

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Minutes of the

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Wednesday and Thursday, November 12-13, 2014
House Chamber, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Ray Holmberg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators Ray Holmberg, Dwight Cook, Joan Heckaman, Dave Oehlke, Larry J. Robinson, Mac Schneider, Ronald Sorvaag, Rich Wardner; Representatives Al Carlson, Chuck Damschen, Bill Devlin, Ron Guggisberg, Brenda Heller, Marvin E. Nelson, Kenton Onstad, Mark S. Owens, Jim Schmidt

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Holmberg asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Representative John Wall, who passed away on July 18, 2014.

Chairman Holmberg recognized the members of the 63rd Legislative Assembly who will not return to serve in the 64th Legislative Assembly and thanked them for their service. He also thanked those legislators who served as interim committee chairmen and he thanked legislators and the Legislative Council staff for their work during the 2013-14 interim.

At the request of Chairman Holmberg, Mr. Jim W. Smith, Director, Legislative Council, welcomed returning and new legislators. He said there were more than 150 committee meetings during the 2013-14 interim. He said the committees are recommending 74 bills and 11 resolutions. He said the committee reports are available during the meeting on the Legislative Council webpage.

The Director stated that packets and name badges were available for new legislators and committee preference sheets for standing committee preferences for the 2015 session, preliminary 2015-17 biennium budget information, and the 2014 North Dakota Finance Facts were also available.

BUDGET SECTION

Representative Chet Pollert, Chairman, Budget Section, presented the Budget Section report ([Appendix A](#)). He identified the duties and responsibilities of the Budget Section and said the Budget Section addressed 54 items and will address additional matters at its December 2014 meeting.

Representative Pollert said the Budget Section received reports from the Office of Management and Budget regarding the general fund, employee bonuses, irregularities in the fiscal practices of the state, the capital improvements preliminary planning revolving fund, tobacco settlement proceeds, federal grant applications, the information technology study, the Missouri River Correctional Center land use study, and the State Board of Higher Education's project variance reports.

Representative Pollert said the Budget Section considered and approved an alternative method of reporting legislative changes relating to the development of the state budget during legislative sessions. He said the new method will be implemented for the 2015 legislative session.

Representative Pollert said the Budget Section received reports from the North Dakota University System regarding the sources of local funds used for construction projects by institutions under the State Board of Higher Education. He said the Budget Section authorized the expenditure of additional other funds for capital projects, as well as changes in the scope of capital projects at Dakota College at Bottineau, North Dakota State College of Science, North Dakota State University, the University of North Dakota, Valley City State University, and Williston State College.

Representative Pollert said the Budget Section received numerous other reports, including from the following:

- Department of Commerce regarding the status of grants awarded to nursing homes, basic care facilities, and providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities located in oil-producing counties;

- Department of Human Services regarding the status of one-time grants to critical access hospitals;
- Legacy and Budget Stabilization Fund Advisory Board regarding the development of investment policies for the legacy fund and budget stabilization fund;
- Housing Finance Agency regarding reductions in the number of housing units owned, master leased, or subsidized by cities, school districts, and other employers of essential service workers;
- State Water Commission regarding changes to the commission's project priority list presented to the 63rd Legislative Assembly;
- State Water Commission regarding Fargo flood control funding and expenditures to date;
- F-M Flood Diversion Board of Authority regarding congressional authorization of the diversion, the status of a self-insured crop insurance pool, mitigation efforts, alternatives, costs, easements, and the project budget;
- MNDak Upstream Coalition regarding impacts of the Fargo flood control project and mitigation efforts, alternatives, and costs;
- Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute regarding county and township roads and bridges; and
- The cities of Minot, Dickinson, and Williston regarding the use of funding allocations from the oil and gas gross production tax.

