



LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator David Hogue, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.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

Members absent: None

Others present: Senators Michelle Powers, Donald Schaible, Jonathan Sickler; Representatives Ty Dressler, Jeff Hoverson, Scott Louser, Todd Porter, Brandy L. Pyle, Bill Tveit, Steve Vetter
Allen H. Knudson, Legislative Council

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

**Attended remotely*

Chairman Hogue noted the committee will review bills and resolutions submitted by members of the Legislative Assembly for consideration for introduction during the special legislative session scheduled to convene on January 21, 2026. He noted each member submitting a proposed draft will be given 5 minutes to explain what the proposal will do and what would be the result if there were no special session to address the issue.

Committee members noted the Legislative Management acted as a delayed bills committee during the most recent special session.

BILL AND RESOLUTION DRAFTS SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS

Senator Donald Schaible reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1408.01000\]](#) relating to a medical facility emergency operating loan program. He provided comments ([Appendix B](#)) regarding the necessity of the bill draft and shared comments provided by Representative Karen M. Rohr ([Appendix C](#)).

In response to questions from committee members, Senator Schaible noted:

- The poor financial condition of the hospital is partly the result of poor management and poor billing processes but after hiring a consultant, there is a more business-minded approach going forward.
- Without this issue being addressed during the special session, the hospital likely will be forced to close.

Representative Craig Headland reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1401.01000\]](#) relating to local budget notices and tax certifications. He noted the bill draft addresses items not realized in House Bill 1176 (2025), such as notifying taxpayers of budget hearing dates and providing county auditors with tools to address missed deadlines for budget submissions.

Representative Headland reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1400.01000\]](#) relating to the application of the primary residence credit and provided written testimony ([Appendix D](#)) regarding the taxpayer savings that could result from the bill draft. He noted:

- The bill draft would address the problem of the tax credit being calculated before the early payment discount and the discount not being passed along to the taxpayer.
- The bill draft could result in a cost of approximately \$10 million to \$15 million per year and save up to \$80 per taxpayer.

Representative Steve Vetter reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1410.01000\]](#) relating to an appropriation to the Department of Public Instruction for a school meal assistance education program. He noted:

- The bill draft would help people whose children are eligible for free or reduced-cost meals to sign up for the program.
- He would like to revise the draft to reduce the appropriation and provide for 1 full-time position to administer the program rather than 2.
- Free meals should not be provided to the wealthy.
- The current policy relating to encouraging eligible parents to sign up for free or reduced-cost meals for their children is not working.

Representative Mike Nathe reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1395.03000\]](#) relating to school breakfast and lunch at no cost and a school meals fund. He noted:

- The bill draft mimics the proposed constitutional measure, but places the program in statute rather than the constitution, which provides flexibility for future legislatures.
- If passed, the legislation would provide funding for school meals for the next school year, which would be sooner than the proposed constitutional measure.

Representative Ty Dressler reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1417.01000\]](#) relating to an appropriation to the Department of Public Instruction to provide school meals at no cost to eligible students and provided written testimony ([Appendix E](#)) in support of the bill draft. He noted the bill draft would provide meals to approximately 6,900 to 7,500 additional students by moving the eligibility threshold from 225 to 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Senator Michelle Powers reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1404.01000\]](#) relating to the creation of a state board of hyperbaric oxygen therapy and the regulation of hyperbaric oxygen therapists and hyperbaric oxygen chambers. She provided written comments ([Appendix F](#)) in support of the bill draft and a statement from Mr. Paul Watts II ([Appendix G](#)).

Representative Nathan Toman reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1399.02000\]](#) relating to reporting requirements for state programs. He noted the bill draft would require the collection of information on programs by including questions in agency budgets.

Representative Kathy Frelich reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1412.01000\]](#) relating to political party reorganization. She submitted a written summary ([Appendix H](#)) relating to ongoing redistricting litigation. She noted the bill draft would save money by avoiding a special election depending upon the resolution of the redistricting litigation.

Senator David Hogue reviewed a bill draft [\[24.1413.01000\]](#) relating to appropriations to the Information Technology Department and the Public Service Commission and contingent loan authorization. He noted the bill draft was requested by the Information Technology Department to comply with federal information technology accessibility requirements.

Representative Roger A. Maki reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1405.02000\]](#) relating to required Holocaust education. He noted a bill with the same requirement passed the House during the 2025 regular session.

Representative Bill Tveit reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1414.01000\]](#) relating to qualification criteria under the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. He submitted written testimony ([Appendix I](#)) regarding the purpose of the bill draft.

Representative Todd Porter reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1419.02000\]](#) relating to an appropriation to the Highway Patrol for equipment purposes. He noted the bill draft would allow the Highway Patrol to access a special fund to fill a funding gap on an approved firearms purchase due to an increase in the price of the new firearms and a decrease in the trade-in value of the firearms in use by the Highway Patrol.

Representative Jeff Hoverson reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1420.01000\]](#) relating to a property tax exemption for certified primary residential property owned by a taxpayer who is a citizen of the United States and 35 years of age or younger. He noted because home ownership is becoming more difficult and the average age of a home buyer is age 40, the bill draft is intended to help younger home buyers.

Representative Brandy L. Pyle reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1387.01000\]](#) relating to tuition waivers for survivors of a firefighter who died in the line of duty, firefighter death benefits, and nonprofit fire department civil immunity. She submitted written testimony ([Appendix J](#)) addressing the need for the statutory change.

