

EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, June 16, 2025 – 1:00 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 1:03 p.m. on June 16, 2025.

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; Reed Johnson, Legal Intern, Governor's Office; Roz Leighton, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office; Aaron Weber, Policy Director, Governor's Office; Becky Ulberg & Stephanie Gullickson, Fiscal Management Analyst, OMB; Allen H. Knudson, Legislative Council; Sandy McMerty, Deputy Secretary of State; Dr. Alyssa Martin, Director and Rebecca Pollert, DPI, ND Center for Distance Education.

Mr. Morrisette provided a summary of Commission authority for the 2023-2025 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 25, 2025.

1. North Dakota Center for Distance Education* (Request #2149)

The North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE) is requesting an increase in spending authority of \$250,000 of special funds. These funds will be used for turn-key digital courses and student scholarships through a partnership with NDCDE and Savvas.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Hogue and seconded by Representative Lefor. ND Center for Distance Education Request # 2149 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

2. Department of Public Instruction* (Request #2150)

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is requesting an increase in line-item spending authority from the Other Grants line of \$14,500,000 of federal funds for reimbursement to school districts for expenses that qualify for federal funding. These include meals for children in poverty, education for special needs students, and professional development of educators.

Upon motion duly made by Senator Bekkedahl and seconded by Representative Vigesaa. Department of Public Instructions Request # 2150 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

3. Office of Management and Budget *(Request #2151)

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is requesting an increase in line-item spending authority in the GEER funds line of \$189,750. OMB is the fiscal agent for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER).

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Senator Hogue. Office of Management and Budget Request #2151 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

4. Office of the Governor (Request #2152)

The Office of the Governor is requesting intra-agency line-item transfer from the salaries line to the operating line of \$35,000. The Governor's Office is requesting this transfer due to additional unforeseen operating expenses during the transition of the administration. With the resignation of an employee, the salary line had savings that can cover the operating expenses through a transfer.

Upon motion duly made by Representative Lefor and seconded by Senator Bekkedahl. Office of the Governor Request #2152 was approved, and the motion carried. Voting yes were Hogue, Lefor, Bekkedahl, Vigesaa, Howe, and Armstrong.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Howe", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Howe, Secretary of State
Secretary, Emergency Commission