Representative Pollert said the Budget Section approved:

- A request from the State Water Commission to spend additional funds from the resources trust fund;
- The acquisition of land by the Game and Fish Department;
- A new license plate design by the Department of Transportation;
- A request from the Department of Transportation to expend more than \$4 million for a replacement airplane;
- A request from the Department of Trust Lands to approve the relinquishment of state agency rights to recover unclaimed property; and
- Twenty-four agency requests for increased spending authority, transfers of spending authority, or increased full-time equivalent positions, which had received prior approval by the Emergency Commission.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Senator Devlin, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Budget Section be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Robinson, and Sorvaag, and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

Representative Mark Sanford, Chairman, Higher Education Funding Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix B](#)). He said the committee studied issues affecting higher education, including funding methods, intellectual property policies and procedures, student affordability, and the use of open textbooks. He said the committee received a report from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences regarding the strategic plans, programs, and facilities of the School of Medicine. He said the committee received a report regarding student enrollment from tribally controlled community colleges that were awarded grants under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15-70. He said the committee received a report from the Information Technology Department regarding the status of the statewide longitudinal data system. He said the committee received a report from the State Board of Higher Education regarding the implementation and administration of Chapter 15-18.1, which addresses the operation of certain postsecondary institutions, and a report regarding distributions from the higher education performance funding pool. He said the committee also received from the State Board of Higher Education a report regarding higher education challenge grants and a report regarding North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships.

Representative Sanford said the committee reviewed data regarding higher education finances, enrollment, and performance statistics and measures.

In response to a question from Representative Carlson, Representative Sanford said the Legislative Assembly should expect positive student outcomes from institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education and should use performance funding to incentivize quality.

In response to a question from Representative Carlson, Representative Sanford said the Legislative Assembly must carefully consider building requests and the utilization of existing facilities at campuses. He said existing facilities have a backlog of deferred maintenance. He said enrollment has remained steady at the institutions. He said an increasing number of students are taking classes through distance education methods.

In response to a question from Senator Marcellais, Representative Sanford said the committee reviewed programs available to assist veterans at institutions of higher education.

It was moved by Senator Cook, seconded by Senator Robinson, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Higher Education Funding Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Representative Jeff Delzer, Chairman, Government Finance Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix C](#)). He said the committee studied potential uses of the legacy fund, state employee retirement plans, the foundation aid stabilization fund, the process of appropriating state agency salaries and wages, state contributions to state employee health insurance premiums, and the State Board of Higher Education's activities relating to the purchase of the Research Enterprise and Commercialization building on the campus of the University of North Dakota.

Representative Delzer said the committee monitored the status of the general fund and other major funds and received updates on oil and gas development in the state, major agency budget items, and the preliminary general fund revenue forecast for the 2015-17 biennium.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Senator Wardner, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Government Finance Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Representative Chuck Damschen, Chairman, Human Services Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix D](#)). He said the committee studied a comprehensive system of care for individuals with brain injury, the behavioral health needs of youth and adults in the state, and home and community-based services. He said the committee received reports regarding the autism spectrum disorder plan, the autism spectrum disorder voucher program pilot project, the children's health insurance program state plan, the grant to implement a certificate program that prepares individuals with autism spectrum disorder for employment in the technology sector, and the impact of changing the eligibility requirements and reducing copay requirements for the child care assistance program.

It was moved by Representative Devlin, seconded by Representative Schmidt, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Human Services Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman, Government Services Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix E](#)). He said the committee studied the facility needs of state agencies in the Bismarck area, the use of structures and property of the James River Correctional Center and the State Hospital, and current state and federal benefits available to North Dakota veterans. He said the committee also received reports regarding the activities of the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's plan to move the Missouri River Correctional Center to a site adjacent to the Youth Correctional Center; the cost of writing, publishing, and distributing a record of all North Dakota veterans; and the status of the service dog training program.

It was moved by Senator Wardner, seconded by Representative Owens, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Government Services Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Heckaman, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman, Health Services Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix F](#)). She said the committee studied ways to improve access to dental services and ways to address dental service provider shortages, including through the utilization of mid-level providers. She said the committee studied whether the use of incentives for dental service providers to locate in underserved areas could improve access and whether the state's medical assistance reimbursement rates impact access to dental services. She said the committee studied the comprehensive statewide tobacco prevention and control plan and the creation of a single assessment of programs administered by the Tobacco Prevention and Control Executive Committee and the State Department of Health. She said the committee studied the feasibility and desirability of community paramedics providing additional clinical and public health services, particularly in rural areas of the state, the ability to receive third-party reimbursement for the cost of these services, and the effect of these services on the operations and sustainability of the current emergency medical services system. She said the committee studied the funding provided by the state for autopsies and state and county responsibilities for the cost of autopsies, including the feasibility and desirability of counties sharing in the cost of autopsies performed by the State Department of Health and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She said the committee received a recommendation from the Insurance Commissioner regarding an entity that could provide cost-benefit analyses of legislative measures that mandated health insurance coverage of services or the provision of payment for specified services.

