. Chooses candidates for the United States Senate
- _____ 7. Determines the guilt or innocence of a person accused of stealing from a business partner
- _____ 8. Represents the state in deciding which amendments to the U.S. Constitution shall be adopted
- _____ 9. Investigates rumors of wrongdoing in government
- _____ 10. Reviews government spending
- _____ 11. Appoints the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- _____ 12. Expresses opinions, by use of resolution, to anyone it chooses
- _____ 13. Sets bail for an individual accused of a crime
- _____ 14. Oversees the activities of government
- _____ 15. Reviews the rules and regulations established by different agencies of government
- _____ 16. Sets railroad and electrical rates
- _____ 17. Grants pardons
- _____ 18. Reviews all bills paid by state agencies
- _____ 19. Makes general policy for North Dakota
- _____ 20. Is official ambassador for North Dakota

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS

SHORT ESSAY

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Answer each of the following questions using clear and complete sentences.

1. Why do you suppose legislative “oversight” is becoming more and more important in North Dakota?
2. Which is more important—basing legislative districts strictly on one-person, one-vote or allocating legislators to counties and cities without regard to population? Defend your answer.
3. Should the North Dakota Constitution provide minimum qualifications (age, residence, etc.) for legislators or should people be allowed to choose anyone they want? Defend your choice.
4. Give two suggestions that would help make it possible for more people to serve in the legislature.
5. North Dakota has one of the few state legislatures that meets on a biennial rather than an annual basis. Some legislators have proposed annual sessions. What three questions would you ask to help you decide whether or not North Dakota should have annual sessions?

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS**3****JOB DESCRIPTION FOR LEGISLATORS**

What does it take to be a good legislator? Listed below are several of the more important tasks performed by legislators. Identify the qualities you think legislators should possess to perform each task.

FUNCTION	QUALITIES REQUIRED
1. Pass laws	
2. Compromise conflicts	
3. Oversee faithful performance in the executive branch	
4. Serve constituents	
5. Express opinions	

LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS**3****AGENDA FOR GUEST LEGISLATOR**

Invite a state legislator to come to visit with your class. Tell the legislator that you will use an interview format. This is important for two reasons: (1) The legislator will more likely accept if it doesn't require preparation of a presentation. (2) You can guide the discussion to topics that will help students relate the text to practice.

1. Describe our legislative district.
2. Give a brief personal biography of yourself.
3. How do your experiences and interests make you “fit” as a representative for this kind of a district?
4. How did you get chosen by your party to run for the legislature?
5. How do you campaign for a legislative election?
 - a. How much does your political party do for you?
 - b. How much do family, friends and neighbors help?
 - c. What did the campaign cost and where do you get money for campaigns?
 - d. Do interest groups give much money to legislative candidates?
6. Describe your typical day in the legislature.
7. What do political parties do in the legislature?
8. How many issues are decided on a political basis with Republicans against Democrats?
9. What do interest groups and lobbyists do in the legislature?
10. In which ways is the governor involved in the legislative process during the session?
11. How do you work with constituents to be sure you are representing them?
12. What are some things legislators do between legislative sessions?
13. What do you like most—and least—about serving in the legislature?
14. Do we need to limit terms for legislators in North Dakota?
15. Open discussion.