



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Monday, April 11, 2022
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Randy A. Burckhard, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Senators Randy A. Burckhard, Jerry Klein, Scott Meyer, Tracy Potter; Representatives Glenn Bosch, Jared C. Hagert, Karla Rose Hanson, Pat D. Heinert, Lawrence R. Klemin, Ben Koppelman*, Shannon Roers Jones*, Dan Ruby

Members absent: Representatives Rick Becker, Karen Karls, Todd Porter

Others present: See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Representative Bosch, seconded by Representative Hagert, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the October 25, 2021, meeting be approved as distributed.

Mr. Alex J. Cronquist, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, presented a memorandum entitled [State Agency Attorneys](#) regarding the number of attorney positions in executive branch agencies.

Mr. Cronquist presented a memorandum entitled [Survey of Agency Space Needs and Leases](#) regarding agency space and the owners of space leased by the state. He noted the Secretary of State, State Auditor, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, judicial branch, Highway Patrol, Adjutant General, and State Historical Society identified needs for additional or renovated space. He noted the Bank of North Dakota and Workforce Safety and Insurance identified excess space available in their facilities.

Committee members commented regarding remote work and the possibility to more efficiently use space on the Capitol grounds.

Mr. Joe Morrisette, Director, Office of Management and Budget, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding a proposal for the Office of Management and Budget to charge rent to agencies receiving funding from the general fund that are located on the Capitol grounds. He noted only nongeneral fund agencies on the Capitol grounds currently pay rent. He noted there would be no net cost to implement this proposal, because the Facility Management Division budget would receive funding from special funds derived from rent paid by the general fund agencies instead of directly from the general fund. He indicated the proposal would provide an incentive for general fund agencies to more efficiently use space on the Capitol grounds. He noted total leased space decreased by 20 percent from 2019 to 2021 and there is potential to reduce total leased space by an additional 20 percent by 2023.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. John Boyle, Director, Facility Management Division, Office of Management and Budget, noted the rental rate is \$14.38 per square foot in the Capitol, as compared to an average rate of \$15.50 per square foot for other space leased by the state in Bismarck.

Mr. Boyle presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding an evaluation of the state's facilities, construction, and leased space management function. He noted space may be available on the Capitol grounds and there will be an effort to move certain employees from leased property to the Capitol. He indicated future funding may be needed for renovations and remodeling to accommodate multiple agencies sharing floors of the Capitol.

Ms. Emily Thompson, Legal Division Director, Legislative Council, presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding space needs of the legislative branch. She said the area on the second floor of the Capitol behind the Senate

Chamber has been renovated to convert it from clerk workspace into office space for Legislative Council information technology staff. She said new meeting rooms were added in the judicial wing of the Capitol for the 2021 legislative session; however, additional renovations may be needed for other legislative meeting rooms to provide adequate space and accessibility.

Mr. Cronquist presented a bill draft [[23.0037.01000](#)] regarding the disclosure of leased property ownership and prohibitions relating to the lease of property owned by a member of the Legislative Assembly or an elected or appointed official.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the amount of disclosure required by the bill draft and the enforcement of a prohibition against voting on appropriation bills for agencies that lease property from a legislator.

No further business appearing, Chairman Burckhard adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:4