Senator Lee said the committee received a report from the State Fire Marshal regarding the effectiveness of test methods and performance standards for cigarettes and recommendations for legislation to improve the effectiveness of the law on reduced ignition propensity standards for cigarettes. She said the committee received a report from the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health, the Indian Affairs Commission, and the Public Employees Retirement System regarding their goals and strategies to reduce diabetes in the state, improve diabetes care, and control complications associated with diabetes. She said the committee received a report from the University System regarding accessibility, funding, and student debt related to out-of-state professional education programs in veterinary medicine, optometry, and dentistry. She said the committee also received information regarding professional loan repayment programs and agency expenditures for alcohol, drug, tobacco, and risk-associated behavior prevention and treatment programs.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Senator Heckaman, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Health Services Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman, Information Technology Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix G](#)). He said the committee received reports from the Chief Information Officer and representatives of the Information Technology Department regarding the department's activities, major information technology projects, the prioritization of major computer software projects for the 2015-17 biennium, and health information technology. He said the committee also received reports from representatives of the University System regarding higher education information technology projects and security attacks. He said the committee studied Voice over Internet Protocol service and issues related to the development of the current radio communication plan. He said the committee received the results of a desktop support study, an information technology hardware relocation and consolidation study, and an information technology staffing analysis of the Department of Public Instruction.

It was moved by Representative Devlin, seconded by Senator Wardner, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Information Technology Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Representative Gary Kreidt, Chairman, Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix H](#)). He said the committee reviewed the state's financial transactions to ensure that the collection of state revenues and the expenditures of state money were in compliance with the law, legislative intent, and sound financial practices. He said the committee studied the structure and requirements necessary for the State Auditor's office to conduct audits of political subdivisions. He said the committee reviewed two

performance audit and evaluation reports and 113 financial or information technology application audit reports. He said, during the 2013 legislative session, the committee received two additional performance audit and evaluation reports. He said 41 additional audit reports were filed with the committee but not formally presented.

It was moved by Senator Cook, seconded by Senator Oehlke, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

TAXATION COMMITTEE

Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman, Taxation Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix I](#)). He said the committee studied the property tax system, the application of property tax rates against the true and full value of property, and controlling the growth of property tax levies, including the effectiveness of state-funded property tax relief. He said the committee studied state economic development tax exemptions, including the desirability of utilizing a regular review process to assess the effectiveness of those exemptions. He said the committee studied the effectiveness of local property tax exemptions and economic development incentives, and it studied the forest stewardship tax.

It was moved by Senator Sorvaag, seconded by Representative Schmidt, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Taxation Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES COMMITTEE

Representative Bill Devlin, Chairman, Administrative Rules Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix J](#)). He said the committee reviewed all state administrative rulemaking actions from January 2013 through October 2014. He said that amounted to 2,116 pages of rules and 1,383 sections. He said the number of sections affected was substantially greater and the number of pages of rules was substantially less than the comparable amount from the previous biennial period. He said the committee did not void any rules submitted by administrative agencies.

It was moved by Senator Heckaman, seconded by Senator Wardner, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Administrative Rules Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

COMMISSION ON ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

Senator Ron Carlisle, Chairman, Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration, presented the commission report ([Appendix K](#)). He said the commission studied sentencing alternatives, mandatory sentences, treatment options, the expanded use of problem-solving courts, home monitoring, and other related issues. He said the commission studied sentencing alternatives to incarceration for first-time felony offenses that are nonviolent, excluding the distribution of drugs. He said the commission reviewed a number of programs providing alternatives to incarceration and fulfilled its statutory responsibility to provide the Governor with information and recommendations for inclusion in the biennial executive budget.

It was moved by Senator Oehlke, seconded by Senator Cook, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt vote "aye." No negative votes were cast.

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Representative Brenda Heller, Chairman, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, presented the commission report ([Appendix L](#)). She said the commission exercised its statutory authority to serve as a forum for discussion and resolution of intergovernmental and local government issues. She said the commission studied the feasibility and desirability of making political subdivision budget information accessible on the state budget database website and ways in which taxpayers can be better informed regarding property tax issues. She said the commission also studied whether political subdivisions can become more efficient and effective, thereby reducing the cost to taxpayers.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Representative Devlin, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

HEALTH CARE REFORM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Representative George J. Keiser, Chairman, Health Care Reform Review Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix M](#)). He said the committee studied the immediate needs and challenges of the state's health care delivery system, implementation of the Healthy North Dakota initiative, issues of Medicaid reform, and the feasibility of developing a plan for a private health care model that will comply with federal health care reform and provide high-quality, accessible, and affordable care for residents of the state. He said the committee studied health care reform options, including the implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), if the federal law remains in effect, and state alternatives for state-based health care reform, if the federal law is repealed. He said the committee studied the effects of the ACA due to the dramatically changing health care system in the state and Medicaid Expansion provisions.

