Draft Interim Committee Minutes
Executive Board

The fifth interim meeting of the Executive Board was called to order by Senator Chris Karr at 10:00 AM on September 23, 2026, in Room 414 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering roll call: Rep. Aylward (remote), Rep. Hansen, Rep. Healy (remote), Rep. Heermann (remote), Rep. Mulder (remote), Rep. Odenbach, Sen. Deibert (remote), Sen. Karr, Sen. Kolbeck (Steve) (remote), Sen. Larson (remote), Sen. Mehlhaff, Sen. Otten (remote), and Sen. Pischke (remote). Rep. Gosch and Rep. Jamison were excused.

Staff members present included Jeff Mehlhaff, Interim Director/Chief Fiscal Analyst; Rachael Person, Chief of Legislative Operations; and Elijah Rodriguez, Chief IT Officer.

NOTE: For the purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. All referenced documents distributed at the meeting are hyperlinked to the document on the Legislative Research Council website. This meeting was live streamed. Each section contains a hyperlink to the time stamp pertaining to that item in the archived live stream available at sdlegislature.gov.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Jon Hansen moved, seconded by Senator Jim Mehlhaff, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026, Executive Board meeting. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. (3:20)

Executive Session

Representative Jon Hansen moved, seconded by Senator Jim Mehlhaff, that the Executive Board go into Executive Session. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. (3:57)

The Executive Board went into executive session at 10:05 AM. (4:19)

Representative Jon Hansen moved, seconded by Senator Jim Mehlhaff, that the Executive Board come out of Executive Session. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

The Executive Board came out of executive session at 11:26 AM. (4:40)

LRC Director Position

President Pro Tem Karr discussed the LRC director position. (4:58)

Representative Jon Hansen moved, seconded by Senator Jim Mehlhaff, to appoint Mr. Doug Decker as Director Pro Tem starting September 28, 2026, with an annual salary of $240,000. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 13 AYES and 2 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Sen. Deibert, Sen. Kolbeck (Steve), Sen. Mehlhaff, Sen. Otten, Sen. Pischke, Rep. Aylward, Rep. Healy, Rep. Heermann, Rep. Mulder, Rep. Odenbach, Sen. Larson, Rep. Hansen, and Sen. Karr. Excused: Rep. Gosch and Rep. Jamison. (8:33)

Senator Karr discussed an HR analysis. (11:42)

Representative Jon Hansen moved, seconded by Senator Jim Mehlhaff, to direct the Executive Committee to work with Alternative HR to perform an HR analysis of the office with the results to be returned to the Executive Committee. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 11 AYES, 2 NAYS, and 2 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Sen. Kolbeck (Steve), Sen. Mehlhaff, Sen. Otten, Sen. Pischke, Rep. Aylward, Rep. Healy, Rep. Heermann, Rep. Mulder, Rep. Odenbach, Rep. Hansen, and Sen. Karr. Voting NAY: Sen. Deibert and Sen. Larson. Excused: Rep. Gosch and Rep. Jamison. (12:10)

Public Comments

The following individuals offered public comments: (15:43)

Cindy Cooke, Self
Renae Randall, Self
James Bialota, self

Adjournment

Representative Jon Hansen moved, seconded by Senator Jim Mehlhaff, that the Executive Board be adjourned. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. (28:37)

The Executive Board adjourned at 11:51 AM.

DRAFT