



LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Friday, July 11, 2025
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator David Hogue, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Members present: Senators David Hogue, Brad Bekkedahl*, Josh Bosch*, Kyle Davison*, Kathy Hogan, Jerry Klein*, Janne Myrdal*, Ronald Sorvaag*; Representatives Glenn Bosch*, Kathy Frelich*, LaurieBeth Hager, Jared C. Hagert*, Dori Hauck*, Zachary Ista*, Mike Lefor*, Jonathan Warrey*, Robin Weisz*

Others present: Beth Dittus, Austin Gunderson*, Allen H. Knudson, and Dustin A. Richard, Legislative Council, Bismarck

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

**Attended remotely*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairman Hogue noted the purpose of the meeting was to discuss two topics: options for actions to address the Governor's partial veto of Senate Bill No. 2014 (2025) and the status of the redistricting litigation.

SENATE BILL NO. 2014 - PARTIAL VETO

Chairman Hogue opened discussion on options to address the Governor's partial veto of the bill and the subsequent June 10, 2025, opinion of the Attorney General.

Committee members noted:

- Potential options include pursuing litigation, calling a special session to override the veto, drafting legislation to clarify veto procedures, or sustaining the veto.
- It is important to clarify the veto process to prevent future misunderstandings or ambiguity.
- It is important to maintain the balance of power between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. John Bjornson, Director, Legislative Council, noted:

- The Attorney General's opinion directs the disbursement of the full \$35 million appropriated in Section 7 of the bill; however, the Office of Management and Budget indicated it would refrain from disbursing the \$150,000 the Governor asserted he intended to veto. This may raise questions regarding how closely Attorney General opinions are adhered to by executive branch agencies.
- The Attorney General's opinion is based on current statute and may be rendered meaningless if the statutes on which it is based are subsequently amended by the Legislative Assembly to provide for more defined veto procedures.

It was moved by Representative Lefor, seconded by Senator Hogan, and carried on a roll call vote that the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee be directed to review the postsession veto process and options to address the Attorney General's opinion and provide recommendations to the Legislative Management on draft legislation within 90 days. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boschee, Davison, Hogan, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, Hagert, Hauck, Ista, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

REDISTRICTING LITIGATION

Mr. Dustin A. Richard, Counsel, Legislative Council, presented a memorandum entitled [Redistricting Litigation Update](#). He noted:

- In the redistricting case of *Turtle Mountain Bank of Chippewa Indians v. Howe*, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals held private plaintiffs may not maintain a private cause of action to enforce Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.
- The plaintiffs filed a petition for rehearing en banc and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals denied the petition for rehearing.
- On July 9, 2025, the plaintiffs filed a motion to stay the judgment pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The following day, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals denied the stay.
- The plaintiffs could file a motion to stay the judgment with the Supreme Court. If a motion is not filed with the Supreme Court, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals mandate could become effective within 7 days after the denial. The district boundaries adopted by the 2021 Legislative Assembly could become effective as early as July 17, 2025.

Chairman Hogue noted the denial of the stay and potential next steps are challenging because they cause uncertainty in the election cycle process for Districts 9 and 15.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Bjornson noted if the mandate becomes effective soon, next steps are uncertain but could include current members holding office until the next election, as is common after a normal redistricting cycle.

Committee members noted there is a constitutional duty to act on the mandate if no other actions are taken within the next 7 days.

Chairman Hogue noted the committee will continue to monitor the redistricting litigation and may have another meeting to discuss new developments if necessary.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Bjornson noted House Bill No. 1020 (2025) created a study for advanced nuclear energy in North Dakota. The bill requires two representatives from the energy sector to be appointed to the committee.

It was moved by Senator Myrdal, seconded by Senator Klein, and carried on a roll call vote to appoint Ms. Pam Gorman Prochaska and Mr. Gavin McCollum to the Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boschee, Davison, Hogan, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, Hagert, Hauck, Ista, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

No further business appearing, Chairman Hogue adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

John Bjornson
Director

ATTACH:1