



North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of December 2, 2024

MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Anderson at 8:33 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Vice Chair Ward Koeser, Commissioners Cynthia Lindquist, and Murray Sagsveen, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, General Counsel Logan Carpenter, and Operations Administrator Alisha Maier. Commissioner Ron Goodman joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m. and was not in discussion for item number 2.
2. **Discussion of Legislative Proposals:** Lobbying by Elected Officials and Advisory Opinions: Executive Director Binstock advised that Commission staff have prepared two legislative bills for introduction and pre-filing by the Commission by the December 5th deadline.

**Proposed Bill: Lobbying by Elected Officials:** General Counsel Logan Carpenter presented the proposed lobbying by elected officials bill to the Commission. The amendment is the addition of the word "elected" to public official in the caption of the statute.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sagsveen motioned to approve the draft bill related to lobbying by elected officials for introduction and pre-filing by the Commission. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Koeser. Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Proposed Bill: Advisory Opinions:** GC Carpenter presented the proposed advisory opinions bill to the Commission. The bill allows an advisory opinion upon a majority vote of the commission. It also clarifies the advisory opinion request needs to be related to the requestors own conduct and that somebody other than the requestor can make the request. The request must be on behalf of the requestor and have corroborating evidence demonstrating it is authorized and done on behalf of that public official, candidate for elected office, or lobbyist. Commissioner Sagsveen requested the word "entire" be added to the sentence "upon a majority vote of the commission". The remaining commissioners agreed with the amendment.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sagsveen motioned to approve the draft bill related to advisory opinions as amended for introduction and pre-filing by the Commission. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindquist. Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. 24-01:** Commissioners were provided with a copy of Advisory Opinion Request No. 24-01. ED Binstock advised the identifying information as to the requesters is closed in the request and therefore the format of the opinion draft was changed. General Counsel Carpenter advised on the questions posed in the advisory opinion and discussed the drafted opinion answering those questions.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Koeser motioned to approve the draft language and issue advisory opinion 24-01 to the requesters and for publication on the Commission's website. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

- Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., livestreamed with MS Teams.

Approved on 12/18/24



Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission