



INTERIM SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 26-27, 2021
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Ray Holmberg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators Ray Holmberg, Brad Bekkedahl, Kyle Davison, Dick Dever, Robert Erbele, Joan Heckaman, David Hogue, Karen K. Krebsbach, Tim Mathern, Nicole Poolman, David S. Rust, Ronald Sorvaag, Terry M. Wanzek

Member absent: Senator Dave Oehlke

Others present: Senators Rich Wardner, Dickinson; Jerry Klein, Fessenden; and Donald Schaible, Mott, members of the Legislative Management
Allen H. Knudson, Legislative Council, Bismarck
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Senator Krebsbach, seconded by Senator Wanzek, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the October 19-20, 2021, meeting be approved as distributed.

Chairman Holmberg explained the process the committee will follow to review and approve or deny requests.

The committee discussed and reviewed proposals for consideration ([Appendix B](#)) by the Interim Appropriations Committees.

At the request of Chairman Holmberg, Mr. Brady Larson, Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor, Legislative Council, provided the committee ([Appendix C](#)) provided by the Retirement and Investment Office regarding the request for authorization of six new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and an appropriation of \$1.8 million from special funds for salaries and wages.

At the request of Chairman Holmberg, Mr. Larson presented bill drafts for Bill Draft A [[21.1108.02000](#)] and Bill Draft B [[21.1131.01000](#)].

Senator Bekkedahl proposed to include a section authorizing the Department of Commerce to allow an extended period of time for raising matching funds for grants to an organization dedicated to expanding workforce opportunities, training, and education related to the beyond visual line of sight unmanned aircraft system.

It was moved by Senator Bekkedahl, seconded by Senator Wanzek, and carried on a roll call vote that Bill Draft B [[21.1131.01000](#)] be amended to add a section to amend Section 9 of chapter 46 of the 2021 Session Laws to authorize the Department of Commerce to extend the period of time allowed for raising matching funds for grants to an organization dedicated to expanding workforce opportunities, training, and education related to the beyond visual line of sight unmanned aircraft system. Senators Holmberg, Bekkedahl, Davison, Dever, Erbele, Heckaman, Hogue, Krebsbach, Mathern, Poolman, Rust, Sorvaag, and Wanzek voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

At the request of Chairman Holmberg, Mr. Larson presented an amended version of Bill Draft B [[21.1131.02000](#)], which adds new sections regarding an appropriation from the Bank of North Dakota operation fund to the Bank of North Dakota for salaries and wages, an appropriation for salaries and wages to the Retirement and Investment Office and authorizes six new FTE positions, and an appropriation to the Department of Public Instruction from special funds and the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

It was moved by Senator Wanzek, seconded by Senator Poolman, and carried on a roll call vote that Bill Draft B [21.1131.02000] as amended be included in the committee report and recommended to Legislative Management. Senators Holmberg, Bekkedahl, Davison, Dever, Erbele, Heckaman, Hogue, Krebsbach, Mathern, Poolman, Rust, Sorvaag, and Wanzek voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Senator Wardner presented ([Appendix D](#)) regarding a change to provide \$16,200,000 for capital projects, including \$2,450,000 to construct seven equipment storage sheds, \$446,000 for projects at the Carrington Research Extension Center (REC), \$1,963,000 at the Central Grasslands REC, \$3,420,000 at the Hettinger REC, \$2,200,000 at the Dickinson REC, \$3,650,000 at the Northern Crops Institute feed mill, and \$2,700,000 for purchasing land for Area 4 Soil Conservation Research Farm.

Senator Schaible presented a bill draft [21.1132.01000], which would authorize the Department of Public Instruction to withhold state school aid for information technology project upgrades to the state automated reporting system and statewide longitudinal data system.

It was moved by Senator Rust, seconded by Senator Krebsbach, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft [21.1132.01000] to authorize the Department of Public Instruction to withhold state school aid for information technology project upgrades to the state automated reporting system and the statewide longitudinal data system be included in the committee report and recommended to Legislative Management. Senators Holmberg, Bekkedahl, Davison, Dever, Erbele, Heckaman, Hogue, Krebsbach, Mathern, Poolman, Rust, Sorvaag, and Wanzek voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Ms. Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, presented a bill draft [21.1133.01000] to allow federal elementary and secondary school emergency relief funding to be used to train teachers to provide cybersecurity instruction and to change graduation requirements.

Various senators expressed concern regarding recommending a bill that changes graduation requirements during a special session.

It was moved by Senator Rust, seconded by Senator Davison, and failed on a roll call vote that the bill draft [21.1133.01000] relating to computer science and cybersecurity required instruction and graduation requirements be included in the committee report and recommend to Legislative Management. Senators Davison, Heckaman, Krebsbach, Mathern, Rust, and Wanzek voted "aye." Senators Holmberg, Bekkedahl, Dever, Erbele, Hogue, Poolman, and Sorvaag voted "nay."

Chairman Holmberg informed the committee that it will reconvene on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. to complete the business of the committee.

No further business appearing, Chairman Holmberg adjourned the meeting on October 27, 2021, at 7:13 p.m.

Brady A. Larson
Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

Chris J. Kadrmas
Senior Fiscal Analyst

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