Representative Josh Boschee reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1418.01000\]](#) relating to primary residence certification for certain property subject to a real estate transaction. He submitted written testimony ([Appendix K](#)) addressing the purpose of the bill draft.

Senator Jonathan Sickler, on behalf of Representative Mark Sanford, reviewed a bill draft [\[25.1396.02000\]](#) relating to the sale of Ray Richards Golf Course property. He noted:

- The spending authority in the bill draft would allow the University of North Dakota to spend proceeds from the conveyance of the golf course property for a road construction project.
- The expenditures would be used to improve the golf course property.

Representative Glenn Bosch presented a resolution draft [\[25.3120.01000\]](#) relating to congratulating the Young Men's Christian Association on its 175th anniversary.

Representative Scott Louser presented a bill draft [\[25.1415.01000\]](#) relating to an exception from the limitation on levies by certain school districts. He noted there are school districts that are not levying the allowed 20 mills, but are restrained by the 3 percent annual cap and having to delay building maintenance.

It was moved by Representative Lefor, seconded by Representative Hauck, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to the medical facility emergency operating loan program [\[25.1408.01000\]](#) be approved for introduction at the special session. 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.

It was moved by Representative Lefor, seconded by Representative Hagert, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to the application of the primary residence credit [\[25.1400.01000\]](#) be approved for introduction at the special session. 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.

It was moved by Representative Lefor, seconded by Senator Davison, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to school breakfast and lunch at no cost and the school meals fund [\[25.1395.03000\]](#) be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Bekkedahl, Boschee, Davison, Hogan, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Hager, Hagert, Ista, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "aye." Senator Hogue and Representatives Frelich and Hauck voted "nay."

It was moved by Senator Boschee, seconded by Representative Ista, and failed on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to primary residence certification for certain property subject to a real estate transaction [25.1418.01000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Boschee and Hogan and Representatives Hager and Ista voted "aye." Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Davison, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hagert, Hauck, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "nay."

It was moved by Representative Weisz, seconded by Senator Klein, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to an appropriation to the Department of Public Instruction to provide school meals at no cost to eligible students [25.1417.01000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boschee, Davison, Hogan, Klein, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, Hagert, Hauck, Ista, and Weisz voted "aye." Senator Myrdal and Representatives Lefor and Warrey voted "nay."

It was moved by Senator Myrdal, seconded by Representative Hagert, and carried on a roll call vote that the resolution draft relating to congratulating the Young Men's Christian Association on its 175th anniversary [25.3120.01000] be approved for introduction at the special session. 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.

It was moved by Senator Bekkedahl, seconded by Representative Ista, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to appropriations to the Information Technology Department and the Public Service Commission and contingent loan authorization [25.1413.01000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boschee, Hogan, Klein, and Myrdal and Representatives Frelich, Hager, Hauck, and Ista voted "aye." Senators Davison and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Hagert, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "nay."

It was moved by Senator Boschee, seconded by Representative Hager, and failed on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to an exception from the limitation on levies by certain school districts [25.1415.01000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Boschee and Hogan and Representatives Bosch, Hager, Hauck, Ista, and Lefor voted "aye." Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Davison, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Frelich, Hagert, Warrey, and Weisz voted "nay."

It was moved by Representative Ista, seconded by Senator Boschee, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to the sale of Ray Richards Golf Course property [25.1396.02000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boschee, Hogan, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, Hagert, Hauck, Ista, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "aye." Senator Davison voted "nay."

It was moved by Representative Bosch, seconded by Representative Frelich, and failed on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to reporting requirements for state agencies [25.1399.02000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senator Davison and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, and Weisz voted "aye." Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Boschee, Hogan, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Hagert, Hauck, Ista, Lefor, and Warrey voted "nay."

It was moved by Representative Bosch, seconded by Representative Ista, and failed on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to an appropriation to the Highway Patrol for equipment purchases [25.1419.02000] be approved for introduction at the special session. Senators Boschee and Hogan and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, Ista, and Lefor voted "aye." Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Davison, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Hagert, Hauck, Warrey, and Weisz voted "nay."

BUDGET UPDATE

At the request of Chairman Hogue, Mr. Allen H. Knudson, Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor, Legislative Council, provided an update on the biennial state budget. He noted:

- Actual 2025-27 biennium General Fund revenues to date are meeting the revenue forecast.
- The Tax Department estimates federal income tax law changes included in the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" approved by Congress in 2025 will reduce state income tax collections deposited in the General Fund by approximately \$130 million for the 2025-27 biennium.
- If General Fund revenues continue to meet the forecast except for income taxes that may be \$130 million less based on Tax Department estimates, the July 1, 2027, General Fund balance would be approximately \$270 million, or approximately \$1 billion less than the \$1.3 billion July 1, 2025, balance.
- Oil prices are currently between \$50 and \$55 per barrel. If the prices continue to be below the forecasted price of \$59 to \$57 per barrel for the remainder of the biennium, the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund may have approximately \$600 million available for use in the 2027-29 biennium, \$900 million less than the \$1.5 billion available for the 2025-27 biennium.
- The Budget Stabilization Fund has a balance of approximately \$938 million available for addressing General Fund revenue shortfalls.

No further business appearing, Chairman Hogue adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

John Bjornson
Director

ATTACH:11