Boards Review Task Force

SB 2308 Final Report

North Dakota Legislative Management

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To the Honorable Members of the Seventieth North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

Pursuant to Senate Bill 2308, enacted by the 69th Legislative Assembly, the Boards Review Task Force respectfully submits this report summarizing its work during the 2025–2026 interim.

The Legislative Assembly charged the Task Force with conducting a comprehensive review of all North Dakota's boards, commissions, committees, and advisory councils. The purpose of the review was not to achieve a predetermined reduction in the number of boards, but rather to evaluate whether each entity continues to fulfill a necessary public purpose, operates efficiently, and remains aligned with the needs of state government and the citizens of North Dakota.

Throughout the interim, the Task Force held eleven public meetings and heard testimony from agency directors, board administrators, subject matter experts, and stakeholders representing dozens of state entities. Each board was evaluated using a consistent framework considering statutory authority, public purpose, operational efficiency, fiscal impact, duplication of responsibilities, stakeholder value, and opportunities for modernization.

The recommendations contained within this report reflect months of testimony, discussion, and deliberation. In many instances, the Task Force determined existing boards continue to perform essential governmental or regulatory functions. In other cases, the Task Force identified opportunities to improve efficiency through consolidation, statutory modernization, membership adjustments, or elimination of entities whose responsibilities have become duplicative or obsolete.

It is our hope these recommendations will assist the 70th Legislative Assembly in ensuring North Dakota's system of boards and commissions remains transparent, accountable, efficient, and responsive to the needs of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Howe
Chairman
Boards Review Task Force

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 69th Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 2308 during the 2025 Legislative Session establishing the Boards Review Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of North Dakota's boards, commissions, committees, authorities, and advisory councils. The legislation sought to address the fact that many entities had not undergone a strategic review in decades despite changes in technology, public expectations, and agency operations.

The Task Force was directed to evaluate whether each entity continues to serve an essential public purpose, whether statutory responsibilities remain appropriate, and whether opportunities exist to improve government efficiency while maintaining necessary oversight and stakeholder engagement.

The Task Force approached the work from the perspective of good governance to determine if each entity adds measurable value to the citizens of North Dakota.

Between October 2025 and September 2026, the Task Force conducted eleven public meetings reviewing boards and commissions representing nearly every major area of state government.

Agency directors, board administrators, commissioners, executive directors, professional licensing boards, and public stakeholders appeared before the Task Force to explain each entity's statutory purpose, accomplishments, governance structure, funding, and future needs.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

- Secretary of State Michael Howe, Chair of Boards Review Task Force
- Senator Kristin Roers
- Representative Scott Louser
- Mr. Neal Messer, representing counties
- Mayor Brandon Bochenski, representing cities
- Mr. Chad Wachter, representing business communities
- Mrs. Shirley Porter, representing occupational licensing board
- Mrs. Kristen Hamman, member-at-large

REVIEW PRINCIPLES

To ensure consistency throughout the review process, the Task Force evaluated entities using a developed framework. Evaluation focused on if the entities:

- Were required by federal or state law;
- Have adapted to changing needs;
- Provide purpose and value to taxpayers;
- Have responsibilities that could be consolidated without reducing effectiveness or if another agency already was performing similar functions; and
- Possess specialized expertise that is not easily replicated.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The Task Force found many North Dakota boards and commissions continue to fulfill important statutory, regulatory, advisory, or fiduciary responsibilities. However, the review also identified meaningful opportunities to improve efficiency by eliminating duplication, updating governance structures, and modernizing statutes that no longer reflect current operational practices.

Several consistent themes emerged throughout the review process.

- **REGULATORY AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS**

  Professional licensing boards demonstrated a clear public protection mission through licensure, discipline, continuing education, and enforcement authority. Many of these boards exercise quasi-judicial authority and regulate licensed professions. The Task Force often recommended retention while encouraging collaboration and shared administrative services where practical.

- **FEDERALLY REQUIRED BOARDS**

  Numerous entities exist as a condition of receiving federal funding or maintaining compliance with federal law. In these instances, the Task Force recommended retaining the entity while considering opportunities to streamline membership or administrative support without jeopardizing federal requirements or funding.

- **ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

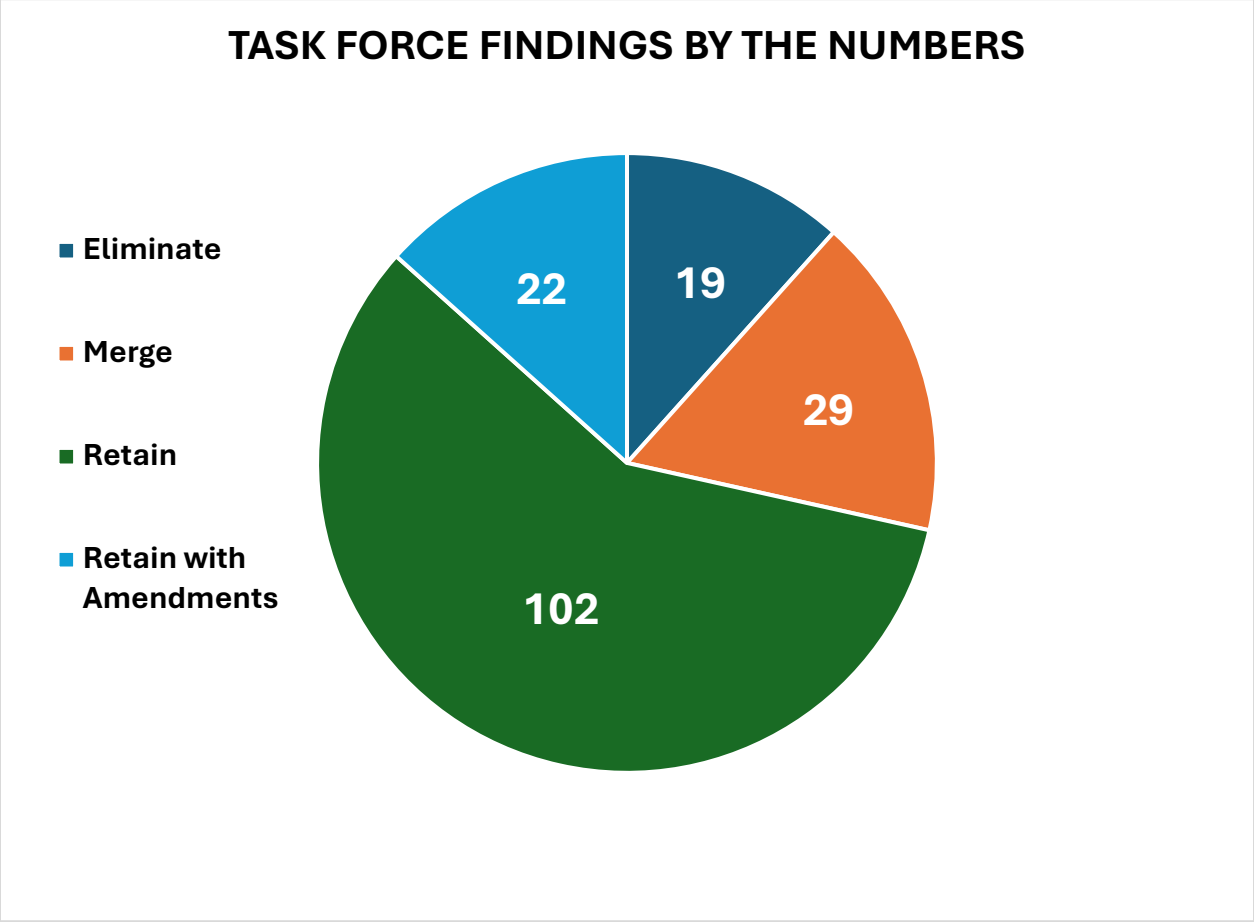
  Several advisory committees were found to meet infrequently, possess limited statutory responsibilities, or perform functions substantially similar to larger governing bodies. Where appropriate, the Task Force recommended consolidation into existing boards or agencies to reduce administration while preserving subject matter expertise.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODERNIZATION

The review identified numerous opportunities to:

- Modernize outdated statutes;
- Reduce unnecessary board membership;
- Eliminate obsolete entities;
- Consolidate overlapping advisory committees;
- Improve transparency through regular reporting; and
- Strengthen administrative coordination across state government.

The recommendations contained in this report are intended to preserve the expertise and public accountability provided by North Dakota's boards and commissions while ensuring government remains responsive, efficient, and accountable to taxpayers.



NEXT STEPS

The Boards Review Task Force will forward the recommendations contained in this report to Legislative Management for consideration. If the legislature or legislator(s) decide to pursue statutory changes, Legislative Council will assist in developing proposed legislation, which can then be sponsored and introduced during the legislative session. Proposed legislation would proceed through the regular legislative process, including committee hearings, amendments, floor consideration, and votes in both chambers before being sent to the Governor for approval or veto. If legislation is enacted, the appropriate state agency or entity would then be responsible for implementing the changes. Recommendations that do not require legislation may instead be pursued through administrative action, agency policy changes, or other appropriate avenues.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY CATEGORY

ELIMINATE - REMOVAL OR STRUCTURE CHANGE

ELIMINATE OR SUNSET

The following boards were recommended for removal or to be allowed to sunset, if authority had a sunset clause:

1. Cross-Disability Advisory Council
2. Health Care Task Force
3. Little Missouri Scenic River Commission
4. Lower Pembina River Basin Advisory Board
5. Medical Advisory Committee to the State Health Officer
6. Recovery Reinvented Advisory Council
7. Special Road Committee

TRANSFER

The following boards were recommended for transfer or absorption of duties into another entity or agency:

1. 129,000-Pound Limited Large Truck Network Advisory Committee
2. Drought Disaster Livestock Water Assistance Program Advisory Committee
3. Environmental Health Practitioner Advisory Board
4. North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation
5. Human Service Center Advisory Boards
6. Library Coordinating Council
7. Sovereign Lands Advisory Board
8. State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers
9. Water Well Contractors Advisory Board

INFORMAL STRUCTURE

The following boards were recommended to be removed from statute but remain active in an informal capacity as no statutory authority was needed:

1. Rural Catalyst Committee
2. Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
3. Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Council

MERGE

The following boards were recommended for merging with another board(s) for greater efficiency:

1. Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee
2. Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee
3. Agricultural Products Utilization Commission
4. Board of Barber Examiners
5. Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee
6. Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee
7. Economic Development Foundation
8. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council
9. Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee
10. Game and Fish Advisory Board
11. Hepatitis Advisory Council
12. HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council
13. Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Committee
14. Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee
15. Medicaid Member Engagement Committee
16. North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Species Committee
17. North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners
18. North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners
19. North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners
20. North Dakota Development Fund
21. North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board
22. State Board of Cosmetology
23. State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
24. State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
25. State Board of Psychologist Examiners
26. State Emergency Response Commission
27. State Historical Board
28. State Historical Records Advisory Board
29. State Trauma Committee

RETAIN WITH AMENDMENTS

1. Behavioral Health Planning Council
2. Drug Use Review Board
3. Environmental Review Advisory Council (ERAC)
4. Family Advisory Council
5. High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council
6. Interagency Coordinating Council
7. Lignite Research Council
8. Medical Advisory Council
9. North Dakota Cares
10. North Dakota Gaming Commission
11. Northern Plains UAS Test Site Authority
12. Northwest Area Water Supply Authority
13. Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
14. Renewable Energy Council
15. State Board of Public School Education
16. State Council on Developmental Disabilities
17. State Rehabilitation Council
18. State Soil Conservation Committee
19. State Water Commission
20. Statewide Independent Living Council
21. STOP Violence Against Women Advisory Committee
22. Unified Certification Program (UCP) Board

RETAIN

1. Abstracters Board of Examiners
2. Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA)
3. Advisory Board to the Bank of North Dakota
4. Board of Podiatric Medicine
5. Capitol Grounds Planning Commission
6. Children's Cabinet
7. Clean Sustainable Energy Authority Technical Committee
8. Commission on Uniform State Laws
9. Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents
10. Committee on Protection and Advocacy
11. Credit Review Board
12. Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board
13. Dietetic Practice Board

