



**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump issued a declaration of national emergency due to the growing COVID-19 crisis in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, a state of emergency was declared by Governor Doug Burgum on March 13, 2020, in response to the public health crisis resulting from COVID-19; Executive Order 2020-03 activated the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), implementing appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures; and,

**WHEREAS**, with the guidance and assistance of the State Health Officer and the Director of Emergency Operations, the State is actively responding to the crisis and working to gather, coordinate, and deploy goods, services, professionals and volunteers of all types and kinds; and,

**WHEREAS**, both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been documented in North Dakota and continues to spread; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, to protect and save lives, North Dakota citizens have been advised to follow the precautions established by the Centers for Disease Control and the North Dakota Department of Health, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including minimizing person-to-person contact, avoiding social gatherings, frequent handwashing and remaining at home if they are not feeling well; and,

**WHEREAS**, under North Dakota law, much of the work conducted by state agencies as well as the services provided on behalf of citizens has required in-person contact and communication; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to protect the health and safety, mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and provide citizens with access to essential state services, alternative service delivery models must be available.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority under Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution and North Dakota Century Code Chapter 37-17.1, hereby orders all state agencies to identify provisions of any regulatory statutes, agency orders or administrative rules that in any way prevents, hinders or delays the agency's ability to render maximum assistance or continue to deliver essential services to citizens during the pendency of the COVID-19 crisis. This order also requires state agencies to identify any statutory or regulatory requirements related to acquiring or renewing licenses or certifications essential for individual citizens and businesses providing services in this State. Of utmost importance are those services related to health, education, employment and any other service provided by state agencies and offices in response to or for purposes of mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

All State agencies shall submit those provisions of regulatory statutes, agency

orders or administrative rules meeting the criteria defined in this Order to the Governor's office on or before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

State elected officials and the offices within the executive branch are hereby invited to identify provisions of regulatory statutes, agency orders or administrative rules that in any way prevents, hinders or delays the ability to render maximum assistance or continue to deliver essential services to citizens during the pendency of the COVID-19 crisis. Elected officials are also invited to identify any statutory or regulatory requirements related to acquiring or renewing licenses or certifications essential for individual citizens and businesses providing services in this State, with emphasis on services and licensing related to health, education, employment and any other service provided by state agencies and offices in response to or for purposes of mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

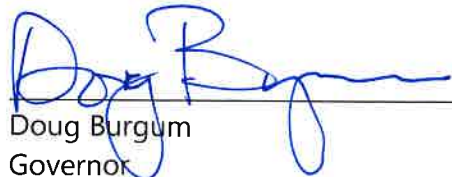
To further facilitate services to citizens and businesses, all North Dakota Law Enforcement Agencies and private sector businesses operating in this state are hereby directed to recognize any North Dakota driver's license or North Dakota motor vehicle registration, expired on or after March 1, 2020, as valid and current while this Executive Order is in effect.

This order is issued upon the following basis and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the North Dakota Constitution.
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders, to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code.
3. A coordinated and effective effort of appropriate government departments is required to minimize the impact of emergencies and disasters in this state.

This order is effective immediately.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary of State