

EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 23, 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 September 23, 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; Arlene Wolf, Director, Dept of Public Instructions; Becky Ulberg, Fiscal Management Analyst, OMB; Allen H. Knudson, Legislative Council; Sandy McMerty, Deputy, Sherri Heinert, Administrative Assistant Secretary of State; Roz Leighton, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office; John Schneider, Information Division Director, Department of Agriculture; and John Bjornson, Director, Legislative Council.

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

Requests

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 September 30, 2026.

1. North Dakota Department of Commerce* (Request #2169)

The North Dakota Department of Commerce is seeking approval to accept and expend \$761,780 of federal funds from a US Department of Labor State Apprenticeship Expansion grant.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl, ND Department of Commerce Request #2169 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

2. North Dakota Department of Agriculture* (Request #2170)

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is seeking an increase in line-item spending authority in the Agriculture Products Utilization Commission (APUC) line of \$1,434,215.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Department of Agriculture Request # 2170 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

3. North Dakota Department of Agriculture* (Request #2171)

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is seeking an increase in line-item spending authority of \$44,000 in the Grant Line, and \$53,000 in the Operating Line for the Pride of Dakota Program.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Vigesaa and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Department of Agriculture Request # 2172 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

4. North Dakota Legislative Assembly* (Request #2172)

The North Dakota Legislative Assembly is seeking an increase in line-item spending authority of \$28,200 in the Operating expenses line for accepting grant funds from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Legislative Assembly Request # 2172 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

5. North Dakota Office of the Adjutant General (Request #2173)

The North Dakota Office of the Adjutant General – Department of Emergency Services is seeking an increase in spending authority of \$5,940,000 of federal funds in the Disaster Costs Line, and an increase in spending authority of \$936,000 of Disaster Relief Funds in the Disaster Costs Line. \$5,700,000 is for Public Assistance Funding. And \$1,176,000 is for Hazard Mitigation Funding contingent upon FEMA approval.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Office of the Adjutant General Request # 2173 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

6. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction* (Request #2174)

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is seeking an increase in line-item spending authority of \$107,713 in the Operating line, and \$1,077,628 in the Grants-Other Grants line for implementation, approval, and oversight of charter school legislation from SB 2241 from the 69th Legislative Session after receiving a federal grant from the US Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Secretary Howe, ND Department of Public Instruction Request # 2174 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Howe, Secretary of State
Secretary, Emergency Commission