

EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 15, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol – Governor’s Conference Room
600 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck ND 58505

Minutes

Governor Armstrong called a meeting of the Emergency Commission to order at 2:00 p.m. on June 15, 2026.

Members present were: Governor Kelly Armstrong, Secretary Michael Howe, Senator David Hogue, Representative Don Vigesaa, Senator Brad Bekkedahl, and Representative Mike Lefor. A quorum existed throughout the meeting.

Also in attendance for the meeting were: Joe Morrisette, Director, OMB; Jamie Mertz, Chief Financial Officer, Dept of Public Instructions; Chris Joseph, General Counsel, Governor’s Office; Becky Ulberg, Fiscal Management Analyst, OMB; Allen H. Knudson, Legislative Council; Sandy McMerty, Deputy Secretary of State; Sherri Heinert, Secretary of State Assistant; Lynelle Johnson, Department of Public Instruction; Bailey Doll, Public Service Commission; Jill Kringstad, Public Service Commissioner; Lonnie Grabowska, BCI Director, Attorney General’s Office, Jennifer Scheet, Adjutant General; General Huber, Adjutant General.

Mr. Morrisette provided a summary of Commission authority for the 2025-2027 biennium, prior to consideration of current requests, and OMB approval recommendations.

Note: According to the provisions of N.D.C.C., Chapter 54-16, approved requests marked with an asterisk will be forwarded to the Legislative Budget Section committee for its meeting on June 24, 2026.

1. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction* (Request #2164)

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is seeking an increase in special fund spending authority of \$500,000 to pay the costs of a food processing contract on behalf of school districts. This allows NDDPI to negotiate a single statewide food processing contract in which districts can participate. The districts pay NDDPI, and the NDDPI pays the contract resulting in a lower cost than if each district had negotiated a separate contract.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Vigesaa and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Department of Public Instructions Request #2164 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

2. North Dakota Public Service Commission* (Request #2165)

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is seeking an increase in federal fund spending authority of \$6,000,000 from the AML (Abandoned Mine Lands) Contractual Services line. This additional spending authority will support federal funds that will be used to reclaim abandoned mine lands to align with the mission of North Dakota’s AML program. The federal grants the AML division has been awarded require these funds be spent for their intended purposes within a specific budget period.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, North Dakota Public Service Commission Request # 2165 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

3. North Dakota Office of Attorney General* (Request #2166)

The North Dakota Office of Attorney General is seeking an increase in line-item spending authority of \$129,998 in the salaries and wages line, \$46,402.50 in the operating line, and \$64,100 in the capital assets line to address the increase in workload related to guardianship and conservatorship case investigations. The total increase in line-item spending authority across all lines is \$240,500.50.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Office of Attorney General Request # 2166 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

4. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction* (Request #2167)

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is seeking an intra-agency line time transfer of \$3,100,000 from the Integrated Formula Payments line to the Program Grants line to provide grants to school districts to offset costs related to the BRIDGE project.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Hogue and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, ND Department of Public Instruction Request # 2167 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Howe, and Armstrong. Voting no was Vigesaa.

5. North Dakota Office of the Adjutant General (Request #2168)

The North Dakota Office of the Adjutant General is seeking an increase in line-item spending authority in the Disaster Cost line of \$283,000 in Disaster Relief Funds. Executive Order 2026-01 declared a statewide disaster and activates the ND State Emergency Operations Plan to prepare for increased public safety, emergency management, and infrastructure demands associated with the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations from June 29-July 6, 2026.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Representative Vigesaa, ND Office of the Adjutant General Request #2168 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Howe, Secretary of State
Secretary, Emergency Commission