

OTHER DUTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

In addition to the study responsibilities assigned to the Government Services Committee for the 2013-14 interim, the committee has been assigned the following responsibilities:

- Receive an annual report from the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities detailing the committee's activities, goals, and progress in reaching these goals, and strategies and policies that can help the committee realize its goals.
- Approve any agreement between a North Dakota state entity and South Dakota to form a bistate authority.
- Receive the plan of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by July 1, 2014, to move the Missouri River Correctional Center to a site adjacent to the Youth Correctional Center.
- Receive the projected costs from the Adjutant General for the writing, publishing, and distributing of a record of all North Dakota veterans, including those killed in action and missing in action, since statehood.
- Receive a report from the Department of Veterans' Affairs during the 2013-14 interim regarding the status of the service dog training program, including benefits to veterans, number of applicants, and number of service dogs provided.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

North Dakota Century Code Section 50-06.1-16 ([Appendix A](#)) establishes the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and requires the committee to submit an annual report to the Legislative Management before January 1 of each year. The report must detail the committee's activities, the committee's goals, and the progress the committee has made in reaching these goals. The report must also include identification of barriers to achieve the committee's goals and must include identified strategies and policies that can help the committee realize its goals.

Background

The Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities consists of four members of the public appointed by the Governor as follows:

- The Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers or the Executive Director's designee;
- One community employer representative;
- One individual with a disability; and
- One family member of an individual with a disability.

Serving in an ex officio manner are five individuals, including the:

- Director of the Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Development, or the Director's designee;
- Director of the Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, or the Director's designee;
- Superintendent of Public Instruction's Director of Special Education, or the Director's designee;
- Director of the Protection and Advocacy Project, or the Director's designee; and
- Head of the Department of Human Services developmental disabilities programs, as identified by the Executive Director of the department.

The committee is to collaborate, coordinate, and improve employment outcomes for working-age adults with disabilities, including:

- Reviewing and aligning policies, procedures, eligibility, and enrollment and planning for services for individuals, with the objective of increasing opportunities for community employment for North Dakotans with disabilities.

- Developing cross-agency tools to document eligibility, order of selection, assessment, and planning for services for individuals with disabilities.
- Identifying best practices, effective partnerships, sources of available federal funds, opportunities for shared services among existing providers, and means to expand model programs to increase community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- Identifying and addressing areas where sufficient support is not currently available or where additional options are needed to assist individuals with disabilities to work in competitive employment in integrated settings.
- Establishing interagency agreements to improve coordination of services and allow for data sharing as appropriate to assist individuals with disabilities.
- Setting benchmarks for improving community employment outcomes and services for individuals with disabilities.

The membership and duties of the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities were amended in 2013 Senate Bill No. 2271. The bill changed the number of committee members from three to four and created the five ex officio committee members. The bill also added the language regarding the goals and specific committee duties. Language was removed that allowed the committee to appoint a full-time Director subject to the approval of the Governor.

Section 39-01-15 provides certain handicap parking fees are to be deposited in the employment of people with disabilities fund for use by the committee. Any fees deposited in the fund are appropriated on a continuing basis to the Department of Human Services for use by the committee in meeting its statutory duties. The fiscal note for Senate Bill No. 2271 indicates approximately \$12,000 of handicap parking fees are estimated to be deposited in the fund during the 2013-15 biennium. The balance of the fund on June 30, 2013, was \$4,520.

APPROVE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

Section 54-40-01(3) ([Appendix B](#)) provides an agency, department, or institution may enter an agreement with the state of South Dakota to form a bistate authority to jointly exercise any function that the entity is authorized to perform by law. Any proposed agreement must be submitted to the Legislative Assembly or, if the Legislative Assembly is not in session, to the Legislative Management or a committee designated by the Legislative Management for approval or rejection. The agreement may not become effective until approved by the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Management. The Government Services Committee was assigned this responsibility for the 2011-12 interim.

The 2011-12 and 2009-10 Government Services Committees; the 2007-08 Public Safety Committee; and the 2005-06, 2003-04, 2001-02, 1999-2000, and 1997-98 interim Budget Committees on Government Services were assigned this responsibility; however, no proposed agreements were submitted to the committees for approval to form a bistate authority with the state of South Dakota.

REPORT ON PLAN TO RELOCATE THE MISSOURI RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER TO THE YOUTH CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Senate Bill No. 2015 (2013) provided a general fund appropriation of \$200,000 to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), options for the feasibility and desirability of relocating the Missouri River Correctional Center and for a land use study. Section 4 ([Appendix C](#)) of Senate Bill No. 2015 provides the department may use up to \$50,000 of the appropriation to contract for a land use study of the current Missouri River Correctional Center site, including options to develop all or a portion of the land into a day park and options to continue agriculture activities. The land use study may not review options to develop the land for residential, commercial, or other purposes. The section provides the department may use up to \$150,000 of the appropriation for the development of options for relocating the Missouri River Correctional Center, including the:

- Determination of facilities, services, and activities that may be shared by the Missouri River Correctional Center and the Youth Correctional Center;
- Development of a plan to move the Missouri River Correctional Center to a site adjacent to the Youth Correctional Center; and
- Determination of costs for construction necessary to relocate the Missouri River Correctional Center during the 2015-17 biennium, pending approval and funding by the 64th Legislative Assembly.

During the 2013-14 interim, OMB is to provide a report to the Budget Section regarding options for the possible relocation of the Missouri River Correctional Center and the results of the study. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is to present its plan to move the Missouri River Correctional Center to a site adjacent to the Youth Correctional Center to the Legislative Management (Government Services Committee) by July 1, 2014.

Current Facilities

The Missouri River Correctional Center is located south of Bismarck along the Missouri River and contains 151 inmate beds. The facility is designed for minimum security, and the mission of the center is to provide a safe and healthy environment for rehabilitation. The location of the center includes approximately 985 acres of state-owned land managed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In addition to buildings to support the center, a portion of the land is leased for agricultural purposes.

The Youth Correctional Center, located on approximately 125 acres west of Mandan, is the state's secure juvenile correctional institution. The Youth Correctional Center serves as a secure detention and rehabilitation facility for adjudicated juveniles who require the most restrictive placement and maximum staff supervision and provides appropriate programming to address delinquent behavior. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation also manages approximately 1,290 acres of state-owned land that is adjacent to the facility.

REPORT ON THE PROJECTED COSTS OF DEVELOPING A BOOK OF NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS

Section 37-01-45 ([Appendix D](#)), as enacted by 2013 Senate Bill No. 2210, requires the Adjutant General to initiate and coordinate the writing, publishing, and distribution of a record of all North Dakota veterans since statehood, including those killed in action and missing in action. The section requires the Adjutant General to determine a cost for completing those actions and to provide the cost estimate to the Legislative Management (Government Services Committee).

REPORT ON VETERANS SERVICE DOG TRAINING PROGRAM

The Legislative Assembly, through the passage of 2013 Senate Bill No. 2344 ([Appendix E](#)), appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for a veterans service dog training program to assist North Dakota veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder. The section provides a payment for training a service dog may only be made upon the completion of the service dog's training and the payment may not exceed \$12,500 per service dog. The section requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide a report to the Legislative Management (Government Services Committee) during the 2013-14 interim regarding the status of the service dog training program, including the number of applicants for a service dog, the number of service dogs provided, and the benefits provided to veterans from the program.

ATTACH:5