

North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of February 16, 2023

MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Richard at 3:00 p.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Vice Chair David Anderson, Commissioners Ron Goodman and Ward Koeser, Legal Counsel Allyson Hicks, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, and Office Manager Holly Gaugler. Commissioner Cynthia Lindquist was not present.
2. **Agenda and Instructions for Special Meeting:** Chair Richard reminded the Commission that discussion for the meeting is limited to the agenda item and no other matters may be discussed.
3. **Discussion of 2023 House Bill 1485** Executive Director Binstock updated the Commission on House Bill 1485:

After the issuance of Advisory Opinion 23-01 on February 14, 2023, Executive Director Binstock and General Counsel Hicks met with Representatives Kasper and Koppleman to discuss proposed amendments to HB 1485 as the Ethics Commission opposes the current language.

After those discussions, Executive Director Binstock and Legal Counsel Hicks developed an amendment as presented at this meeting to the Commission. Executive Director Binstock noted the language codifies the conclusion of Advisory Opinion 23-01 and recommended that the Commission take a neutral position on the amendment, if approved.

The Commission recommended that the amendment be approved with added language – “and in effect on January 3, 2023.” The Commission also agreed that the position of the Commission of “opposition” to the bill be changed to “neutral” with the submission of the proposed amendment.

The Commission also agreed to grant authority to Executive Director Binstock to make changes to the amendment as long as the intent of the Commission remains the same and no substantial changes are made.

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved to change the Commission’s opposition to HB 1485 to a neutral position with the acceptance of the proposed amendment and add the date of January 3, 2023. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Chair Richard called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Approved on 3/15/23 

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission