




10

Commandment  
Legislative Bill  
Evaluation  
Concept

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# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20: 1-17

AND GOD SPAKE ALL THESE WORDS, SAYING, I AM THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH HAVE BROUGHT THEE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, OUT OF THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE . . . .

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANY THING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH: THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: FOR I THE LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THEM THAT HATE ME: AND SHEWING MERCY UNTO THOUSANDS OF THEM THAT LOVE ME, AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS . . .

THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN: FOR THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTY THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN . . . .

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOUR, AND DO ALL THY WORK: BUT THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD: IN IT THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK, THOU, NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER, THY MANSERVANT, NOR THY MAIDSERVANT, NOR THY CATTLE, NOR THY STRANGER THAT IS WITHIN THY GATES: FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY, AND HALLOWED IT.

HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER: THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE . . . . .

THOU SHALT NOT KILL . . . . .

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY . . . . .

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL . . . . .

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR . . . . .

THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE, THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MANSERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT, NOR HIS OX, NOR HIS ASS, NOR ANY THING THAT IS THY NEIGHBOUR'S . . . . .

THE NEW COMMANDMENT JOHN 13: 34

A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE UNTO YOU, THAT YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER: AS I HAVE LOVED YOU . . . . .

DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE  
NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



# GIVEN

- ND Constitution/Morality/1889/Webster 1828/WLC 10
- Broad agreement on current culture/Biblical views in COR 17 worldview documents & Summit Worldview Chart
- Goal is to give glory to and acknowledge God in legislative bills, which results in His blessing on ND people.
- Knowing the value of an historical view of current affairs (ref. CS Lewis).
- Remember violation of one command is violation of all (James 2:10).
- Knowledge that **civil government only has legitimate authority where seen in Scripture. Not every sin requires civil government action**, only where Scripture requires civil government action (e.g., death penalty).

# FIND:

- A reasonable system to score ND legislative bills on its conformity to God's Word as summarized in the 10 Commandments.
- Check each bill point against each commandment.,
- Score +1 for each conforming, -1 for each non-conforming.
- Possible score -100 to +100

# SOLUTION

## PROCEDURE

1. Reader Review:
  - a. Identify bill aims, funding, regulations.
  - b. Flag moral 10 C concerns.
2. Theological Review:
  - a. Provides 10 C based review using WLC, COR 17, Summit Chart.
  - b. Assigns preliminary score
3. AI Assistant
  - a. Identifies keywords, concepts, phrases that may violate or support 10C using WLC scripture references, COR 17 and Summit Chart.
  - b. Highlights potential consequences, study areas, additional related scripture.
  - c. Assigns preliminary score.
4. Scoring Committee
  - a. Review human and AI preliminary scores to finalize score.
  - b. Addresses ambiguities & discrepancies.

# Benefits

- Moves legislature toward aligning with Biblical principles and ND Constitutions morality.
- Accountability for lawmakers.
- Solid historical standard of measure with modern context.
- Structured, transparent approach to moral evaluation.
- Feedback loop to improve process of evaluation.

# Challenges

- Educating people in how to practically apply the 10 commandments as it was done in early America.
- Educating people in the aspects of the anti-Christian worldviews operating today so they can see the contrast with the 10C.

# Template for bill analysis

## Bill Information

- Bill Title:
- Bill Number:
- Date of Submission:
- Primary Sponsor:
- Purpose/Objective of Bill:

## Commandment Evaluation

Commandment	Key Scriptures Referenced	Violations Identified	Affirmations Identified	Score (-10 to +10)	Notes
1. No Other Gods					
2. No Idols					
3. Name of God					
4. Sabbath Day					
5. Honor Parents					
6. No Murder					
7. No Adultery					
8. No Stealing					
9. Truthful Witness					
10. No Coveting					



# Scoring rubric

## Negative Scoring (Violations)

- **Clear Scriptural Violation:** -1 point per instance (e.g., explicit funding for unbiblical purposes).
- **General Equity Breach:** -1 point for indirect or broader violations of principles (e.g., promoting ideologies contrary to biblical teaching).

## Positive Scoring (Affirmations)

- **Clear Scriptural Adherence:** +1 point per instance (e.g., protecting life, property rights).
- **General Equity Affirmation:** +1 point for indirect adherence to biblical principles.

## Zero Scoring

- Neutral provisions or those not clearly addressed in Scripture.

## Examples:

- **First Commandment (No Other Gods):**
  - Negative: Funding secular indoctrination (-10).
  - Positive: Protecting religious freedom (+10).
- **Eighth Commandment (No Stealing):**
  - Negative: Unjust taxation or redistribution (-5 to -10).
  - Positive: Tax incentives for charitable giving (+5).

# Example

## HB 1001

Using the Westminster Larger Catechism method, here is the evaluation of House Bill No. 1001, which appropriates funds for the expenses of the Office of the Governor of North Dakota:

### Bill Overview

- **Purpose:** To allocate \$5,266,996 from the general fund for salaries, operations, contingencies, and awards in the Governor's Office for the biennium of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Salary and wages: \$4,426,244.
  - Governor's salary: \$310,621.
  - Operating expenses: \$509,331.
  - Contingencies: \$10,000.
  - Rough Rider Awards: \$10,800.
  - Full-time equivalent positions: 19.

# Evaluation Using the Ten Commandments

## 1. First Commandment: No Other Gods

- **Positive:** No explicit promotion of idolatry or secular ideologies.
- **Negative:** The general **lack of acknowledgment of God's sovereignty** over government operations could be seen as an implicit rejection of biblical governance principles.
- **Score:** -1.

## 2. Second Commandment: No Idolatry

- **Positive:** The bill does not allocate funds for idolatrous purposes or symbols.
- **Negative:** None identified.
- **Score:** +0.

## 3. Third Commandment: Honor God's Name

- **Positive:** The bill does not misuse God's name or principles.
- **Negative:** **Absence of acknowledgment of God's authority** in the operations of the governor's office.
- **Score:** -1.

## 4. Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath

- **Positive:** No provisions requiring Sabbath violations.
- **Negative:** None identified.
- **Score:** +0.

## 5. Fifth Commandment: Honor Authority

- **Positive:** The bill provides for the legitimate functioning of civil authority, which aligns with biblical teaching on **honoring those in authority (Romans 13:1-7)**.
- **Negative:** Allocation of significant **funds without direct accountability to biblical principles**.
- **Score:** +1-1=0.

## 6. Sixth Commandment: Do Not Murder

- **Positive:** No evidence of funds supporting actions that undermine the sanctity of life.
- **Negative:** None identified.
- **Score:** +0.

## 7. Seventh Commandment: Do Not Commit Adultery

- **Positive:** No provisions promoting immorality.
- **Negative:** None identified.
- **Score:** +0.

## 8. Eighth Commandment: Do Not Steal

- **Positive:** Funds appear allocated for legitimate governmental operations.
- **Negative:** Potential misuse of funds or excessive taxation to sustain this budget may indirectly violate property rights.
- **Score:** +1-1=0.

## 9. Ninth Commandment: Do Not Bear False Witness

- **Positive:** Requires reporting and transparency about additional income and its usage.
- **Negative:** None identified.
- **Score:** +2.

## 10. Tenth Commandment: Do Not Covet

- **Positive:** No evidence of promoting envy or covetousness.
- **Negative:** None identified.
- **Score:** +0.

# Final score HB 1001

# Commandment	Score
1	-1
2	0
3	-1
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	2
10	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

# Recommendation on HB 1001

## Recommendation

The bill is largely neutral with a slight positive score due to its alignment with the Ninth Commandment. However, greater accountability to biblical principles and ensuring funds do not contribute to excessive taxation or waste could strengthen its alignment with God's law.

**A zero score is 50% of what it could be, therefore is still an F grade.**

**An acceptable score in 2025 needs to be a slight positive of 60%**

*(Understanding that it takes time to improve, minimum values increase over next few years.)*

Year	Minimum Acceptable Value	Letter Grade Acceptable
2025	60% of possible	D 60 to 69 % of possible.
2027	70	C
2029	80	B
2031	90	A
2033	100	