



LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Jerry Klein, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Senators Jerry Klein, Josh Bosch, * Kyle Davison, * Kathy Hogan, David Hogue, Kristin Roers; Representatives Mike Berg, Glenn Bosch, Gretchen Dobervich, * Zachary Ista, * Mike Lefor, Anna S. Novak, Brandy L. Pyle, * Robin Weisz

Member absent: Senator Sean Cleary

Others present: Representative Kathy Frelich, member of the Legislative Management
John Bjornson, Legislative Council

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

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Representative Novak, seconded by Senator Hogan, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the April 22, 2026, meeting be approved as distributed.

LEGISLATIVE RULE CHANGES

Ms. Emily Thompson, Legal Division Director, Legislative Council, presented a proposed legislative rule amendment [[27.9230.01000](#)] to Joint Rule 211. She noted the amendments were recommended by the Employee Benefits Programs Committee and serve to clarify Joint Rule 211 defers to the requirements stated in the statutes referenced in the rule for purposes of when a cost-benefit analysis must be appended to a health insurance mandate.

It was moved by Senator Roers, seconded by Representative Weisz, and carried on a roll call vote that the proposed amendments to Joint Rule 211 [[27.9230.01000](#)], relating to bills providing for health insurance mandates, be approved as distributed and recommended to the Legislative Management. Senators Klein, Bosch, Davison, Hogan, Hogue, and Roers and Representatives Berg, Bosch, Dobervich, Ista, Lefor, Novak, Pyle, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

LEGISLATOR SECURITY

Ms. Thompson presented a revised bill draft [[27.0084.03000](#)] related to the confidentiality of candidate address information. She noted the revisions to the bill draft include:

- Additional language recommended by the Secretary of State to clarify a request by a candidate for residential address information to remain confidential must be renewed annually or upon completion of a candidate's term.
- Language narrowing the definition of a candidate to only individuals who are members of the Legislative Assembly or those who have filed or accepted a nomination for legislative office to ease administrative difficulties for recordholders seeking to identify individuals falling within the scope of the defined term.

Ms. Thompson noted numerous amendments to the statute over past decades may have created confusion over how the general confidentiality provisions interact with the exceptions, as evidenced by the variation in how recordholders are applying the law. She noted the statute may benefit from clarification before being further expanded to another protected group.

Committee members expressed differing opinions on the effectiveness of the bill draft in addressing legislator security. Committee members noted:

- A legislator's address is easy to locate, even if redacted in certain documents, especially for those legislators living in rural communities.
- The bill draft may give the impression legislators are seeking to be less open and transparent.
- Although the bill draft does not ensure a legislator's safety, the bill draft still provides meaningful protection.

Ms. Thompson distributed information ([Appendix B](#)) provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures regarding the Legislator Security Fund. She noted:

- North Dakota is in the process of applying for grant funding from the Legislator Security Fund.
- If the application is approved, the grant award would allow for reimbursement of up to \$200 for each legislator's personal security expenses.
- Disbursement of grant funds is contingent on the receipt of spending authority approval from the Emergency Commission.

LEGISLATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Ms. Thompson provided information regarding the State of the State address, the Tribal-State Relationship Message, and the State of the Judiciary address. She noted all three addresses were given during the 1st day of the last regular session in a joint session, with the Tribal-State Relationship Message being delivered at 10:00 a.m., the State of the Judiciary address being delivered at 11:00 a.m., and the State of the State address being delivered at 1:00 p.m.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. John Bjornson, Director, Legislative Council, noted the State of the State address must be delivered during the legislative session, so the Legislative Assembly must gavel in before receiving the address.

It was moved by Representative Bosch, seconded by Representative Berg, and carried on a roll call vote that the Legislative Council be requested to invite a representative of the Indian tribes to address the Legislative Assembly at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st legislative day (January 5, 2027), contact the Chief Justice to make plans for the State of the Judiciary address at 11:00 a.m. on the 1st legislative day, and contact the Governor with respect to scheduling the State of the State address at 1:00 p.m. on the 1st legislative day. Senators Klein, Boschee, Davison, Hogan, Hogue, and Roers and Representatives Berg, Bosch, Dobervich, Ista, Lefor, Novak, Pyle, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Ms. Thompson provided information regarding reports required to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly. She noted:

- North Dakota Century Code Sections 4.1-36-04 and 4.1-44-04 require a report of 14 agricultural commodity promotion groups be provided to the Agriculture Committee of each house and the biennial report of the Agriculture Commissioner on the status of the Pesticide Container Disposal Program be provided to a joint hearing of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.
- Section 54-60-03 requires the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce to give a report on the department's goals, objectives, activities, measurable results, and commerce benchmarks to a standing committee of each house.
- The standing committee receiving the report generally has been the Industry, Business and Labor Committee.

- These reports must be given between the 1st and 10th legislative days of the session pursuant to statute.

Some committee members questioned whether the lengthy informational hearings were warranted when the reports could be provided in writing, but acknowledged dispensing with the informational hearings would require a statutory change.

It was moved by Senator Roers, seconded by Representative Lefor, and carried on a roll call vote that Wednesday, January 13, 2027, be designated as the day the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce reports to the Industry and Business Committees and Thursday, January 14, 2027, be designated as the day for a joint hearing by the Senate and House Agriculture Committees to receive the report of the agriculture commodity promotion groups under Section 4.1-44-04 and the report of the Agriculture Commissioner on the status of the Pesticide Container Disposal Program under Section 4.1-36-04. Senators Klein, Boschee, Davison, Hogan, Hogue, and Roers and Representatives Berg, Bosch, Dobervich, Ista, Lefor, Novak, Pyle, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Ms. Thompson presented a memorandum entitled [Legislative Assembly Employee Positions and Compensation](#) and corresponding organizational charts depicting the [proposed 2027 Legislative Assembly House session staff](#) and the [proposed 2027 Legislative Assembly Senate session staff](#). She noted:

- The memorandum provides information regarding the number of Legislative Assembly employee positions proposed and hired for the 2025 legislative session and the number of positions proposed for the 2027 legislative session.
- The memorandum proposes 77 positions, which is 9 fewer than were proposed for the 2025 legislative session.
- Proposed changes as compared to the previous legislative session reflect the elimination of 10 procedural clerk positions, due to those roles being assumed by the Legislative Council's permanent policy analyst staff, and the addition of a parking lot attendant.
- Proposed compensation levels reflect the application of the 3 percent and 3 percent increases authorized by the 69th Legislative Assembly for state employees for 2025 and 2026.

It was moved by Representative Bosch, seconded by Representative Novak, and carried on a roll call vote that the committee recommend the proposed 36 Senate employee positions and 41 House employee positions. Senators Klein, Davison, Hogan, Hogue, and Roers and Representatives Berg, Bosch, Dobervich, Ista, Lefor, Novak, Pyle, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

It was moved by Representative Weisz, seconded by Senator Hogan, and carried on a roll call vote that the committee recommend the proposed compensation levels presented to the committee for Legislative Assembly staff and request the Legislative Council staff to prepare a draft resolution based upon Senate Concurrent Resolution 4005 (2025) with the recommended compensation levels. Senators Klein, Davison, Hogan, Hogue, and Roers and Representatives Berg, Bosch, Dobervich, Ista, Lefor, Novak, Pyle, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Ms. Thompson presented a draft [organizational session agenda](#) and [new legislator training day agenda](#). She noted:

- The draft organizational session agenda is based on previous organizational session agendas.
- As compared to the 2024 organizational session agenda, the proposed agenda includes the addition of legislator security training and an expanded appropriations and budgeting-related informational session.
- The red overstrike on the proposed agenda indicates items that have been relocated to a separate, new legislator training agenda, proposed for November 30.

- The new legislator training agenda includes legislator laptop training, legislative rules training, a mock committee and floor session, and a human resources informational session.

Committee members expressed support for hands-on training for new members and stressed the importance of refresher training sessions during the first few weeks of the legislative session, supported by both Legislative Council staff and senior legislators willing to provide institutional knowledge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Bjornson presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding proposed staffing additions. He noted:

- The 69th Legislative Assembly authorized 25 additional Legislative Council staff positions, increasing the size of the office from 45 to 70 employees.
- The second part of the 5-year staff expansion plan requested during the previous interim had contemplated seeking another 25 staff positions during the 2027 legislative session.
- Following discussions with division directors, a review of space limitations, and acknowledgment of the burdens placed on existing staff in recruiting and onboarding such a large number of new employees, the proposed request for the second phase of the 5-year staff expansion plan has been reduced from 25 to 12 proposed new staff.
- The proposed staff additions include four additional staff in the Information Technology Division, a program evaluation director and four additional program evaluators, an additional attorney, an education and training specialist, and an executive assistant.

Some committee members expressed reservations regarding the expansion of the program evaluator positions without first seeing the completed work of the current program evaluators. Committee members also expressed interest in having program evaluators involved when large spending programs are proposed to ensure the proposed programs include measurable goals and regular oversight.

It was moved by Senator Hogan, seconded by Senator Hogue, and carried on a roll call vote that the proposed 12 Legislative Council staff positions be recommended to the Legislative Management for inclusion in the legislative branch appropriation bill for the 2027 legislative session. Senators Klein, Davison, Hogan, Hogue, and Roers and Representatives Berg, Bosch, Dobervich, Ista, Lefor, Novak, Pyle, and Weisz voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

No further business appearing, Chairman Klein adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Emily Thompson
Legal Division Director

ATTACH:3