It was moved by Senator Wardner, seconded by Representative Owens, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Health Care Reform Review Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Senator Lonnie J. Laffen, Chairman, Workers' Compensation Review Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix N](#)). He said the committee reviewed claims of injured workers to determine whether statutory changes should be made and recommended that the preferred provider program, cost-of-living adjustments, narcotic usage, and posttraumatic stress disorder be included in the quadrennial performance evaluation. He said the committee received a biennial report from Workforce Safety and Insurance regarding compiled data relating to safety grants, an annual report from Workforce Safety and Insurance regarding pilot programs to assess alternative methods of providing rehabilitation services, and a report from Workforce Safety and Insurance regarding recommendations based on the safety audit of the Roughrider Industries work programs and the performance review of the modified workers' compensation coverage program.

It was moved by Senator Cook, seconded by Senator Sorvaag, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Workers' Compensation Review Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Senator David Hogue, Chairman, Judiciary Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix O](#)). He said the committee studied the assessment of fees by courts, the feasibility and desirability of combining various court fees, and whether courts should be mandated to impose fees established by statute. He said, in accordance with a Legislative Management directive, the committee reviewed changes to the state's driving under the influence laws enacted in 2013 House Bill No. 1302, examined whether double jeopardy issues exist as a result of the newly created offense for failure to submit to testing, and reviewed how the bill's implementation affects the 24/7 sobriety program and the drug court option for offenders. He said, in accordance with a Legislative Management directive, the committee also studied the intellectual property policies and procedures at research universities within the state.

Senator Hogue said the committee reviewed the uniform laws recommended by the North Dakota Commission on Uniform State Laws and undertook statutory revision responsibilities. He said the committee received reports from the Attorney General on the status and trends of unlawful drug use and abuse, and drug control and enforcement efforts in this state. He said the committee received a report from the Department of Human Services regarding the State Hospital's program for the evaluation and treatment of sexually dangerous individuals. He said the committee received a report from the Director of the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents regarding the indigent defense contract system and established public defender offices. He said the committee received a report from the North Dakota Racing Commission regarding the operation of the commission, a report from the Director of the North Dakota Lottery regarding the operation of the lottery, and a report from the Governor on the status of gender balance on appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils and within the Governor's appointive cabinet.

It was moved by Representative Devlin, seconded by Representative Heller, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Judiciary Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Representative Jim Schmidt, Chairman, Agriculture Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix P](#)). He said the committee continued the study of Century Code provisions that relate to agriculture, for the purposes of eliminating provisions that are irrelevant or duplicative, clarifying provisions that are inconsistent or unclear in their intent and direction, and rearranging provisions in a logical order. He said the committee studied the structure of the North Dakota Milk Marketing Board, its statutory duties, and its investigative, prescriptive, and regulatory authority. He said, in addition, the committee studied Century Code sections that relate to professional soil classifiers, including their qualifications and examinations, and the powers and duties of the State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers.

Representative Schmidt said the committee received a report from the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education regarding the board's 2015 priorities for both the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Extension Service.

In response to a question from Senator Cook, Representative Schmidt said many of the current soil classifiers were at one time soil scientists for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He said soil classifiers play a significant and critical role in determining the condition of agricultural soils for property tax purposes.

It was moved by Representative Damschen, seconded by Senator Robinson, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Agriculture Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Representative Al Carlson, Chairman, Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix Q](#)). He said the committee was responsible for making arrangements for the 2015 legislative session. He said the committee oversaw several legislative wing improvement projects, including renovation of the Legislative Council library space and the House and Senate conference rooms. He said the committee recommends legislative rules amendments addressing the appointment of a member to preside in the place of the speaker and voice votes on resolutions. He said the committee recommends changes in legislative compensation based on the projected increases for state employees.

It was moved by Representative Devlin, seconded by Representative Owens, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt vote "aye." No negative votes were cast.

EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman, Education Funding Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix R](#)). He said the committee studied state-level and local-level responsibility for the equitable and adequate funding of elementary and secondary education in this state, together with the appropriateness of the base funding level and the weighing factors. He said the recommended base funding level for 2015-16 is \$9,482, and for 2016-17, it is \$9,766.

Senator Flakoll said the committee received reports regarding the financial condition of schools, school district employee compensation, the status of the statewide longitudinal data system plan, requests for and waivers of accreditation rules, requests for and waivers of statutory requirements governing instructional time for high school courses, student scores on recent statewide tests of reading and mathematics, and the development, delivery, and administration of comprehensive early childhood care and early childhood education in this state.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Representative Devlin, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Education Funding Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Schneider, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

ECONOMIC IMPACT COMMITTEE

Senator Dave Oehlke, Chairman, Economic Impact Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix S](#)). He said the committee studied the long-term costs of transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects and methods for funding those projects. He said the committee studied child care services, including the need for such services, workforce demands related to child care, and the quality of child care services. He said the committee received a number of reports, including one from the Department of Commerce regarding the status of the program to establish and administer an unmanned aircraft systems test and one from the Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee regarding the use of the assessed communications services fee. He said the committee received an inventory from the Housing Finance Agency regarding government programs that provide residential and commercial development assistance.

It was moved by Senator Cook, seconded by Senator Wardner, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Economic Impact Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt vote "aye." No negative votes were cast.

TRIBAL AND STATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Representative Dennis Johnson, Chairman, Tribal and State Relations Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix T](#)). He said the committee held joint meetings with the North Dakota Tribal Governments' Task Force to study tribal-state issues, including taxation, education, Indian education, tribal youth issues, tribal health and human services issues, central indexing and tribal voting identification, tribal housing and roads, water issues, tourism, and tribal business development. He said the committee received reports regarding the tribal college grant program, the Board of University and School Lands study of land surrounding Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe, and Supreme Court committees that address tribal and state court issues. He said, in light of the lack of treatment, counseling, and education services for tribal youth who are adjudicated in tribal court, the committee recommended a study of the need for collaboration among the tribal, state, and federal governments to address tribal youth issues. He said the committee received a biennial report regarding implementation of the oil and gas tax agreement with the Three Affiliated Tribes and a report from the State Department of Health on the status of a tribal public health unit project.

It was moved by Senator Oehlke, seconded by Representative Schmidt, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Judiciary Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, Wardner and Representatives Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION COMMITTEE

Senator Rich Wardner, Chairman, Energy Development and Transmission Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix U](#)). He said the committee studied a comprehensive energy policy for the state, likely changes to the oil industry, a transportation and transmission energy corridor, and oilfield waste. He said the committee recommended a bill to license commercial drill cuttings recyclers. He said the Legislative Management should not accept the recommendation because the State Department of Health and industry representatives would like to address the matter through different means.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Representative Owens, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Energy Development and Transmission Committee, except the bill draft to license commercial drill cuttings recyclers, be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Senator Dick Dever, Chairman, Employee Benefits Programs Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix V](#)). He reviewed the committee's statutory jurisdiction over legislative measures affecting retirement, health insurance, and retiree health insurance programs of public employees. He said, before introduction of a bill that impacts the retirement programs or health insurance plans and before a standing committee acts on an amendment that impacts the retirement programs or health insurance plans, the Employee Benefits Programs Committee must provide a report on the bill or amendment. He said the committee also reviewed the actuarial reports for the Public Employees Retirement System and for the Teachers' Fund for Retirement.

It was moved by Senator Wardner, seconded by Senator Oehlke, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Employee Benefits Programs Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Guggisberg, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens, and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Senator Tony Grindberg, Chairman, Water Topics Overview Committee, presented the committee report ([Appendix W](#)). He said the committee studied a variety of topics, including the State Water Commission cost-share policy and project prioritization process, the development and financing of municipal water projects, the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and the Western Area Water Supply Authority.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Senator Wardner, and carried on a roll call vote that the report of the Water Topics Overview Committee be accepted. Senators Holmberg, Cook, Heckaman, Oehlke, Robinson, Sorvaag, and Wardner and Representatives Carlson, Damschen, Devlin, Heller, Nelson, Onstad, Owens and Schmidt voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

No further further business appearing, Chairman Holmberg adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Jim W. Smith
Director

ATTACH: 23