



---

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 18, 2025  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order  
Roll call  
Consideration of the [minutes of the August 26, 2025, meeting](#)
- 9:05 a.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of a background [memorandum](#) regarding the committee's study on sentencing, correctional, and parole systems within the state
- 9:10 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Ms. Claire Ness, Chief Deputy Attorney General, regarding truth in sentencing, incarceration requirements, and statistics on violent offenders
- 10:10 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Jason Ziegler, Chief of Police, Mandan Police Department; Mr. Jason Stugelmeyer, Chief of Police, Bismarck Police Department and Vice President, North Dakota Police Chiefs Association; and Mr. Frank Senn, Chief of Police, Beulah Police Department, North Dakota Police Chiefs Association, regarding the impact of the current sentencing, correctional, and parole systems on law enforcement and public safety
- 10:40 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Jesse Jahner, Sheriff, Cass County, regarding the impact of current sentencing, correctional, and parole systems on public safety and regional jails
- 11:00 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Dennis Ingold, Senior Assistant State's Attorney, Burleigh County, regarding recommendations to increase transparency in sentences served by offenders in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- 11:30 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. William J. Sabol, Professor, and Mr. Thaddeus L. Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Georgia State University, regarding an update of criminal justice issues and violent crime in the United States
- 12:00 noon Recess
- 1:00 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Patrick H. Weir, Chairman, Parole Board, regarding parole eligibility, release decisions, and an overview of the Parole Board
- 1:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Colby Braun, Director, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, regarding inmate classification, housing, placement authority, transitional services, definitions and terms relating to sentencing and incarceration, and an overview of the correction system in the state
- 2:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Travis Finck, Executive Director, Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents, regarding the impacts of requiring offenders to serve 85 percent of their term of incarceration in a secured facility, the use of community-based services for inmates, and the need for rehabilitation and re-entry opportunities
- 2:50 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Finck of a report containing data on the indigent defense contract system and established public defender offices
- 3:10 p.m. Comments by interested persons

3:25 p.m. Committee discussion

3:45 p.m. Adjourn

**A livestream of the meeting will be available to the public at: <https://video.ndlegis.gov>.**

**Committee Members**

Senators: Janne Myrdal (Chairman), Ryan Braunberger, Jose L. Castaneda, Claire Cory, Dick Dever,  
Diane Larson, Dean Rummel

Representatives: TJ Brown, Nels Christianson, Liz Conmy, Karla Rose Hanson, Lawrence R. Klemin,  
Ben Koppelman, Gregory Stemen, Bill Tveit, Steve Vetter

Staff Contact: Austin Gunderson, Counsel