



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

February 12, 2026

To: Brand Board Members
From: Governor Larry Rhoden

This Memo lays out my expectations for continuous improvement in the operations and oversight of the Brand Board and requires the Board to submit periodic reports to me.

Governor's Directives

1. *Corrective Action:* Review, further develop, implement, and maintain check cashing internal control policy
 - Deadline: Complete implementation by March 12; review policy maintenance at 90-day intervals and require report to Board on compliance
2. *Corrective Action:* Convene Law Enforcement agencies (i.e. DPS, Sheriffs) together to integrate brand checks with other duties at traffic stops, weight stations, or ports of entry
 - Deadline: Hold meetings with law enforcement by April 1; require report to Board of recommendations
3. *Corrective Action:* Convene together Brand Board leadership, the Executive Director, and investigators with other state brand boards, including North Dakota, to discuss administrative and investigative best practices and strategies to improve collaboration
 - Deadline: Complete by May 15, 2026
4. *Corrective Action:* Direct the Executive Director to issue a memo to the Board detailing status of technology upgrades and present during May's Board meeting
 - Deadline: Complete by May 2026 Board meeting
5. *Corrective Action:* Direct the Executive Director to issue memo to the Board on the benefits and consequences of expanding brand investigator enforcement powers beyond arrest authority for brand law enforcement regulations and present during June's Board meeting
 - Deadline: Complete by June 2026 Board meeting

Progress reports detailing efforts are due April 1, May 15, and June 30 to the Governor's Office and DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts.