

*Before the North Dakota Ethics Commission*

In the Matter of:  
Representative Jason Dockter

**ORDER ADOPTING  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Complaint Nos. 22-003 – 22-010

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In October 2022, the North Dakota Ethics Commission (“Commission”) received eight complaints against Representative Jason Dockter. The complaints generally allege Representative Dockter received an improper financial benefit as a public official when entities he has an ownership interest in renovated and leased 1720 Burlington Drive in Bismarck, North Dakota to the Office of the Attorney General. The Commission initially reviewed the complaints and offered both the complainants and Representative Dockter the opportunity for informal resolution as required by N.D.C.C. §§ 54-66-05, 54-66-07 and N.D. Admin. Code §§ 115-02-01-03, 115-02-01-05.

Representative Dockter declined to proceed with informal resolution and the Commission opened an investigation of the complaint matters on July 6, 2023, pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 54-66-08 and N.D. Admin. Code § 115-02-01-06. The Commission’s investigation focused on determining whether Representative Dockter had any potential conflict(s) of interest, the size of the potential conflict(s), if any potential conflict(s) were ongoing, the facts creating the potential conflict(s), whether a criminal referral was required by N.D.C.C. § 54-66-08(2), and whether a pattern of similar conflict scenarios existed.

During the investigation, the Commission learned information necessitating a criminal referral as required by N.D.C.C. § 54-66-08(2). The Commission made the required referral to the Burleigh County State’s Attorney, who appointed Mr. Ladd Erickson as a Special Assistant Burleigh County State’s Attorney to review the matter. The criminal referral resulted in a criminal charge for a violation of N.D.C.C. § 12.1-13-02(2), speculating or wagering on official action or information. On May 6, 2024, a twelve-person jury rendered a guilty verdict against Representative Dockter on the charge.

While the criminal referral was pending, the Commission could not take further action on the complaint matters pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 54-66-08(2). Once Representative Dockter’s time to appeal his criminal case elapsed, the Commission’s investigation resumed on July 9, 2024. Commission staff concluded the investigation and provided Representative Dockter and the Commission with the Report and Recommendation required by N.D.C.C. § 54-66-09 and N.D. Admin. Code § 115-02-01-07.

After providing Representative Dockter reasonable time to respond to the Report and Recommendation, the Commission considered the record in this matter and adopts the Report and Recommendation in its entirety. N.D.C.C. § 54-66-09; N.D. Admin. Code § 115-02-01-08. By adopting the Report and Recommendation the Commission finds and orders:

- (1) Representative Dockter, a state legislator in District 7, is a public official subject to the Ethics Commission's authority under N.D. Const. art XIV, §§ 3(2), 4(2);
- (2) Representative Dockter engaged in an ethical violation on April 11, 2023 by failing to disclose a potential conflict of interest (a/k/a a personal or private interest) and proceeding to vote on HB 1004, which funded Representative Dockter's interest in a lease at 1720 Burlington Drive, Bismarck, ND;
- (3) Representative Dockter engaged in an ethical violation on April 26, 2023 by failing to disclose a potential conflict of interest (a/k/a a personal or private interest) and proceeding to vote on HB 1003, which funded Representative Dockter's interest in a lease at 1700 Schafer St, Bismarck, ND; and
- (4) The jury rendered a guilty verdict against Representative Dockter and found he violated a criminal statute related to transparency and corruption, N.D.C.C. § 12.1-13-02(2).

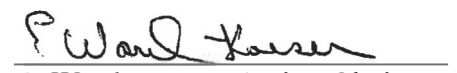
Upon the record becoming open in this matter, the Commission further orders:

- (1) The Report and Recommendation and this Order shall be referred to the Legislative Assembly with the recommendation the Legislative Assembly review the matter, analyze the likely violations of the Legislative Assembly's own rules by Representative Dockter, and determine whether imposition of any disciplinary action on Representative Dockter is warranted at the discretion of the Legislative Assembly pursuant to N.D. Const. art. IV, §§ 10, 12; N.D.C.C. § 54-66-09(2); and N.D. Admin. Code § 115-02-01-08(3);
- (2) The Report and Recommendation and this Order shall be referred to the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, the Legislative Assembly, and the State Auditor to request review of unanswered questions from the Commission's investigation and to assist in review of matters associated with 1720 Burlington Drive, Bismarck, ND by those entities; and
- (3) The complaint matter is concluded and the complaints against Representative Dockter are resolved.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated this 27th day of May, 2025.

  
Murray Sagreen, Hearing Officer  
North Dakota Ethics Commission

  
E. Ward Koeser, Acting Chair  
North Dakota Ethics Commission