



LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator David Hogue, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators David Hogue,* Brad Bekkedahl,* 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*

Member absent: Senator Josh Boschee

Others present: Emily Thompson, Legislative Council
*Attended remotely

It was moved by Senator Hogan, seconded by Representative Hagert, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the June 26, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

Chairman Hogue commented regarding the purpose of the meeting. He noted:

- The Legislative Assembly has been sued in the case *Bjerke, et al. v. North Dakota Legislative Assembly, et al.*, relating to the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4008 (2025), which proposes a constitutional amendment to revise legislative term limits.
- The Legislative Management has authority under North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-17 to hire outside counsel to represent the Legislative Assembly.
- Under Sections 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2, an executive session may be held for the purpose of attorney consultation to discuss retaining outside counsel for litigation.

It was moved by Senator Myrdal, seconded by Senator Hogan, and carried on a roll call vote that the Legislative Management hold an executive session for the purpose of attorney consultation regarding litigation relating to term limits. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Legislative Management went into executive session from 10:07 to 10:40 a.m. All committee members, except Senator Boschee, were present for the executive session. During the executive session, the Legislative Management consulted with the Legislative Council staff regarding litigation relating to the placement on the ballot of a constitutional amendment proposed in Senate Concurrent Resolution 4008, *Bjerke, et al. v. North Dakota Legislative Assembly, et al.*, including receipt of advice regarding legal strategies and strengths and weakness of legal arguments.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chairman Hogue reconvened the public portion of the meeting at 10:41 a.m. He reminded committee members not to discuss any of the litigation issues discussed during the executive session.

It was moved by Senator Bekkedahl, seconded by Representative Hauck, and carried on a roll call vote that the Legislative Council engage outside counsel to represent the Legislative Assembly in the term limits litigation. Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Davison, Hogan, Klein, Myrdal, and Sorvaag and Representatives Bosch, Frelich, Hager, Hagert, Hauck, Lefor, Warrey, and Weisz voted "aye." Representative Ista voted "nay."

No further business appearing, Chairman Hogue adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

John Bjornson
Director