

# The Council

## Judiciary Committee

On December 18, the Judiciary Committee held its second meeting of the interim and received information regarding its study on sentencing, corrections, and parole systems in the state. A representative of the Attorney General's office provided information regarding key definitions and terms related to sentencing and incarceration, relevant data and statistics, and potential outcomes for evaluating North Dakota's corrections system. The committee also received information from the North Dakota Police Chiefs Association and other law enforcement representatives regarding the impact of current policies on law enforcement and public safety. The committee received information from a senior assistant state's attorney and professors from Georgia State University regarding criminal justice issues and recommendations to increase transparency in sentences served by offenders in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The committee received information from the Parole Board regarding how it operates, its membership structure and appointment process, parole eligibility requirements and determinations, and the role and input the Parole Board receives from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The committee also received information from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation regarding the state's correctional system and an update regarding the inmate population and facilities operated by the department. The committee received information from the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents regarding data on the indigent defense contract system and established public defender offices throughout the state.

## Upcoming Meetings

### January

- 8** Legislative Procedure and Arrangements
- 13-14** Rural Health Transformation
- 15** Higher Education Institutions

## Protection and Victim Services Committee

The Protection and Victim Services Committee traveled to Fargo for its second meeting of the interim on December 16. The committee continued its work on the study of criminal conduct against children and received a presentation from a representative of North Dakota State University regarding the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences, and a presentation from a representative of the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center regarding Red Flag Green Flag Curriculum. The committee also received information from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation regarding Internet crimes involving children, pornography, and human trafficking.

The committee toured two facilities, Youthworks and the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, and received presentations on the work and operations of each facility.





## Season's Greetings

We extend our warmest wishes to you and your family. This time of year offers a moment to reflect on the past year and gratitude for the people and community we serve.

Thank you for your engagement, your feedback, and your commitment to our state. May your Christmas season be filled with peace, joy, and time with those you hold dear.

The Legislative Council office will be closed Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas day.

## Emergency Response Services Committee

The Emergency Response Services Committee looked to extinguish issues related to its studies at its third meeting on December 17.

The committee received testimony on its study of volunteer recruitment and retention from representatives of the Public Employees Retirement System, Job Service North Dakota, the Department of Health and Human Services, and Avel eCare. The testimony covered retirement and insurance, job and wage statistics, emergency medical services information, and telehealth medicine.

Testimony on the committee's study of a fire service regional response model came from representatives of Pano AI, the Casselton Fire Department, the North Dakota Fire Chief's Association, and Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota, and an update from the Governor's subcabinet on public safety. Testimony included discussions of the needs of fire departments in the state and use of AI for fire detection.



The committee received testimony on its study of grant funding for emergency services and public safety from the Insurance Department and Tax Department. Testimony related to the insurance tax distribution fund and property taxes paid to emergency response services. The committee considered its study of delinquent billing reimbursement grants for ambulance service providers with testimony from the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association covering the impact of billing delays on ambulance services.



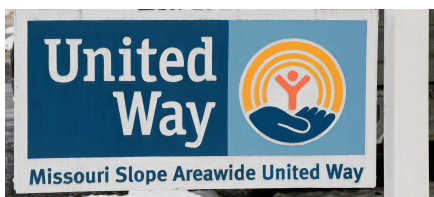
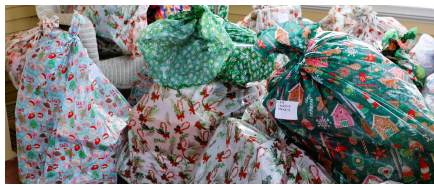




## Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee

The Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee held its second meeting on December 15. The committee received presentations from representatives of the Industrial Commission, regional transmission organizations, and the Public Service Commission regarding transmission infrastructure, electric grid capacity and reliability, and current and future energy demand. Six representatives from the electric utility industry provided additional perspectives on projected load growth, planning for anticipated energy demand, the future role of nuclear generation, and planned transmission investments. In addition, a member of the Georgia Public Service Commission shared insights from Georgia's experience planning and implementing advanced nuclear energy projects.

The committee received its first interim report from its consultant, Nucleon Energy Inc., which addressed three of the study focus areas: siting considerations, grid connectivity, and land use. The interim report included a statewide evaluation of transmission capacity, land use, water availability, and population density, and applied screening and scoring criteria to identify seven potential areas of interest for advanced nuclear energy siting locations. Consultant representatives emphasized the importance of public and stakeholder engagement and provided suggestions for approaches.



## LC Staff Deliver A Merry Christmas

Santa's elves were hard at work this Christmas! The Legislative Council staff purchased and lovingly wrapped presents for 12 children through the United Way's Giving Tree project. In addition, about 15 members of the staff donned their Santa hats and loaded their sleighs to help deliver hundreds of presents to eight local schools and agencies on behalf of the United Way.

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