

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board January 7, 2026
Rough Draft

HANSEN: All right, good morning and welcome to the Executive Board. My name is Senator Ben Hansen. I represent the 16th Legislative District, and I serve as chair of the Executive Board. For the purpose of noting attendance, I would ask members of the committee to introduce themselves, starting on my far right with Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Rob Clements, District 2.

McKINNEY: Terrell McKinney, District 11.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

BOSTAR: Eliot Bostar, District 29.

IBACH: Teresa Ibach, District 44.

DORN: Marvin Dorn, District 30.

FREDRICKSON: John Fredrickson, District 20.

ARCH: John Arch, District 14.

JACOBSON: Mike Jacobson, District 42.

HANSEN: Also assisting the committee is our committee clerk, Natalie Schunk, and our legal counsel, Benson Wallace. And with that, we will move on to the first item on the agenda, which is the release of the report of the June 2, 2025 complaint. And so I'm sure a lot of you have reviewed it already. It is in front of you. And so basically we just have to have a vote to release the report, which I was going to then release to the, the body as a whole so everyone can kind of review it as well. So I was going to see if there's any questions or concerns about it at all. OK, yes, Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: I just-- thank you, Chair. I think continuing to emphasize that the Executive Board's actions aren't wholly based on what can be found on these pages alone is going to be useful as this report goes out.

HANSEN: Yeah, I'm sure there'll be communication during the hearing as well.

BOSTAR: Sure.

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HANSEN: And then afterwards on the floor that will probably bring to light any questions that the body might have or other people about not just the report but other things as well.

BOSTAR: Thank you.

HANSEN: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Thank you, Chair. The, the other thing that I would, I would just add as well is something, I think, to consider with the, the hearing process, assuming we do have to go through a hearing for this, is the possible pushback we might get surrounding the suspension of the rules to schedule a quicker hearing. I certainly see the merit and value of a quicker hearing, but I'm just thinking through procedurally if there's something for Senator McKeon to argue against that if he can't argue on the merits of what's in here, he might argue that we're being nefarious by suspending the rules or things along those, those lines and so I just wanted to put that out there as something to consider. As an Executive Board, I'm not suggesting one way or the other but just it was a thought that went through my mind as I was driving in this morning, so.

HANSEN: OK. OK, this makes sense. Thanks. Speaker Arch.

ARCH: Just a question to you, Senator Hansen. I, I think Senator McKeon was, was, was given 7-day notice. I mean, I think that, I think that that's important, that, that, that while this is not-- being a personnel matter in front of the, in front of the Exec Board, this is not a typical LB, LR, for public, for public involvement, but Senator McKeon was certainly given his notice as well. Am I correct?

HANSEN: Yes, January 5. We want to make sure that he had ample notice to review all the documents and everything else as well, so.

ARCH: Thank you.

HANSEN: All right, any new questions? All right, so we'll take a roll call vote to release the report.

JACOBSON: You need a motion.

HANSEN: Oh, sorry. Jeez, yes. Is there a motion to release the report?

BOSTAR: So moved.

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JACOBSON: Second.

HANSEN: Is there a motion to second? Roll call vote.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach.

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard.

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson.

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen.

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion [INAUDIBLE]

HANSEN: OK, and that's all we had for this morning. And then it could be the assumption that we will then meet again later today if this does get recommended referenced to the Executive Board which is a discussion we'll have again later today before we adjourn, so. I'll mention it on the floor.

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JACOBSON: Can you, can you walk us through kind of the process from here?

HANSEN: Yeah, so right now with the release of the report, now with the body will have that, I'll make an announcement this morning about the LR. Brandon, the Clerk, would recognize me and I'll just talk about that on the floor. We'll then-- presumably then, the Speaker can elaborate on this on the floor as well, then we'll come back and reference this to the Executive Board. That's an action we will have to take. Then it will be announced on the floor before adjournment. And then I think tomorrow, then there'll be a motion for the seven-- or, actually, will I make the motion today? I'll probably make it today. Yeah, about the suspending the rules, which we'll then bring up, I'm assuming tomorrow, for discussion. And then since we can't have-- we-- I want to make sure that Tara [PHONETIC], the legal counsel, is present that we have for the investigative committee, and that will be on Monday. We will have the hearing in the Executive Board if it's referenced to us. And then that'll be invited testimony only. And then we will then bring this up on the floor probably on Tuesday, depending on what the action of the Executive Board is. As I move, move forward with it, then I'm assuming it will happen on Tuesday. Just trying to do it expeditiously, but also judiciously, I guess, so.

BALLARD: Thank you, Senator Hansen.

HANSEN: Yeah.

BALLARD: Can you outline the invited testimony only? Like, are you going to have-- is it going to be like a-- your going to have Senator McKeon's representatives, Tara?

HANSEN: It's either going to be Senator McKeon or his legal representative, and then Tara.

BALLARD: OK.

HANSEN: So. Good question. And I'll bring it up on the floor a little bit, too, about maybe lay out the timeline a little bit here.

CLEMENTS: I had a question.

HANSEN: Yes, Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Regarding the investigative report of why has it been withheld from other senators until today? Was it confidential, privileged, or is that-- a, a lot of senators are saying, well, I don't, I don't have information, I need more information, and just wondering if it, if it was a legal reason that this was client privilege or, or what?

HANSEN: I don't think there's a specific reason. Was there any client privilege issues at all?

BENSON WALLACE: Well, until we had the vote, December, was it 12th, whatever, this was purely an administrative procedure. Now that there's going to be a vote on the floor fell in practice with every other-- I mean, this specifically has never happened, but with a censure vote or a potential censure vote, these are always released. So that's why we released it.

HANSEN: And I think making, making sure that it's released today, and if this does-- any action does happen and this occurs on Tuesday for the body to discuss, I think 4 or 5 days of having them read the report is adequate, I think.

CLEMENTS: So it is true that the report has only been to the Executive Board until now, right?

HANSEN: Senator McKeon received it.

CLEMENTS: To the senator. OK. All right.

HANSEN: Yep.

CLEMENTS: Thank you.

HANSEN: Yep. Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: Thank you, Chair. I think just adding that we, under our, our rules and legal obligation, we have to do what we can to protect the privacy of the complainant. And so I think that also, if I recall correctly, Chair, was part of that decision-making on not just releasing the report right away, was waiting until it became necessary in order to comply with that requirement that we have. I don't know if that helps.

CLEMENTS: OK, thank you.

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ARCH: I would, I would just add one other thing, and that is that this is, this is how we also handled Senator Groene when there was an, when there was an investigative report there. That was not released to the, to the general body until, until that issue had been resolved at that point.

CLEMENTS: OK.

HANSEN: OK, any further questions? All right, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

BOSTAR: So moved.

BALLARD: Second.

HANSEN: All those in favor say aye.