14. Education Commission of the States
15. Education Factfinding Commission
16. Education Standards and Practices Board
17. Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee
18. Executive Steering Committee
19. Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee
20. Guardianship and Conservatorship Operations Committee
21. Guardianship and Conservatorship Review Board
22. HCC Executive Committee
23. Higher Education Grant Review Committee
24. Humanities North Dakota
25. Interagency Council on Homelessness
26. Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
27. Judicial Conduct Commission
28. Judicial Nominating Committee
29. Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
30. K-12 Coordination Council
31. Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission
32. Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force
33. Newborn Screening Advisory Committee
34. North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
35. North Dakota Beef Commission
36. North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers
37. North Dakota Board of Reflexology
38. North Dakota Board of Clinical Laboratory Practice
39. North Dakota Council on the Arts
40. North Dakota Dairy Promotion Commission
41. North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)
42. North Dakota Board of Medicine
43. North Dakota Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board
44. North Dakota Military Commission
45. North Dakota Milk Marketing Board
46. North Dakota Oilseed Council
47. North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board
48. North Dakota Parks Foundation
49. North Dakota Racing Commission
50. North Dakota Real Estate Appraiser Qualifications and Ethics Board
51. North Dakota Real Estate Commission
52. North Dakota State Board of Higher Education
53. North Dakota State Board of Optometry
54. North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy
55. North Dakota State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision

56. North Dakota State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision
57. North Dakota State Investment Board
58. North Dakota Wheat Commission
59. North Dakota Workforce Development Council
60. Oil and Gas Research Council
61. Olmstead Commission
62. Operator Certification Advisory Committee
63. Pardon Advisory Board
64. Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board
65. Private Investigative and Security Board
66. Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board
67. Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Board
68. Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Board
69. State Banking Board
70. State Board of Accountancy
71. State Board of Animal Health
72. State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
73. State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
74. State Board of Dental Examiners
75. State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators
76. State Board of Funeral Service
77. State Board of Integrative Health Care
78. State Board of Massage Therapy
79. State Board for Native American Scholarships
80. State Board of Nursing
81. State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice
82. State Board of Physical Therapy
83. State Board of Plumbing
84. State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
85. State Board of Respiratory Care
86. State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
87. State Commission on National and Community Service
88. State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
89. State Credit Union Board
90. State Electrical Board
91. State Health Council
92. State Hospital Governing Board
93. State Parole Board
94. State Personnel Board
95. Suicide Fatality Review Committee
96. Teachers' Fund for Retirement (TFFR) Board
97. Traffic Records Coordinating Committee

98. Transportation Learning Network (TLN)
99. Tribal Consultation Committee
100. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
101. Workforce Safety & Insurance Board of Directors
102. Yellowstone River Compact Commission

ELIMINATE OR SUNSET

Cross-Disability Advisory Council

The Cross-Disability Advisory Council provides feedback to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding gaps in services and the needs of individuals with disabilities, particularly those receiving Medicaid home and community-based services. The Task Force noted the Council's membership had already been reduced from its original size and that the legislation establishing the Council includes a sunset provision in 2027. Task Force members concluded the Council should continue operating until the existing statutory sunset takes effect, allowing policymakers to evaluate its effectiveness at that time.

Recommendation: Retain the Cross-Disability Advisory Council to the statutory sunset in 2027.

Health Care Task Force

The Health Care Task Force was established to review and analyze health care data, reports, audits, and other information relating to North Dakota's health care system. The Task Force determined there is no continuing need for the entity.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Health Care Task Force.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 50-06-45

Little Missouri Scenic River Commission

Agency: North Dakota Parks and Recreation

The Little Missouri Scenic River Commission advises on the protection and management of the Little Missouri River and its tributaries while balancing conservation, private property rights, agriculture, and energy development. The Commission provides for local input on development proposals affecting one of North Dakota's most environmentally significant river corridors. Testimony indicated that the Commission meets once per year, but locating eligible members to serve on the Commission is challenging due to statutory requirements. The Task Force agreed that a statutorily mandated Commission was not necessary, and the Department could maintain the work of the Commission internally.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Little Missouri Scenic River Commission.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 61-29.

Lower Pembina River Basin Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Parks and Recreation

The Lower Pembina River Basin Advisory Board was established jointly by the Governor of North Dakota and the Premier of Manitoba to encourage cooperative solutions to water management and flood control issues affecting the Lower Pembina River Basin. The Board provides a forum for collaboration between North Dakota and Manitoba on cross-border water issues while promoting communication among affected communities and agencies. Testimony provided indicated that having a formal board in place may create unnecessary delays and red tape while attempting to mitigate issues in the river basin. The Task Force agreed that it may be more efficient to allow the Department of Water Resources to work directly on the issues with the Premier of Manitoba.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Lower Pembina River Basin Advisory Board.

Governance Reference: Executive Order 2018-08.

Medical Advisory Committee to the State Health Officer

The Medical Advisory Committee to the State Health Officer was originally created to advise the State Health Officer if that individual was not a licensed physician. Since the merger of the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, the State Health Officer position has become a part-time position filled by an individual with a public health background rather than a physician. While the Committee was important during the COVID-19 pandemic, its advisory role can now be fulfilled internally within the Department without maintaining a statutorily created committee. The Task Force agreed the Committee no longer serves the same operational need for which it was created and concluded its responsibilities can be addressed administratively within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Medical Advisory Committee to the State Health Officer.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-01-05

Recovery Reinvented Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Recovery Reinvented Advisory Council was established by Executive Order 2018-01 to guide the efforts of the Office of Recovery Reinvented in advancing behavioral health initiatives and addiction recovery throughout North Dakota. The Council has not met for several years, the Office of Recovery Reinvented no longer has dedicated staff, and the annual Recovery Reinvented conference is no longer held. Task Force members agreed the Council had fulfilled its original mission but no longer performs an active function.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Recovery Reinvented Advisory Council by rescinding Executive Order 2018-01.

Special Road Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

The Special Road Committee recommends projects eligible for special road funding, which supports improvements to roads serving state facilities and recreational areas. The Committee meets infrequently and project evaluation and funding decisions could be incorporated into the Department of Transportation's existing grant administration and project selection process.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Committee as a standalone entity and administer Special Road Fund decisions through the Department of Transportation.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 24-02-37.2

TRANSFER

129,000-Pound Limited Large Truck Network Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

The 129,000-Pound Limited Large Truck Network Advisory Committee advises the Department of Transportation on requests involving the state's heavy truck network and primarily meets as an internal advisory group, when requests are received. The Task Force concluded these responsibilities could be administered through the Department's existing review process without maintaining a separate statutory committee.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Committee and transfer its responsibilities to the Department of Transportation.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 24-18

Drought Disaster Livestock Water Assistance Program Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Water Resources

The Committee advises the Department of Water Resources on livestock water assistance during drought emergencies. The Committee meets infrequently and is activated only when drought assistance funding is available. The Task Force discussed the overlap between the Committee's responsibilities and the broader authority of the State Water Commission.

Recommendation: Transfer the Committee's advisory responsibilities to the State Water Commission to reduce duplication while maintaining support for livestock producers during drought emergencies.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 61-34

Environmental Health Practitioner Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Environmental Health Practitioner Advisory Board assists the Department of Health and Human Services with the licensure and regulation of environmental health practitioners, including recommendations related to qualifications, continuing education, ethical standards, and disciplinary matters.

Recommendation: Eliminate the advisory board, duties, and compensation, but keep the licensure standards and allow the process to be handled directly by the State Health Officer.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-43

North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation

Agency: North Dakota Parks and Recreation

The North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation coordinates statewide strategies that strengthen North Dakota's outdoor recreation economy by bringing together state agencies, local governments, tribal partners, and private industry. Task Force members discussed whether the Office's coordination role may overlap with similar initiatives already occurring through the Governor's Office. While members supported the goal of improving collaboration across agencies, they questioned whether a separate office created by executive order was necessary to accomplish those objectives. The Task Force recommended considering elimination of the Office if its responsibilities could be effectively absorbed into existing coordination efforts within the Governor's Office.

Recommendation: Consider eliminating the North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation and transferring its coordination responsibilities to existing cross-agency initiatives within the Governor's Office.

Governance Reference: Executive Order 2024-03

Human Service Center Advisory Boards

Multiple boards across the state were established to provide local input regarding behavioral health services, regional needs, and to encourage coordination between the Department of Health and Human Services, local governments, providers, and community stakeholders. The Task Force concluded the Department receives stakeholder input through numerous other formal and informal channels and determined the advisory boards no longer provide sufficient additional value to justify maintaining them in statute. The Task Force emphasized that eliminating the boards should not reduce stakeholder engagement and encouraged the Department to continue working closely with local partners through existing regional collaboration efforts.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Human Service Center Advisory Boards in statute and replace with language stating *"Each state-operated behavioral health clinic shall have a community engagement plan to inform service planning, delivery and evaluation. The community engagement plan must include opportunities to gather input from stakeholders across the state-operated behavioral health clinic's service region, including public entities, political subdivisions, behavioral health providers, and individuals with lived experience. The community engagement plan must take into consideration the geographic diversity of the state-operated behavioral health clinic's service area. Each state-operated behavioral health clinic shall maintain documentation of engagement efforts and may incorporate a variety of methods, including community meetings, listening sessions, or other engagement strategies, as determined appropriate."*

Statutory Reference: NDCC 50-06-05.3(4) & 50-06-05.4

Library Coordinating Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

FEDERALLY LINKED

The Library Coordinating Council advises the State Library on statewide library services, long-range planning, and the administration of federal library funding under the Library Services and Technology Act. The Council represents a broad cross-section of North Dakota's library community, including public, school, academic, and special libraries, and provides recommendations on statewide priorities, grants, and strategic initiatives. The Council also fulfills federal advisory requirements associated with receipt of federal library funding.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Library Coordinating Council as currently mandated in Century Code as a governor appointed board and provide new authorizing language allowing the state library to establish an informal advisory board at their discretion.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 54-24.4-01

Sovereign Lands Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Water Resources

The Sovereign Lands Advisory Board was established to advise the Department of Water Resources on the management of North Dakota's sovereign lands, including riverbeds, lakebeds, and other state-owned submerged lands. The Board has met twice since its creation in 1989. The Task Force and Department mutually agreed the Board's limited activity suggested its advisory role was no longer necessary.

Recommendation: Eliminate the Sovereign Lands Advisory Board and transfer any remaining advisory responsibilities to the Department of Water Resources.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 61-33-08

State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers

The State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers licenses approximately 28 professional soil classifiers and provides oversight for a profession that is particularly important to North Dakota's agricultural and mining industries. Licensure provides accountability and ensures qualified professionals oversee soil classification work involving reclamation, agriculture, and other specialized land uses. The Task Force expressed concern that maintaining a standalone board for a relatively small number of licenses may not be the most efficient use of state resources. While recognizing the importance of the profession, members concluded the Board's duties could be reassigned and recommended eliminating the Board to encourage discussion of an alternative regulatory structure during the next legislative session.

Recommendation: Eliminate the State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers and transfer its regulatory responsibilities through future legislation.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-36

Water Well Contractors Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Water Resources

The Water Well Contractors Advisory Board advises the Department of Water Resources on licensing, technical standards, and disciplinary matters related to water well contractors. While the Board provides specialized expertise, operates under a statutory sunset, and was found to perform functions that can be administered by the Department with existing professional staff.

Recommendation: Allow the statutory sunset to proceed and transfer any remaining responsibilities to the Department of Water Resources, while preserving the technical expertise necessary to administer the licensing program.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 61-03-26

INFORMAL STRUCTURE

Rural Catalyst Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

The Rural Catalyst Committee was created in 2025 to assist rural communities with quality-of-life improvements and economic development projects through the Rural Catalyst Grant Program. The Committee received a one-time appropriation and could be sunset if future legislative funding is not provided or its responsibilities could be consolidated with other Department of Commerce economic development entities.

Recommendation: Consider adding a sunset clause to the Rural Catalyst Committee if future funding is not provided.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 54-40.1-07

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee oversees statewide radio interoperability among public safety agencies and has guided construction of the statewide interoperable radio network, including completion of 109 radio towers. Approximately 25 towers remain before statewide coverage is achieved, with project completion anticipated by late 2026 or early 2027. Once the statewide radio system is substantially complete, the Committee's responsibilities could be absorbed by the Department of Emergency Services and coordinated alongside the Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee. The Task Force agreed the Committee has successfully fulfilled its purpose during the statewide radio system buildout but recognized its long-term oversight responsibilities will diminish once the network is complete.

Recommendation: Sunset the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee following completion of the statewide radio interoperability project in 2027, effective in late 2027 or 2028, with responsibilities transferred to the Department of Emergency Services.

Governance Reference: Executive Order 2010-06.

Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

The Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Council provides guidance to the Institute on statewide transportation research priorities, such as transportation planning, traffic analysis, and infrastructure research. The Task Force concluded the Institute's work remains valuable but determined a statutorily created advisory board is no longer necessary as the Institute could continue to engage stakeholders through informal advisory meetings and industry partnerships without maintaining a board established in statute.

Recommendation: Eliminate the statutory advisory board requirement for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute and allow the Institute to convene stakeholders informally as needed.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 54-53-02

Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

The Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee, which advises the Department on the development and implementation of North Dakota's statewide cardiovascular emergency care system. The Task Force agreed a single advisory council would provide a more coordinated approach to statewide clinical systems of care while reducing administrative duplication.

Recommendation: Merge the Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee with the Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee, State Trauma Committee, and Stroke System of Care Task Force into a Specialty Systems of Care Advisory Council not to exceed fifteen members.

Statutory Reference: 23-47-03

Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

The Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee provides grant and loan recommendations for projects that promote value-added agriculture, expand market opportunities, and encourage agricultural innovation throughout North Dakota. The Committee evaluates projects that diversify the state's agricultural economy while leveraging legislative appropriations to support new agricultural businesses and processing opportunities. The Task Force recognized that many of the functions of the Committee matched those of the Agriculture Product Utilization Committee and recommended merging the boards due to them having the same makeup and similar functions.

Recommendation: Merge the Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee and Agriculture Product Utilization Commission.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 4.1-01-18

Agricultural Products Utilization Commission

Agency: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

The Agricultural Products Utilization Commission supports the development and commercialization of new and expanded uses for North Dakota agricultural products through grant funding for entrepreneurs, businesses, and research institutions. The Commission meets quarterly to evaluate applications for each cycle, many of which are for smaller, early-stage value-added agricultural projects that often cannot obtain traditional financing. Grant awards are reimbursed on a quarterly basis after recipients demonstrate measurable progress and submit supporting documentation. The Task Force recognized that many of the functions of the Commission matched those of the Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee and recommended merging the boards due to them having the same makeup and similar functions.

Recommendation: Merge the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission and Agriculture Diversification and Development Committee as they have the same membership makeup and similar functions.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 4.1-01.1

Board of Barber Examiners

The Board of Barber Examiners was established to license and regulate barbers, barber shops, and barber schools and oversees approximately 268 licensed barbers and 109 barber shops. The Board conducted its own inspections and emphasized that eliminating the Board could increase public health risks by reducing oversight of sanitation practices and disease prevention. The Board's duties are similar to the State Board of Cosmetology. The Task Force concluded that consolidating the two boards would improve administrative efficiency while preserving the expertise necessary to regulate each profession independently.

Recommendation: Merge the Board of Barber Examiners with the State Board of Cosmetology and encourage the boards to meet and discuss the possible merger so they are ready to defend their positions during the 2027 Legislative Session.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-04

Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee advises the Department of Health and Human Services on the development and administration of the Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program, which supports local communities in improving emergency cardiac response capabilities through planning, training, and equipment. The Task Force noted that many of the duties match those of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Recommendation: Merge the Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee and Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council into a single advisory board not to exceed nine members.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-38.1-02

Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Emergency Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Department of Emergency Services on emergency management, disaster preparedness, homeland security, and emergency response initiatives. The Committee fosters communication between state and local emergency response partners and agreed it provides valuable stakeholder input on emergency management policies and priorities. The Task Force determined the Committee is required to receive certain federal FEMA grant funding, but it does not need to be a standalone Committee.

Recommendation: Merge with the State Emergency Response Commission.

Economic Development Foundation

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

The Economic Development Foundation provides private-sector guidance and oversight for North Dakota's economic development efforts. The Foundation is composed primarily of business leaders and assists in developing and updating the state's long-term economic development strategic plan. The Task Force discussed the overlap between the Economic Development Foundation, the North Dakota Development Fund, and the Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Committee as the entities share similar membership and complementary missions, creating opportunities to improve efficiency through consolidation.

Recommendation: Merge the Economic Development Foundation with the North Dakota Development Fund and the Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Committee into a single board with streamlined membership and responsibilities.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 54-60-04

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council provides policy guidance for North Dakota's emergency medical services system. It was recommended merging the Council with the Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee because both entities focus primarily on emergency medical services policy and program administration. The Task Force agreed consolidation would improve efficiency while preserving the expertise necessary to oversee statewide EMS policy.

Recommendation: Merge the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and the Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee into a single advisory board not to exceed nine members.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-46-02

Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee

The Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee focuses on pediatric emergency care and works closely with other clinical advisory groups addressing statewide systems of care. It was recommended merging the Committee with the State Trauma Committee, the Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee, and the Stroke System of Care Task Force into a single clinical advisory body.
The Task Force agreed these entities have significant overlap in membership and subject matter and supported consolidating them into a streamlined committee.

Recommendation: Merge the Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee with the State Trauma Committee, Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee, and Stroke System of Care Task Force into a new Specialty Systems of Care Advisory Council not to exceed fifteen members.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-46

Game and Fish Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Game and Fish Department

The Game and Fish Advisory Board serves as an important communication link between the Department and the public by providing geographically diverse input on wildlife management, hunting, fishing, and conservation policies. The Board continues to provide meaningful public engagement and stakeholder representation while strengthening transparency in wildlife management decisions. The Task Force agreed that the Board could also potentially take on the responsibilities of the North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Species Committee as part of their ongoing duties.

Recommendation: Merge the Game and Fish Advisory Board with the North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 20.1-02-23

Hepatitis Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Hepatitis Advisory Council provides stakeholder input on viral hepatitis prevention, treatment, and elimination strategies and supports implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services' hepatitis initiatives. The Council's work closely aligns with that of the HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council. The Task Force agreed the advisory functions are complementary and concluded the two councils should be merged while preserving the expertise necessary to support both programs.

Recommendation: Merge the Hepatitis Advisory Council with the HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council.

HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council provides community input on HIV-related programs, services, and planning efforts for the Department of Health and Human Services. The Council was once federally required but no longer carries that mandate and suggested it could be merged with the Hepatitis Advisory Council while continuing to provide meaningful stakeholder guidance. The Task Force agreed consolidating the two advisory bodies could improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate public health expertise.

Recommendation: Merge the HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council with the Hepatitis Advisory Council.

Governance Reference: Ryan White CARE Act of 1990

Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

The Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Committee administers low-interest financing for innovative technology businesses. The Task Force noted that the North Dakota Development Fund has similar responsibilities and consolidating these economic development entities would improve efficiency while preserving the state's ability to support innovative businesses and technology commercialization.

Recommendation: Merge the Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) Committee with the North Dakota Development Fund and the Economic Development Foundation into a single economic development board.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 6-09.18

Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee is federally required under the Social Security Act and provides a forum for Medicaid providers, partners, members, families, and advocates to review proposed policy changes and advise the Department of Health and Human Services on the administration of the Medicaid program. The Task Force supported reviewing whether the Committee could be merged with the Medicaid Member Engagement Committee if federal requirements permit.

Recommendation: Retain the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee, review membership requirements for potential reduction, and evaluate merging the Committee with the Medicaid Member Engagement Committee if federal compliance can be maintained.

Governance Reference: 42 CFR 431.12

Medicaid Member Engagement Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Medicaid Member Engagement Committee is federally required under the Social Security Act and provides Medicaid members with a formal opportunity to advise the Department of Health and Human Services on policy development, program administration, and the overall member experience. Department testimony indicated it may be possible to merge the Committee with the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee while continuing to satisfy federal requirements. The Task Force supported reviewing both its membership and the feasibility of consolidating it with the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee.

Recommendation: Retain the Medicaid Member Engagement Committee, review membership requirements, and evaluate merging with the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee, if federal compliance can be maintained.

Governance Reference: 42 CFR 431.12

North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

Agency: North Dakota Game and Fish Department

FEDERALLY LINKED

The North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Species Committee coordinates statewide efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to aquatic invasive species that threaten North Dakota's lakes, rivers, fisheries, and recreational waters. The Committee plays a unique role in bringing together federal, state, tribal, local, and private stakeholders to coordinate inspections, public education, monitoring efforts, and rapid response planning. The Task Force agreed that while the work of the Committee is essential, the Department of Game and Fish could still work to mitigate and prevent aquatic nuisance species without a standalone statutorily mandated Committee.

Recommendation: Merge with the Game and Fish Advisory Board and include aquatic nuisance species experts on the merged advisory board.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 20.1-17

North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners

The North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners licenses approximately 400 addiction counselors, contracts with a third-party administrator for operational support, and has authority to issue provisional licenses before final ratification by the Board. The Task Force discussed if consolidation of behavioral health boards with a unified technology platform could improve consistency in licensing and payment systems across professions. The Task Force concluded an umbrella governance model would improve administrative efficiency while allowing each profession to retain its own standards of practice, licensure requirements, and disciplinary authority.

Recommendation: Merge the North Dakota Board of Addiction Counselor Examiners, Board of Social Work Examiners, North Dakota Board of Counseling Examiners, Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, and State Board of Psychologist Examiners into a single umbrella technical board while maintaining separate licensing and regulatory authority for each profession under the parent board.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-45

North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners

The North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners licenses and regulates professional counselors, offers three levels of counselor licensure and a supervisor certification, and currently oversees approximately 879 licensees. The Board operates from licensing fee revenue, approves approximately 150 new licenses each year, processes approximately 450 license renewals, and generally issues completed licenses within one to fourteen days. The Task Force discussed concerns raised by employers and prospective licensees regarding delays and inconsistencies experienced by individuals relocating to North Dakota. Members concluded opportunities exist to improve administrative efficiency by consolidating operational functions shared among several behavioral health licensing boards while preserving profession-specific licensing authority.

Recommendation: Merge the North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners, Board of Social Work Examiners, Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners, Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, and State Board of Psychologist Examiners into a single umbrella technical board while maintaining separate licensing and regulatory authority for each profession under the parent board.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-47

North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners

The North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners licenses approximately 2,603 social workers, investigates 15 to 20 complaints annually, and contracts with a third-party administrator for operational support. The Task Force noted that many licensed social workers do not practice mental health counseling and therefore require profession-specific expertise. The Task Force agreed that preserving specialized professional oversight remains important but concluded administrative efficiencies could be achieved through an umbrella governance structure while maintaining independent regulatory authority for each profession.

Recommendation: Merge the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners, Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners, Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, and State Board of Psychologist Examiners into a single umbrella technical board while preserving separate licensing and disciplinary authority for each profession.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-41

North Dakota Development Fund

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

The North Dakota Development Fund provides flexible financing for the development and expansion of North Dakota businesses. The Fund serves as an important economic development financing tool by supporting business growth and investment opportunities that may not otherwise receive traditional financing. The Task Force noted the Development Fund shares similar objectives and overlapping membership with the Economic Development Foundation and the LIFT Committee and determined consolidating these entities could simplify governance while maintaining the state's economic development financing programs.

Recommendation: Merge the North Dakota Development Fund with the Economic Development Foundation and the Legacy Investment for Technology Committee.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 10-30.5

North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board

No representative from the North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board attended the meeting to provide testimony. The Task Force reviewed the Board's statutory responsibilities and considered its role alongside the other behavioral health licensing boards. Consistent with its recommendations for the other behavioral health professions, the Task Force concluded the Board should become part of a single umbrella technical board to improve administrative efficiency while preserving independent licensing and disciplinary authority for marriage and family therapists.

Recommendation: Merge the North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners, Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners, and State Board of Psychologist Examiners into a single umbrella technical board while preserving separate licensing and disciplinary authority for each profession.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-53

State Board of Cosmetology

The State Board of Cosmetology licenses and regulates cosmetologists, estheticians, advanced estheticians, manicurists, instructors, apprentices, schools, and salons throughout North Dakota. The Board oversees approximately 9,000 individual licenses and 2,200 business licenses, meets monthly, and employs two full-time inspectors dedicated to cosmetology inspections. Inspections are conducted by Board staff rather than local health departments due to the specialized nature of cosmetology regulations. The Board's duties are similar to the Board of Barber Examiners. The Task Force concluded that consolidating the two boards would improve administrative efficiency while preserving the expertise necessary to regulate each profession independently.

Recommendation: Merge the State Board of Cosmetology with the Board of Barber Examiners and encourage the boards to meet and discuss the possible merger so they are ready to defend their positions during the 2027 Legislative Session.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-11

State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

The State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology licenses and regulates audiologists and speech-language pathologists, establishes professional standards, and investigates complaints involving licenses. The similarities between the Board's responsibilities and those of the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists were discussed while emphasizing the importance of maintaining subject matter expertise for each profession. The Task Force concluded that the two boards perform complementary regulatory functions and that consolidating their governance could improve efficiency without diminishing public protection or professional oversight.

Recommendation: Merge the State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology with the State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists while maintaining separate licensure requirements and professional practice standards.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-37

State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists

The State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists licenses and regulates hearing aid specialists, administers examinations, oversees continuing education, and investigates complaints involving the profession. The Board's regulatory responsibilities closely align with those of the State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and indicated there may be opportunities to consolidate administrative functions while maintaining separate professional standards. The Task Force agreed both boards regulate closely related professions serving many of the same patients. The Task Force concluded that consolidating the two boards would improve administrative efficiency while preserving the expertise necessary to regulate each profession independently.

Recommendation: Merge the State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists and the State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology into a single regulatory board while maintaining distinct licensure standards for each profession.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-33

State Board of Psychologist Examiners

The State Board of Psychologist Examiners licenses approximately 300 psychologists, issues approximately 50 new licenses annually, receives one to three complaints each month, and contracts for both administrative and technology services. The Task Force agreed that psychology, like the other behavioral health professions, would benefit from improved administrative coordination while preserving independent professional regulation. Members recommended an umbrella governance model that maintains profession-specific licensing and disciplinary authority beneath a shared administrative structure.

Recommendation: Merge the State Board of Psychologist Examiners, North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners, and Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners into a single umbrella technical board while preserving separate licensing and disciplinary authority for each profession.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 43-32

State Emergency Response Commission

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The State Emergency Response Commission was established under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and performs federally required functions. The Commission is responsible for coordinating hazardous materials planning, emergency preparedness, and chemical reporting requirements throughout North Dakota. The Commission works closely with Local Emergency Planning Committees, emergency responders, and industry personnel to ensure communities are prepared to respond to hazardous material incidents. The Task Force determined the Commission is federally mandated but could be expanded to include the duties of the Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

Recommendation: Merge the State Emergency Response Commission into the State Emergency Response Commission to maintain federal compliance.

State Historical Board

The State Historical Board provides policy oversight for the State Historical Society, including matters involving land acquisition, land management, and preservation of the state's historical resources. The State Historical Society is one of North Dakota's largest landholders and oversees approximately 60 historic sites and 12 interpretive centers and museums while providing educational opportunities that preserve and promote North Dakota's history. The Board continues to provide important oversight of the State Historical Society and its significant statewide responsibilities.

Recommendation: Retain the State Historical Board and explore a merger with State Historical Records Advisory Board.

State Historical Records Advisory Board

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The State Historical Records Advisory Board meets federal requirements allowing North Dakota to apply for and administer certain federal historical records grants. The Board supports preservation of historical records by providing grant opportunities, training, and technical assistance to local historical societies, county recorders, universities, and other organizations responsible for maintaining historical records throughout the state. The State Archives Division Director indicated it may be possible to merge the Board with the State Historical Board while maintaining eligibility for federal grant funding, although additional review of federal requirements would be necessary. Task Force members agreed efficiencies may exist through a merger if federal compliance and appropriate stakeholder representation can be maintained.

Recommendation: Explore merging the State Historical Records Advisory Board with the State Historical Board, provided all federal grant eligibility requirements continue to be met and adequate representation is preserved.

Governance Reference: 36 CFR Part 1206

State Trauma Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The State Trauma Committee assists the Department of Health and Human Services in developing and continuously improving North Dakota's statewide trauma system. Because the Committee addresses many of the same clinical issues and systems of care as several other advisory groups, consolidation into a single multidisciplinary council was recommended. The Task Force agreed consolidation would reduce duplication while maintaining the clinical expertise needed to support the state's trauma system.

Recommendation: Merge the State Trauma Committee with the Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee, Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee, and Stroke System of Care Task Force into a Specialty Systems of Care Advisory Council not to exceed fifteen members.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-01.2; NDAC 33-38-01-10

Behavioral Health Planning Council

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Behavioral Health Planning Council is federally mandated and required for North Dakota to receive federal mental health block grant funding. The Task Force agreed the Council cannot be eliminated because of the federal mandate but concluded its membership could be streamlined without affecting its responsibilities or federal compliance.

Recommendation: Retain the Behavioral Health Planning Council and reduce the membership to no more than 15 members, provided the Council continues to satisfy all federal membership requirements.

Governance Reference: Established pursuant to federal law, but governed by Bylaws

Drug Use Review Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Drug Use Review Board is federally mandated and required for every state Medicaid program. The Board advises the Department of Health and Human Services on drugs and therapeutic classes to be included in the Medicaid prior authorization program and provides recommendations on other aspects of the state's drug use review program. The Task Force agreed the Board serves an important federally required function but concluded the overall size of the Board could be reduced while maintaining its responsibilities.

Recommendation: Retain the Drug Use Review Board and consider a statutory amendment to reduce the Board's membership to no more than nine members.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 50-24.6

Environmental Review Advisory Council (ERAC)

Agency: North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

The Environmental Review Advisory Council advises the Department of Environmental Quality on environmental review processes associated with infrastructure and development projects. Members discussed whether the Council continues to provide unique value or whether its advisory functions could be incorporated into existing agency processes while maintaining interagency coordination.

Recommendation: Retain the Council and defer efforts for consolidation to the Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee.

Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

The Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board provides oversight of the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund, ensuring claims for petroleum releases are administered fairly and the fund remains financially sound. The Board continues to provide important oversight of a specialized program protecting both the environment and underground storage tank owners. The Task Force did identify potential statutory changes to improve the long-term sustainability of the fund.

Recommendation: Retain the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board and review statute to improve long-term sustainability.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23.1-12-03

Family Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Family Advisory Council provides advice to the Department of Health and Human Services' Special Health Services Unit regarding programs and services for children with special health care needs and promotes family-centered care. The Task Force acknowledged the value of family input but concluded the Department should determine whether maintaining a formal advisory council remains necessary.

Recommendation: Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to review the necessity of the Family Advisory Council and determine whether to continue the Council or obtain stakeholder input through other methods.

Governance Reference: Internal Council; Not governed by federal law, state law, or executive order

High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council was established to monitor federal activities related to the transportation and disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel that could affect North Dakota. The Council serves in an advisory capacity by reviewing proposed federal actions, evaluating potential impacts to the state, and providing recommendations to state officials regarding preparedness and policy. While activity surrounding a national repository has been limited in recent years, the statutory authority remains important should federal efforts resume. The Task Force agreed the Council continues to serve an important oversight role by ensuring North Dakota remains prepared to respond to future federal actions involving the transportation or disposal of high-level radioactive waste.

Recommendation: Retain the High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council but amend the reporting requirement to report recommendations to legislative management when necessary.

Interagency Coordinating Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Interagency Coordinating Council is required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is necessary for North Dakota to receive federal assistance. The Council provides leadership for a coordinated statewide early intervention system serving infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and those at risk of developmental delays. Although federal law requires specific stakeholder representation, it was indicated the current membership of 25 may be larger than necessary to maintain compliance.
The Task Force supported reviewing the membership requirements to determine whether the Council could be streamlined while preserving all federally required representation.

Recommendation: Retain the Interagency Coordinating Council and review its membership requirements to determine whether the total membership may be reduced while maintaining federal compliance.

Governance Reference: Governed by federal law

Lignite Research Council

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The Lignite Research Council is a public-private partnership that advises the Industrial Commission on policies and research investments that support North Dakota's lignite industry and is funded through lignite severance tax revenues. The Council evaluates projects related to lignite mining, coal-based electricity generation, carbon capture, and other technologies intended to strengthen the long-term viability of the state's coal industry. Discussion focused on the Council's 26-member composition and the absence of defined term limits for appointed members, which limits periodic review of board membership.

Recommendation: Retain the Lignite Research Council, review the overall size of the Council, and establish defined terms for appointed members.

Statutory Reference: **NDCC 54-17.5**

Medical Advisory Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Medical Advisory Council advises the Department of Health and Human Services on services for children with special health care needs. Although referenced in Century Code, the statute does not specifically require creation of a formal advisory council. The Task Force agreed the Department should evaluate whether a formal advisory council remains necessary to accomplish these responsibilities.

Recommendation: Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to review the necessity of the Medical Advisory Council and determine whether to continue the Council or address its responsibilities internally.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-41

North Dakota Cares

The North Dakota Cares is an initiative that provides behavioral health and resilience support to military personnel, veterans, and others impacted by traumatic events. North Dakota Cares Serves a key role in supporting behavioral health among military personnel, and concluded the collaborative approach provided through North Dakota Cares continues to address an important statewide need.

Recommendation: Retain North Dakota Cares but amend to change the appointing authority from the governor to the Adjutant General.

North Dakota Gaming Commission

The North Dakota Gaming Commission's primary responsibility is to promulgate administrative rules governing charitable gaming, while regulation and enforcement of the industry are performed by the Attorney General's Gaming Division. Charitable gaming generated approximately $2.5 billion in gross proceeds during 2025. The Commission has not adopted new administrative rules or met since 2022. The Commission is evaluating ways to expand its responsibilities during the next legislative session to provide additional value and improve transparency. The Task Force recognized ongoing discussions regarding expanding the Commission's authority and concluded its current responsibilities could be performed through existing state government functions.

Recommendation: The Task Force initially recommended Eliminating the North Dakota Gaming Commission unless future legislation expands its statutory responsibilities. However, at a subsequent meeting and upon further discussion, the recommendation was changed to allow the relevant stakeholders to work toward determining the proper authority for the Commission for potential legislative changes during the 2027 legislative session.

Northern Plains UAS Test Site Authority

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

FEDERALLY LINKED

The Northern Plains UAS Test Site Authority was established to support the research, testing, commercialization, and integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in North Dakota. The Authority manages one of the Federal Aviation Administration's designated UAS test sites, partners with public and private organizations, and has played a significant role in positioning North Dakota as a national leader in unmanned aircraft systems and autonomous technologies.

Task Force members recognized the Authority's significant contributions to North Dakota's growing autonomous systems industry and discussed opportunities to improve accountability and coordination by formalizing the relationship between the Authority and the Governor's Office while preserving the operational flexibility.

Recommendation: Retain the Northern Plains UAS Test Site Authority and formalize its governance and reporting relationship with the Governor's Office through statute or executive action.

Northwest Area Water Supply Authority

Agency: North Dakota Department of Water Resources

The Northwest Area Water Supply Authority oversees construction and operation of regional water infrastructure serving northwestern North Dakota. The Task Force concluded the Authority continues to fulfill an important regional role in managing one of North Dakota's largest water infrastructure investments and agreed any governance changes should remain consistent with the recommendations adopted as part of the separate legislative Water Topics report.

Recommendation: Retain the Northwest Area Water Supply Authority and incorporate the governance recommendations adopted in the legislative Water Topics report.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 61-35

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee was initially established by executive order before being codified in state law and is responsible for making recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding expenditures from opioid settlement funds. The Task Force agreed the Committee continues to provide an important oversight role while settlement funds remain available but concluded its statutory authorization should be reevaluated after those funds have been fully distributed.

Recommendation: Retain the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and consider adding a statutory sunset provision once all opioid settlement funds have been expended.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 50-36-03

Renewable Energy Council

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The Renewable Energy Council provides grant funding recommendations to the Industrial Commission for renewable energy research, development, and commercialization projects and receives approximately $3 million per biennium through oil and gas tax revenues. Recent investments include hydrogen production, lithium extraction, and battery technologies. The Task Force supported continuation of the Council but discussed modernizing its statutory membership due to an industry-specific position that had a long vacancy period.

Recommendation: Retain the Renewable Energy Council while considering legislation to modernize membership requirements and address long-standing vacancies by eliminating the biodiesel position and adding a position for members representing advanced biofuel or sugar-based biofuel interests.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 54-63

State Board of Public School Education

Agency: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

The State Board of Public School Education serves as the final decision-making body for school district annexations, reorganizations, and property disputes. Appointment to the Board automatically qualifies an individual to serve as a citizen member of the State Career and Technical Education Board, despite the two boards serving different purposes. The Task Force agreed the Board continues to perform an important statutory function and should remain in place and supported the Department of Public Instruction addressing the board composition concerns.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Public School Education. Consider future legislation to address board member composition and the automatic appointment to the State Career and Technical Education Board.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities is federally mandated under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities, administers grant funding, and supports projects that promote independence, inclusion, and self-determination. The Council's membership could likely be reduced while continuing to satisfy the federally required representation and membership ratios. The Task Force agreed the Council remains necessary to maintain federal compliance and funding but supported evaluating whether its membership could be streamlined.

Recommendation: Retain the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and review federal requirements to determine whether the Council's membership may be reduced while maintaining compliance.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 25-01-01.1 & Federal Law

State Rehabilitation Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The State Rehabilitation Council is federally mandated and advises the Department of Health and Human Services on vocational rehabilitation programs and services for individuals with disabilities. The Task Force discussed opportunities to streamline the Council's membership while preserving the representation required under federal law.

Recommendation: Retain the State Rehabilitation Council and review federal requirements to determine whether the Council's membership may be reduced while maintaining compliance.

Governance Reference: 34 CFR 361.17

State Soil Conservation Committee

The State Soil Conservation Committee coordinates statewide soil and water conservation efforts by working closely with North Dakota's local soil conservation districts. The Committee plays a unique role in linking local conservation districts with state government. The Task Force supported proposed statutory revisions developed by the Committee, concluding they would improve governance while preserving the Committee's mission and responsibilities.

Recommendation: Retain the State Soil Conservation Committee and adopt the proposed statutory amendments submitted by the Committee to modernize its governance and operations in NDCC 4.1-20-03(3). The Proposed amendments would change the statutory language regarding how the Governor makes appointments to say "*The governor shall appoint two members to the committee. The governor shall select the appointees from a pool of individuals who have formally submitted an application, have been nominated by an agricultural or conservation organization, or are seeking a second consecutive term. The appointed members must be residents of the state and must be selected to represent agricultural, business, or industrial interests within the state that are not otherwise adequately represented by the five elected members."*

Statutory Reference: NDCC 4.1-20

State Water Commission

Agency: Department of Water Resources

The State Water Commission is North Dakota's primary governing body for statewide water policy and infrastructure. The Commission oversees water development, flood protection, drought response, and major water infrastructure investments. The Task Force discussed whether smaller advisory committees could be consolidated under the Commission while maintaining stakeholder representation and preserving the Commission's ability to oversee statewide water policy. The Task Force felt more frequent meetings would improve oversight of ongoing projects and allow the Commission to respond more efficiently to emerging water issues throughout the year.

Recommendation: Retain and amend governing statute to require the State Water Commission to meet at least six times annually.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 61-02-08

Statewide Independent Living Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Statewide Independent Living Council is federally required under the Rehabilitation Act, develops and monitors North Dakota's State Plan for Independent Living, and promotes independent living services for individuals with disabilities throughout the state. The Council's membership could likely be reduced while remaining compliant with federal requirements. The Task Force agreed the Council performs an essential federally mandated function but recommended reviewing its membership requirements to determine whether the overall size of the Council could be reduced.

Recommendation: Retain the Statewide Independent Living Council and evaluate federal requirements to determine whether the Council's membership may be reduced while maintaining federal compliance.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 50-06.5 & Federal Law

STOP Violence Against Women Advisory Committee

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The STOP Violence Against Women Advisory Committee is required for North Dakota to receive federal grant funding through the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. The Committee develops statewide priorities for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary grant funding to strengthen responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The Task Force agreed the Committee is necessary to maintain federal grant eligibility and performs an important statewide planning function but supported reviewing the Committee's structure to determine whether its membership and processes could be streamlined while maintaining the federally required stakeholder representation.

Recommendation: Retain the STOP Violence Against Women Advisory Committee and review the Committee's membership and processes to determine whether the total membership may be reduced while maintaining federal compliance.

Statutory Reference: Governed by the federal Violence Against Women Act

Unified Certification Program (UCP) Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Unified Certification Program Board administers North Dakota's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification program required under federal transportation regulations and is essential to preserving eligibility for federal transportation funding. The Task Force discussed whether administrative responsibilities could eventually be streamlined, but concluded the certification function itself must continue.

Recommendation: Retain the federally required certification function while evaluating opportunities to streamline administrative operations within the Department of Transportation.

Abstracters Board of Examiners

The Abstracters Board of Examiners licenses real estate abstracters and helps ensure the integrity of North Dakota's property records. Every county in the state has an abstracter company responsible for maintaining and verifying records maintained by the county recorder. The Task Force noted that only about twelve states continue to require licensure for abstracters. The Task Force discussed the Board's role in protecting real estate transactions. Eliminating the Board would reduce oversight of abstracting practices and increase the potential for errors or fraudulent real estate transactions due to inadequate verification of property ownership.

Recommendation: Retain the Abstracters Board of Examiners.

Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA)

The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs advises the Governor and the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs on issues affecting North Dakota veterans and provides recommendations regarding veterans' programs, services, and policy initiatives. The Committee continues to provide valuable input from the veteran community and strengthens communication between veterans organizations and state government.

Recommendation: Retain the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Advisory Board to the Bank of North Dakota

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The Advisory Board to the Bank of North Dakota provides recommendations to the Industrial Commission on the operations and strategic direction of the Bank. The Board utilizes subcommittees to review the Bank's lending programs, policies, and operational procedures, providing private-sector banking expertise to support the management of the nation's only state-owned bank. The Board provides valuable oversight and expertise that complements the statutory authority of the Industrial Commission and is an essential component of the Bank's governance structure.

Recommendation: Retain the Advisory Board of Directors to the Bank of North Dakota.

Board of Podiatric Medicine

The Board of Podiatric Medicine licenses and regulates 37 podiatrists practicing in North Dakota. The profession is highly specialized, and board members possess expertise necessary to effectively regulate podiatric medicine. The Task Force discussed whether the Board could be merged with the North Dakota Board of Medicine by establishing a podiatric advisory committee under a larger umbrella structure. Members concluded the Board of Medicine should first be given additional time to implement its recently expanded responsibilities before considering further consolidation.

Recommendation: Retain the Board of Podiatric Medicine and consider evaluating a future merger with the North Dakota Board of Medicine during a future legislative session.

Capitol Grounds Planning Commission

The Capitol Grounds Planning Commission provides oversight and long-range planning for the development, preservation, and improvement of the State Capitol grounds. The Commission reviews proposals affecting the Capitol complex to ensure projects are consistent with the Capitol Grounds Master Plan and maintain the historical and functional integrity of the campus and serves a limited but important planning function by coordinating major improvements to state-owned property and ensuring long-term consistency in development decisions.

Recommendation: Retain the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission.

Children's Cabinet

Agency: Office of the Governor

The Children's Cabinet was established in 2019 to assess, guide, and coordinate services for children and families across state government and North Dakota's tribal nations. The Cabinet develops statewide strategies to address gaps in early childhood education, medical and behavioral health, community services, child welfare, and juvenile justice while promoting a coordinated continuum of care for children and families. The Task Force recognized the Cabinet's unique role in bringing together leaders from all three branches of government, tribal representatives, education, and human service organizations to improve coordination across multiple child-serving systems.

Recommendation: Retain the Children's Cabinet.

Clean Sustainable Energy Authority Technical Committee

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The Clean Sustainable Energy Authority Technical Committee reviews grant and loan applications supporting innovative energy technologies that reduce environmental impacts and strengthen North Dakota's energy economy. Newly created in 2021, this Committee provides technical and financial evaluation of large-scale projects before recommendations are forwarded to the Authority for funding decisions.

Recommendation: Retain the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority Technical Committee.

Commission on Uniform State Laws

The Commission on Uniform State Law works with the National Uniform Law Commission to review areas of state law where consistency among the states is desirable and to develop model legislation for consideration by state legislatures. North Dakota commissioners participate in drafting and evaluating uniform acts but that no proposal becomes law unless adopted by the Legislative Assembly. The Commission plays a long-term role in consistency in state law while preserving the Legislature's authority to determine whether uniform acts should be adopted in North Dakota.

Recommendation: Retain the Commission on Uniform State Laws.

Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents

The Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents oversees North Dakota's indigent defense system by ensuring constitutionally required legal representation is provided to individuals who cannot afford counsel. The Commission establishes policies for the delivery of indigent defense services while maintaining the independence necessary for the fair administration of justice. The Commission continues to fulfill an essential public function that cannot be absorbed by another agency without compromising its mission.

Recommendation: Retain the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents

Committee on Protection and Advocacy

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Committee on Protection and Advocacy provides administrative supervision and policy direction for North Dakota's federally mandated Protection and Advocacy Project, a civil rights agency serving individuals with disabilities. Every state is required to maintain a protection and advocacy system, although North Dakota is one of only a few states where the entity operates as a state funded agency rather than a private nonprofit organization.

Recommendation: Retain the Committee on Protection and Advocacy.

Credit Review Board

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

FEDERALLY FUNDED

The Credit Review Board establishes policy for the North Dakota Mediation Service and advises the Industrial Commission on Bank of North Dakota on farm loan programs. The North Dakota Mediation Service provides confidential mediation and financial counseling for agricultural producers, landowners, mineral owners, and energy developers involved in credit or property disputes. The mediation service is active and is funded 70% through a federal grant. The Board meets quarterly and the Task Force agreed the board provides an essential service

Recommendation: Retain the Credit Review Board.

Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

The Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board identifies crop protection product needs, prioritizes research, and supports efforts to expand pesticide labeling and registration opportunities for North Dakota producers. The Board performs a unique technical function and works closely with the Department of Agriculture and North Dakota State University to improve producer access to crop protection products that may otherwise be unavailable for specialty crops.

Recommendation: Retain the Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board.

Dietetic Practice Board

The Dietetic Practice Board licenses and regulates dietitians and nutritionists throughout North Dakota and currently oversees approximately 750 licenses, including 33 licensed nutritionists. Licensure has increased significantly in recent years because of telehealth and interstate reciprocity, and more than half of states continue to utilize independent dietetic licensing boards.

Recommendation: Retain the Dietetic Practice Board.

Education Commission of the States

The Education Commission of the States is a nonprofit public policy think tank that tracks educational policy nationwide. The Commission researches and publishes reports on state educational policies and trends and provides support to all 50 states to help educational leaders create effective education policy. North Dakota is a dues paying member of the Commission.

Recommendation: Retain membership within the Education Commission of the States.

Education Factfinding Commission

The Education Factfinding Commission serves as an independent third-party mediator when collective bargaining negotiations between school districts and teachers reach an impasse. The Commission provides an important dispute resolution process that helps facilitate negotiations and avoid prolonged labor disputes within North Dakota's public schools.

Recommendation: Retain the Education Factfinding Commission.

Education Standards and Practices Board

The Education Standards and Practices Board licenses teachers throughout the state, approves teacher education programs, and develops professional practices. The Board was created to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by regulating the practice and licensing of teachers in the state. The board receives and investigates approximately 100 complaints per year.

Recommendation: Retain the Education Standards and Practices Board.

Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee

The Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee oversees statewide 911 communications, including GIS mapping, emergency communications standards, annual surveys of public safety answering points, and biennial reports to the Legislature. The Task Force explored whether the Committee could be merged with the State Emergency Response Commission. However, the two entities serve fundamentally different purposes, with the Communications Committee focusing on emergency call systems and dispatch coordination while the Emergency Response Commission addresses hazardous materials planning, preparedness, and recovery.

Recommendation: Retain the Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee.

Executive Steering Committee – Information Technology Projects

Agency: North Dakota Information Technology Department

Executive Steering Committees established for major state information technology projects are created as needed to oversee major IT projects meeting statutory thresholds. These committees monitor project status and provide recommendations regarding contract negotiations, budget approval, project schedules, quality assurance, and changes in project scope. The Executive Steering Committees provide essential oversight for high-risk technology projects and help ensure accountability throughout project implementation.

Recommendation: Retain the Executive Steering Committee structure.

Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

FEDERALLY LINKED

The Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee reviews federal environmental legislation and regulations that may have a detrimental impact on North Dakota's agriculture, energy, and oil-producing sectors. The Committee also consults with the Attorney General regarding the state's participation in administrative or judicial proceedings involving those federal actions. The Committee is convened when significant federal environmental proposals warrant review. The Committee serves an important purpose by providing a coordinated process for evaluating federal environmental actions that could affect key North Dakota industries.

Recommendation: Retain the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee.

Guardianship and Conservatorship Operations Committee

Agency: North Dakota Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship

The Guardianship and Conservatorship Operations Committee was established to oversee the operations of the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship which was created in 2025 to license, monitor, and investigate guardians and conservators. The Operations Committee is integral to the governance and oversight of the newly created Office.

Recommendation: Retain the Guardianship and Conservatorship Operations Committee.

Guardianship and Conservatorship Review Board

The Guardianship and Conservatorship Review Board was established to conduct disciplinary proceedings involving licensed guardians and conservators under the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship. The Board provides an independent process for reviewing complaints and issuing disciplinary sanctions when appropriate, supporting accountability within the guardianship system.

Recommendation: Retain the Guardianship and Conservatorship Review Board.

Health Care Coalition (HCC) Executive Committee

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The HCC Executive Committee is required for North Dakota to receive federal funding through the Hospital Preparedness Program. The Committee has a narrow scope and meets only as necessary to annually review and approve the governance document for the state's Health Care Coalition. The Task Force recognized the is necessary to maintain federal grant eligibility and should continue in its current form.

Recommendation: Retain the HCC Executive Committee.

Higher Education Grant Review Committee

The Higher Education Grant Review Committee administers matching grant funds for North Dakota's eleven public institutions of higher education to support investments in research, scholarships, technology, and educational infrastructure. The Committee is responsible for administering more than $24 million in matching grant funding during the current biennium, with a significant portion supporting student scholarships.

Recommendation: Retain the Higher Education Grant Review Committee.

Humanities North Dakota

FEDERALLY FUNDED

Humanities North Dakota was established in 1973 following the enactment of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965. Humanities North Dakota is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, not a state agency, that provides public education and grant programs focused on history, civics, literature, and the humanities. All federal funding was temporarily eliminated earlier in the year, approximately half has since been restored, and the organization continues to pursue private funding to sustain grants and public education programming.

Recommendation: Retain Humanities North Dakota.

Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Interagency Council on Homelessness was originally established in 2004 and was reestablished under Executive Order 2025-08 to coordinate state agencies and community partners in developing strategies to prevent and end homelessness in North Dakota. The Council brings together representatives from state government, local governments, housing organizations, and other stakeholders to improve coordination and identify best practices. The Task Force discussed the Council's updated membership following the 2025 executive order and agreed it continues to serve an important statewide coordination role.

Recommendation: Retain the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission is a multi-state organization that promotes collaboration among energy-producing states on oil and gas policy, conservation, and regulation. The Commission's role allows North Dakota to work with other producing states on shared policy priorities and regulatory issues. Although the state pays annual membership dues, the Task Force agreed that the value of maintaining a strong national presence outweighs the associated costs.

Recommendation: Retain North Dakota's membership in the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission**.**

Judicial Conduct Commission

The Judicial Conduct Commission is responsible for considering allegations that a judge has violated the North Dakota Code of Judicial Conduct. The office administers investigations and prosecutes cases involving judicial misconduct, while the seven-member Commission independently hears and decides disciplinary matters. It emphasized the importance of maintaining citizen representation on the Commission, noting that public members bring a different perspective than judges and attorneys when evaluating complaints. The Task Force agreed the Commission provides an essential mechanism for judicial accountability and public confidence in the judiciary.

Recommendation: Retain the Judicial Conduct Commission.

Judicial Nominating Committee

The Judicial Nominating Committee was established to identify and evaluate qualified applicants for judicial vacancies and submits nominees to the Governor for appointment. The Committee continues to provide an effective, balanced process for identifying highly qualified judicial candidates while preserving the Governor's constitutional appointment authority.

Recommendation: Retain the Judicial Nominating Committee.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group was established by executive order to comply with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group is responsible for developing the state's juvenile justice plan and maintaining compliance with federal law. States are required to submit a state plan to receive federal grant funding. Every state has a group to comply with federal law.

Recommendation: Retain the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

K-12 Coordination Council

The K-12 Coordination Council was established to provide strategic alignment and coordination among education stakeholders while supporting the statewide strategic vision for K-12 education. There is overlap between the Council's work and the statewide Strategic Visioning Task Force but the Task Force noted the Council is relatively new and should be given additional time to fulfill its intended purpose before considering any structural changes.

Recommendation: Retain the K-12 Coordination Council.

Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission exists as part of a multi-state compact that promotes greater higher education opportunities and services throughout the Midwest. Through the compact, member states collaborate to improve regional access to higher education, encourage research, and expand educational opportunities for citizens of participating states.

Recommendation: Retain the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission.

Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force

Agency: Attorney General's Office

The Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force strengthens collaboration between the State of North Dakota and the state's tribal nations in responding to cases involving missing Indigenous persons. The Task Force is charged with identifying jurisdictional barriers, examining the factors that contribute to missing and murdered Indigenous persons cases, and developing strategies to improve communication and coordination among tribal, local, state, and federal partners. The Task Force was created in 2025 and discussion included allowing it time to carry out its work before considering any structural changes.

Recommendation: Retain the Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force.

Newborn Screening Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The Newborn Screening Advisory Committee provides recommendations regarding newborn screening protocols and advises the Department of Health and Human Services on appropriate screening tests based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other medical experts. Although not statutorily required, the Committee provides valuable clinical expertise supporting the state's newborn screening program.

Recommendation: Retain the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission oversees airport infrastructure planning, aviation regulation, aircraft registration, and state aviation grant funding. The Commission works closely with local airport authorities, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other state agencies to maintain a safe and efficient statewide aviation network.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission.

North Dakota Beef Commission

The North Dakota Beef Commission oversees the state's beef checkoff program and promotes research, marketing, and consumer education to strengthen demand for North Dakota beef. The Task Force concluded the Commission continues to effectively administer the beef checkoff program and provide important support for one of North Dakota's largest agricultural industries.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Beef Commission.

North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers

The North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers licenses and regulates athletic trainers practicing in North Dakota, establishes professional standards, investigates complaints, and oversees continuing education requirements. Athletic trainers work in a variety of settings, including schools, colleges, hospitals, clinics, and professional sports organizations.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers.

North Dakota Board of Reflexology

The North Dakota Board of Reflexology licenses and regulates reflexologists, establishes standards of practice, investigates complaints, and ensures practitioners meet educational and continuing education requirements. The Task Force concluded the Board's regulatory responsibilities are sufficiently distinct to warrant continued independent oversight.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Board of Reflexology.

North Dakota Board of Clinical Laboratory Practice

The North Dakota Board of Clinical Laboratory Practice licenses and regulates clinical laboratory professionals and currently oversees 1,118 licensees. North Dakota is one of only 12 states that licenses clinical laboratory professionals and North Dakota utilizes an online licensing system, with most applications processed within a few business days.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Board of Clinical Laboratory Practice.

North Dakota Council on the Arts

FEDERALLY LINKED

The North Dakota Council on the Arts has operated since 1967 to promote and strengthen the arts and cultural opportunities throughout North Dakota and serves as the state's designated arts agency to receive certain federal arts grant funding.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

North Dakota Dairy Promotion Commission

The North Dakota Dairy Promotion Commission administers the state's dairy checkoff program, directing producer-funded marketing, research, and education initiatives to expand demand for dairy products and strengthen the state's dairy industry. The Commission continues to fulfill its statutory purpose by investing producer resources in programs that improve the long-term viability of North Dakota's dairy industry.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Dairy Promotion Commission and consider adding permissive language to statute to allow for greater board member recruitment.

North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), administered through the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, provides technical assistance, workforce training, and educational resources to local governments responsible for maintaining roads and bridges. The program is largely supported through federal funding and fills a unique role by assisting counties, townships, and tribal governments that often lack engineering and training resources.

Recommendation: Retain the LTAP program.

North Dakota Board of Medicine

The North Dakota Board of Medicine licenses and regulates physicians, physician assistants, naturopathic doctors, and genetic counselors while protecting the public through professional licensure, investigations, and disciplinary actions. The Board oversees four professions, conducts approximately 100 full complaint investigations annually, and typically processes completed license applications within 24 to 48 hours. While many states regulate physician assistants under their boards of medicine, regulatory structures for other professions vary across the country. The Task Force discussed the possibility of consolidating the Board of Podiatric Medicine with the Board of Medicine. While both boards expressed a preference to remain independent, it was indicated the Board would be willing to participate in future discussions if the Legislature wished to explore the concept. The Task Force concluded the Board continues to operate effectively but recognized a future merger with the Board of Podiatric Medicine may warrant additional study after the Board fully implements its recently expanded responsibilities.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Board of Medicine and consider evaluating a future merger with the Board of Podiatric Medicine during a future legislative session.

North Dakota Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board

The North Dakota Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board regulates the medical imaging and radiation therapy professions through the adoption of rules and professional standards, licensing qualified practitioners, and disciplining licensees when necessary. The Board currently licenses approximately 1,833 individuals throughout North Dakota. The Board has delegated authority allowing the Executive Director to approve routine license applications, resulting in an average application turnaround time of approximately five business days. It was noted regulatory structures vary across neighboring states, with some utilizing independent boards while others regulate the profession through a state agency.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board.

North Dakota Military Commission

The North Dakota Military Commission originated as the Task Force for Military Issues in North Dakota and has evolved from focusing primarily on military base retention to addressing barriers affecting service members, veterans, and military families. The Commission assists in coordinating statewide military initiatives and supporting North Dakota's military installations and military families. The Task Force noted the Commission has produced measurable progress through interstate licensing compacts and other military-friendly policies.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Military Commission.

North Dakota Milk Marketing Board

The North Dakota Milk Marketing Board promotes and ensures an adequate supply of fresh, wholesome milk while protecting both dairy producers and consumers. The Board continues to serve an important regulatory role in maintaining a stable and reliable dairy marketplace throughout North Dakota.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Milk Marketing Board.

North Dakota Oilseed Council

The North Dakota Oilseed Council promotes the production, development, marketing, and advertising of sunflower, canola, flax, safflower, crambe, and other oilseed crops through a producer-funded checkoff program. The Council provides direct value to North Dakota producers through industry-led investments and promotion.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Oilseed Council.

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board reviews grant applications and provides funding recommendations to the Industrial Commission for projects that conserve wildlife habitat, improve water quality, expand outdoor recreation, and enhance North Dakota's natural resources. The Board administers one of the state's largest competitive grant programs, with multiple grant rounds each year.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board.

North Dakota Parks Foundation

Agency: North Dakota Parks and Recreation

The North Dakota Parks Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to support the mission of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department through fundraising, partnerships, and private philanthropy. The Foundation is not a regulatory board but rather serves as a charitable partner that helps leverage private resources to enhance state parks, recreation opportunities, and visitor experiences.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Parks Foundation.

North Dakota Racing Commission

The North Dakota Racing Commission oversees and regulates both live and off-track horse racing in North Dakota and is funded through horse race wagering and administers three special funds that support the horse racing industry. North Dakota currently has four active off-track wagering locations and two live race tracks operating during the summer months. Task Force members discussed whether efficiencies could be gained by combining the Racing Commission and Gaming Commission. While the Commission acknowledged a merger could provide administrative efficiencies, it considers itself distinct from charitable gaming and would oppose consolidation. Members ultimately concluded the Commission continues to provide a unique regulatory function supporting North Dakota's horse racing industry.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Racing Commission.

North Dakota Real Estate Appraiser Qualifications and Ethics Board

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The North Dakota Real Estate Appraiser Qualifications and Ethics Board is federally mandated and is responsible for licensing and certifying real estate appraisers throughout North Dakota. The Board is overseen by the federal Appraisal Subcommittee, which reviews North Dakota's statutes and administrative rules every two years. North Dakota remains in good standing with the federal oversight process.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Real Estate Appraiser Qualifications and Ethics Board.

North Dakota Real Estate Commission

The North Dakota Real Estate Commission is responsible for licensing approximately 3,000 real estate professionals while investigating complaints and taking disciplinary action when necessary.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Real Estate Commission.

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education is responsible for the governance and administration of North Dakota's eleven public colleges and universities. The Board's members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and emphasized that both the Board and its membership are established in the North Dakota Constitution, making any structural changes difficult to implement.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education.

North Dakota State Board of Optometry

The North Dakota State Board of Optometry licenses and regulates optometrists practicing in North Dakota, establishes standards of professional conduct, administers examinations, and investigates complaints involving licensees. The Board also oversees continuing education requirements to ensure practitioners remain current with evolving standards of care and technological advances within the profession.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota State Board of Optometry.

North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy

The North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy licenses and regulates pharmacists, pharmacies, pharmacy technicians, wholesalers, and other entities involved in the distribution of prescription medications throughout North Dakota. The Board is responsible for protecting the public through inspections, investigations, and enforcement of pharmacy laws and regulations. The Task Force commended the Board for its efficient licensing process and recognized the critical role it plays in regulating the practice of pharmacy and the distribution of prescription medications.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy.

North Dakota State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision

The North Dakota State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision oversees North Dakota's participation in the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, ensuring compliance with national compact rules governing the transfer and supervision of adult offenders between states. The Council maintains interstate cooperation and ensures North Dakota remains compliant with the national compact governing adult offender supervision.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

North Dakota State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision

The North Dakota State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision provides the legal framework for maintaining continuous supervision of juveniles placed under court-ordered probation or parole when they travel or relocate between member states. The Council advises the state's compact administrator on implementation of the compact and reviews proposed national rule changes before North Dakota casts its vote through the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. The Council ensures uninterrupted supervision of juveniles across state lines and performs a unique statutory function that supports public safety and juvenile rehabilitation.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision.

North Dakota State Investment Board

Agency: North Dakota Retirement and Investment Office

The North Dakota State Investment Board is responsible for the prudent investment of North Dakota's state trust funds through the Retirement and Investment Office, which oversees approximately $26 billion in assets across 29 client funds, regularly reviewing investment performance through established key performance indicators. The Task Force concluded the Board's fiduciary responsibilities and broad representation remain appropriate.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota State Investment Board.

North Dakota Wheat Commission

The North Dakota Wheat Commission promotes the production, marketing, and utilization of North Dakota wheat through producer-funded research, education, and domestic and international market development. The Commission continues to provide an important producer-led function that supports the long-term success of North Dakota's wheat industry.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Wheat Commission.

North Dakota Workforce Development Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The North Dakota Workforce Development Council serves as North Dakota's federally designated workforce development board under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and advises the Governor on workforce development priorities that support the state's economic needs. Because the Council membership ratios are federally mandated, the Council must maintain a relatively large membership to remain compliant. The Task Force concluded the Council performs federally required responsibilities that cannot be consolidated or reduced without jeopardizing compliance with WIOA requirements.

Recommendation: Retain the North Dakota Workforce Development Council.

Oil and Gas Research Council

Agency: North Dakota Industrial Commission

The Oil and Gas Research Council oversees research investments intended to improve oil and gas exploration, production, environmental stewardship, and public education. The Council receives approximately $17.5 million per biennium through oil and gas tax revenues to support research projects benefiting North Dakota's energy industry and plays an important role in advancing one of the state's largest industries through applied research and innovation.

Recommendation: Retain the Oil and Gas Research Council.

Olmstead Commission

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Olmstead Commission was created to implement the requirements established by the United States Supreme Court's Olmstead v. L.C. decision, which requires states to provide services to individuals with disabilities in the most integrated and least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs. The Task Force agreed the Commission continues to fulfill an important role in ensuring compliance with federal disability requirements and supporting integrated community-based services.

Recommendation: Retain the Olmstead Commission.

Operator Certification Advisory Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Operator Certification Advisory Committee advises the Department of Environmental Quality on certification standards for drinking water and wastewater system operators. The Committee provides specialized technical expertise necessary to maintain qualified operators and ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water requirements.

Recommendation: Retain the Operator Certification Advisory Committee due to its important role in protecting public health and maintaining federal regulatory compliance.

Pardon Advisory Board

Agency: Office of the Governor

The Pardon Advisory Board reviews applications for executive clemency and provides recommendations to the Governor regarding pardons. While the Governor retains constitutional authority to grant or deny pardons, the Board provides an independent review process by evaluating applications, criminal history, rehabilitation efforts, and other relevant factors before making recommendations.

Recommendation: Retain the Pardon Advisory Board.

Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board

The Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board establishes minimum licensing and training standards for North Dakota peace officers, certifies law enforcement officers, approves law enforcement training programs, and oversees disciplinary matters involving officer certification. The Board plays a critical role in ensuring professionalism, accountability, and consistency across law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Recommendation: Retain the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board.

Private Investigative and Security Board

Agency: Office of the Attorney General

The Private Investigative and Security Board licenses and regulates private investigators, private security companies, security officers, and related professions operating in North Dakota. The Board establishes licensing standards, conducts investigations, and takes disciplinary action when necessary to protect the public. The Board is self-funded through licensing fees and provides specialized oversight of an industry involving public safety and consumer protection.

Recommendation: Retain the Private Investigative and Security Board.

Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

The Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board provides oversight of the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund, ensuring claims for petroleum releases are administered fairly and the fund remains financially sound. The Board continues to provide important oversight of a specialized program protecting both the environment and underground storage tank owners. The Task Force did identify potential statutory changes to improve the long-term sustainability of the fund.

Recommendation: Retain the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Advisory Board.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23.1-12-03

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Board

Agency: North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

The Public Employees Retirement System Board administers retirement, insurance, and related benefit programs for North Dakota's public employees. The Board establishes policies for the administration of the retirement system, oversees investment and actuarial reporting, and ensures the financial integrity of the system while fulfilling numerous statutory and fiduciary responsibilities. The Task Force concluded the Board continues to perform essential statutory duties that cannot reasonably be absorbed by another entity.

Recommendation: Retain the Public Employees Retirement System Board.

Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Board was established to satisfy federal Clean Air Act requirements and provide small businesses with a voice in air quality regulatory matters.

Recommendation: Retain the Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Board.

State Banking Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions

The State Banking Board oversees North Dakota's state-chartered banks, including the approval of new bank charters, and helps ensure the safety and soundness of the state's banking industry. Twenty-eight states maintain a banking board and both the Department of Financial Institutions and the Board are entirely self-funded through industry assessments rather than taxpayer dollars. The Task Force discussed whether the Banking Board and Credit Union Board should be consolidated. It was explained banks and credit unions are governed by different laws, serve different business models, and remain separate industries despite similarities in regulation.

Recommendation: Retain the State Banking Board.

State Board of Accountancy

The State Board of Accountancy licenses and regulates certified public accountants and licensed public accountants throughout North Dakota. All current board members are certified public accountants and that the Board has investigatory and disciplinary authority over more than 3,000 licensees.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Accountancy.

State Board of Animal Health

Agency: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

The State Board of Animal Health advises the State Veterinarian on animal disease prevention, livestock health, and animal importation and movement within North Dakota. The Board works to protect animal health, support livestock producers, and maintain the state's ability to respond quickly to disease outbreaks. The Task Force noted the Board provides valuable expertise and coordination between veterinarians, livestock producers, and the Department of Agriculture.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Animal Health.

State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

The State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture oversees both architects and landscape architects and licenses approximately 1,400 professionals.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners licenses chiropractors, establishes standards of professional practice, investigates complaints, and administers disciplinary actions when necessary. It was emphasized chiropractic physicians receive extensive education and clinical training and argued the profession's unique scope of practice warrants independent regulatory oversight. The Board is self-funded through licensing fees.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

State Board of Dental Examiners

The State Board of Dental Examiners licenses dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants while ensuring compliance with professional standards through investigations, disciplinary actions, and continuing education requirements. The Board's primary responsibility is protecting the public by ensuring dental professionals provide safe and competent care.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Dental Examiners.

State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators

The State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators licenses and regulates nursing home administrators throughout North Dakota by establishing licensing standards, approving administrator-in-training programs, investigating complaints, and taking disciplinary action when necessary. It was emphasized that effective regulation of nursing home administrators is essential to protecting vulnerable residents and ensuring quality leadership within long-term care facilities. The Task Force discussed the Board's role in maintaining professional standards for long-term care administrators and agreed its specialized expertise remains important given the increasing complexity of long-term care regulation.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

State Board of Funeral Service

The State Board of Funeral Service was created to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by regulating the practice and licensing of funeral service practitioners in the state. The Board establishes, reviews, and upholds standards to protect the public and guide the profession. The Task Force noted that every state has a regulatory board in place for funeral practitioners.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Funeral Service.

State Board of Integrative Health Care

The State Board of Integrative Health Care licenses regulate acupuncturists, naturopathic physicians, and other professions assigned under state law. The Board establishes licensing standards, adopts administrative rules, investigates complaints, and takes disciplinary action when necessary to protect the public. The Board oversees a relatively small number of licensees but each profession requires specialized expertise because of differences in education, training, and scope of practice. The Task Force considered whether additional health professions with similar regulatory structures could be consolidated under the Board to improve administrative efficiency. The Task Force agreed the Board's existing structure could accommodate additional complementary professions without diminishing public protection or profession-specific oversight. The Task Force contemplated recommending the board merge with the reflexology board but ultimately decided to recommend each board be retained separately.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Integrative Health Care.

State Board of Massage Therapy

The State Board of Massage Therapy licenses massage therapists, approves continuing education providers, investigates complaints, and enforces professional standards established in state law and administrative rule. The Board is entirely funded through licensing. The Board also educates licensees and protect consumers through effective regulation of the profession.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Massage Therapy.

State Board for Native American Scholarships

The State Board for Native American Scholarships awards scholarships to Native American students and oversees the administration of those scholarships through the North Dakota University System. It was noted scholarship applications could likely be reviewed administratively without a statutorily created board, however many of the scholarships administered by the Board are established in statute, making it beneficial to retain the Board.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board for Native American Scholarships.

State Board of Nursing

The State Board of Nursing licenses regulates approximately 20,500 nursing licenses, including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses. The Board receives approximately 180 license applications each month, investigated approximately 150 complaints in 2025, and believes its current licensing and regulatory processes are efficient and well optimized.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Nursing.

State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

The State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice licenses occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, establishes standards of practice, investigates complaints, and administers disciplinary actions when necessary. The Board works closely with national credentialing organizations while ensuring North Dakota practitioners meet state licensing requirements.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice.

State Board of Physical Therapy

The State Board of Physical Therapy licenses physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, administers disciplinary proceedings, establishes continuing education requirements, and protects the public by ensuring practitioners meet professional standards. The Board also participates in the Physical Therapy Compact, which expands licensure mobility while maintaining regulatory oversight.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Physical Therapy.

State Board of Plumbing

The State Board of Plumbing licenses plumbers, regulates the plumbing profession, establishes plumbing standards, and oversees approximately 1,900 licenses statewide. The Task Force recognized the Board's important role in protecting public health through plumbing regulation and inspections.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Plumbing.

State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors licenses and regulates professional engineers and land surveyors while safeguarding life, health, property, and public welfare through professional standards and disciplinary authority. The Task Force concluded the Board continues to fulfill an essential regulatory function.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

State Board of Respiratory Care

The State Board of Respiratory Care licenses respiratory therapists, establishes continuing education requirements, investigates complaints, and enforces standards of professional practice. It was noted respiratory therapists provide critical patient care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, emergency medical settings, and home health environments.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Respiratory Care.

State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners was created to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and animals by regulating the practice and licensing of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology practitioners in the state. The Board establishes, reviews, and upholds standards to protect the public and guide the profession. The Board licenses 529 veterinarians and 356 technicians in the state and receives approximately 40 applications per year. The Task Force noted approximately half of the states in the country have independent boards to regulate veterinarians, and the other half have merged boards or regulate under state agencies.

Recommendation: Retain the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

State Commission on National and Community Service

Agency: North Dakota Department of Commerce

The State Commission on National and Community Service serves as North Dakota's service commission and administers the AmeriCorps State Formula Program, develops the state's three-year national and community service plan, and establishes statewide service priorities. The Commission also fosters volunteerism and community engagement through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local governments. The Commission maintains North Dakota's eligibility for AmeriCorps funding and coordinating national service initiatives throughout the state.

Recommendation: Retain the State Commission on National and Community Service.

State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

The State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children supports military-connected students by helping address educational challenges associated with frequent relocations and ensuring North Dakota fulfills its obligations under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Council's mission closely aligns with that of the North Dakota Military Commission. The Task Force agreed the Council serves an important purpose and determined it should remain in place until the legal implications of modifying the interstate compact can be fully evaluated.

Recommendation: Retain the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Task Force concluded additional research would be necessary before considering any merger or restructuring.

State Credit Union Board

Agency: North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions

The State Credit Union Board provides regulatory oversight for North Dakota's state-chartered credit unions and works alongside the Department of Financial Institutions to supervise the industry, approve new credit union charters, and ensure compliance with applicable laws. Twenty-three states maintain a separate credit union board and reiterated that the Department and both financial institution boards operate without General Fund support. The Task Force considered whether the Credit Union Board could be merged with the State Banking Board. It was explained that credit unions and banks operate under distinct statutory and regulatory frameworks and therefore benefit from separate oversight.

Recommendation: Retain the State Credit Union Board

State Electrical Board

The State Electrical Board licenses and regulates master electricians, journeyman electricians, Class B electricians, power limited electricians, apprentice electricians, and other licensed electrical professionals throughout North Dakota. The Board establishes licensing standards, adopts administrative rules, conducts disciplinary proceedings, and protects public safety by ensuring electrical work is performed by qualified professionals.

Recommendation: Retain the State Electrical Board.

State Health Council

Agency: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

The State Health Council advises the Department of Health and Human Services on public health policy and administrative rules while providing representation from public health professionals and stakeholders across the state. The Council continues to perform statutory responsibilities and provides valuable guidance on statewide public health issues.

Recommendation: Retain the State Health Council.

Statutory Reference: NDCC 23-01-02.

State Hospital Governing Board

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The State Hospital Governing Board is established in state law and governed by bylaws, while also being required under federal standards governing the State Hospital. The Board adopts hospital bylaws, assists with long-range planning, approves hospital regulations, appoints members of the medical staff, and meets quarterly. The Task Force concluded the Board continues to provide necessary governance and oversight for the State Hospital.

Recommendation: Retain the State Hospital Governing Board.

State Parole Board

The State Parole Board determines parole eligibility and conditions for eligible offenders while balancing public safety, offender rehabilitation, and victim considerations. The Board continues to perform an essential statutory function that requires independent review and discretion in individual parole decisions.

Recommendation: Retain the State Parole Board.

State Personnel Board

Agency: North Dakota Office of Management and Budget

The State Personnel Board hears appeals involving classified state employees and performs responsibilities established in state personnel law. The Board serves as a quasi-judicial role in ensuring fairness and consistency in the state's merit-based personnel system while providing an independent forum for employee appeals and plays an important statutory function by providing an independent review process for state personnel matters.

Recommendation: Retain the State Personnel Board

Suicide Fatality Review Committee

The Suicide Fatality Review Committee was established to reduce preventable suicides by conducting multidisciplinary reviews of suicide fatalities and identifying opportunities to improve prevention efforts throughout the state. The Committee was established in 2023 and plays an important role in developing recommendations to strengthen North Dakota's suicide prevention strategies.

Recommendation: Retain the Suicide Fatality Review Committee.

Teachers' Fund for Retirement (TFFR) Board

Agency: North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

The Teachers' Fund for Retirement Board administers the Teachers' Fund for Retirement, providing retirement benefits for more than 25,000 current and retired North Dakota public school educators, and is responsible for overseeing the administration of the retirement program. Investment of the funds is carried out by the State Investment Board through the Retirement and Investment Office. The Task Force discussed the close relationship between TFFR and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), as both retirement systems are administered by the Retirement and Investment Office. The Task Force determined the Board still fulfills its statutory responsibilities.

Recommendation: Retain the Teachers' Fund for Retirement Board.

Traffic Records Coordinating Committee

Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Traffic Records Coordinating Committee brings together state agencies responsible for crash, roadway, driver, EMS, and law enforcement data to improve the quality and integration of traffic safety information. The Committee aids in maintaining compliance with federal highway safety requirements and supporting data-driven transportation policy.

Recommendation: Retain the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee.

Transportation Learning Network (TLN)

Agency: North Dakota Department of Transportation

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Transportation Learning Network delivers virtual training and continuing education opportunities for transportation professionals throughout North Dakota and neighboring states. The Network allows for reduced travel costs while providing high-quality technical and professional development opportunities funded through federal transportation dollars.

Recommendation: Retain the Transportation Learning Network.

Tribal Consultation Committee

Agency: Department of Transportation

FEDERALLY MANDATED

The Tribal Consultation Committee provides a formal forum for government-to-government consultation between the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the state's tribal nations. The Committee meets federal consultation requirements while strengthening coordination on transportation projects affecting tribal lands.

Recommendation: Retain the Tribal Consultation Committee.

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education operates through a multi-state compact that expands access to quality higher education opportunities across western states. North Dakota is unique in participating in both the Western Interstate Commission and the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, allowing the state to benefit from partnerships in both regions.

Recommendation: Retain the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Workforce Safety & Insurance Board of Directors

Agency: North Dakota Workforce Safety & Insurance

The Workforce Safety & Insurance Board of Directors establishes policy and provides oversight for North Dakota's exclusive workers' compensation system. The Board oversees the agency's strategic direction, financial management, and operations while ensuring injured workers receive benefits and employers are served through a financially sound insurance program. The Board continues to provide appropriate policy direction and accountability for the agency.

Recommendation: Retain the Workforce Safety & Insurance Board of Directors.

Yellowstone River Compact Commission

Agency: North Dakota Department of Water Resources

The Yellowstone River Compact Commission represents North Dakota under the interstate compact governing allocation of Yellowstone River water among North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. State participation is required to protect North Dakota's water rights and maintain the state's role in interstate water allocation decisions.

Recommendation: Retain the Yellowstone River Compact Commission.

APPENDIX A

BOARDS REVIEWED

The Boards and Commissions Review Task Force reviewed more than 100 boards, commissions, councils, and advisory committees over the course of nine meetings. Reviews were organized by functional area to allow agencies with similar responsibilities to present together and to facilitate comparison of governance structures, statutory authority, and administrative functions.

OCTOBER 3, 2025 – ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND WATER

- Energy Research Advisory Council
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
- Clean Sustainable Energy Authority Technical Committee
- Oil and Gas Research Council
- Renewable Energy Council
- State Water Commission
- Game and Fish Advisory Board
- North Dakota Fishing Tournament Advisory Board
- Lignite Research Council
- Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board
- Credit Review Board

OCTOBER 28, 2025 – AGRICULTURE

- Agricultural Products Utilization Commission
- Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee
- North Dakota Beef Commission
- North Dakota Oilseed Council
- North Dakota Wheat Commission
- North Dakota Milk Marketing Board
- North Dakota Dairy Promotion Commission
- State Soil Conservation Committee
- North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation

NOVEMBER 19, 2025 – PUBLIC SAFETY, JUDICIAL, AND FINANCIAL

- Teachers' Fund for Retirement Board
- State Investment Board
- State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision
- Judicial Nominating Committee
- Judicial Conduct Commission
- Bank of North Dakota Advisory Board

DECEMBER 16, 2025 – COMMERCE, WORKFORCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- State Historical Board
- State Historical Records Advisory Board
- North Dakota Economic Development Foundation
- North Dakota Development Fund, Inc.
- Legacy Investment for Technology Loan Fund (LIFT) Committee
- Rural Catalyst Committee
- North Dakota Workforce Development Council
- Advisory Board of Directors to BND
- North Dakota Council of the Arts
- Humanities of North Dakota
- Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee
- Executive Steering Committee
- Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Taskforce
- Children's Cabinet
- Recovery Reinvented Advisory Council
- Health Care Taskforce
- State Health Council
- Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council
- Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee
- State Trauma Committee
- Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee
- Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee
- State Commission on National and Community Service

JANUARY 12, 2026 – EDUCATION AND HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council
- Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee
- State Trauma Committee
- Acute Cardiovascular Emergency Medical System of Care Advisory Committee
- Cardiac Ready Community Grant Program Advisory Committee
- State Health Council
- North Dakota Library Coordinating Council
- State Board of Public School Education
- State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- K-12 Coordination Council
- Education Factfinding Commission
- North Dakota State Board of Higher Education
- Higher Education Grant Review Committee
- Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- State Board for Native American Scholarships

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 – HUMAN SERVICES & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

- Behavioral Health Planning Council
- Medical Advisory Committee to the State Health Officer
- HHC Executive Committee
- State Hospital Governing Board
- Olmstead Commission
- Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
- Drug Use Review Board
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Cross-Disability Advisory Council
- Abstracters Board of Examiners
- North Dakota Real Estate Appraiser Qualifications And Ethics Board
- North Dakota Real Estate Commission
- State Banking Board
- State Credit Union Board

MARCH 11, 2026 – HUMAN SERVICES & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

- STOP Violence Against Women Advisory Committee
- Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Interagency Coordinating Council
- Suicide Fatality Review Committee
- Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee
- Medicaid Member Engagement Committee
- Family Advisory Council
- Medical Advisory Council
- Newborn Screening Advisory Committee
- HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Council
- Hepatitis Advisory Council
- Environmental Health Practitioner Advisory Board
- State Board of Accountancy
- State Electrical Board
- State Board of Plumbing
- State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
- State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers
- Board of Barber Examiners
- State Board of Cosmetology
- North Dakota Gaming Commission

APRIL 14, 2026 – HUMAN SERVICES & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

- Northwest Human Services Center Advisory Board
- North Central Human Services Center Advisory Board
- Lake Region Human Services Center Advisory Board
- Northeast Human Services Center Advisory Board
- Southeast Human Services Center Advisory Board
- South Central Human Services Center Advisory Board
- West Central Human Services Center Advisory Board
- Badlands Human Services Center Advisory Board
- Guardianship and Conservatorship Operations Committee
- Guardianships and Conservatorship Review Board
- Committee on Protection and Advocacy
- North Dakota Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board
- State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists
- State Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech Language Pathology
- North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy
- North Dakota State Board of Optometry
- State Board of Dental Examiners
- State Board of Massage Therapy
- State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice
- State Board of Physical Therapy
- North Dakota Board of Athletic Trainers
- North Dakota Board of Reflexology
- State Board of Respiratory Care
- State Board of Integrative Health Care
- State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

MAY 5, 2026 – PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

- North Dakota Board of Medicine
- State Board of Nursing
- State Board of Pharmacy
- Board of Pediatric Medicine
- Dietetic Practice Board
- North Dakota Board of Clinical Laboratory Practices
- North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners
- North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners
- North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners
- North Dakota Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board
- State Board of Psychologist Examiners

JUNE 16, 2026 – FINAL REVIEWS/REVISITS

- Private Investigative and Security Board
- Peace Officer Standards and Training Board
- State Water Commission
- Northwest Area Water Supply Authority
- Northern Plains UAS Test Site Authority
- Aeronautics Commission
- Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Board
- Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Board
- High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council
- Renewable Energy Council
- State Soil Conservation Committee
- State Parole Board
- Pardon Advisory Board
- Human Service Center Advisory Boards
- Board of Reflexology
- State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators
- Library Coordinating Council

APPENDIX B

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting Date	Primary Topic Areas
October 3, 2025	Energy, natural resources, water policy, and research boards
October 28, 2025	Agriculture, conservation, and commodity boards
November 19, 2025	Public safety, judicial, retirement, and financial boards
December 16, 2025	Commerce, workforce development, economic development, and business regulation
January 12, 2026	Education and workforce-related boards
February 11, 2026	Human services, social services, and community advisory boards
March 11, 2026	Health care, behavioral health, disability services, and federally required advisory councils
April 14, 2026	Professional licensing and occupational regulatory boards
May 5, 2026	Professional licensing and occupational regulatory boards
June 16, 2026	Final board reviews and recommendations
September 9, 2026	Review and adoption of the Task Force report

Throughout the review process, state agencies, board members, executive directors, and other stakeholders provided testimony regarding statutory responsibilities, board operations, funding, staffing, governance, and opportunities for modernization. Task Force members evaluated each board using a standardized framework before adopting final recommendations.

CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Members of the Boards Review Task Force did not participate in any recommendations related to matters in which they had a personal interest, conflict of interest, board association, or other relationship. Any member with such a conflict disclosed any affiliation to ensure impartiality and integrity in the Board's recommendations.