COUNTIES

CHAPTER 128

H. B. No. 88 (Aamoth)

COUNTY REDISTRICTING

AN ACT

To provide a deadline for redistricting and to amend and reenact sections 11-07-01, 11-07-02, 11-07-03, and 11-07-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the redistricting of counties and the election of county commissioners.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Section 11-07-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11-07-01. County Redistricting Board—Membership—Powers.) The redistricting board shall be composed of the following members:

- 1. The chairman of the board of county commissioners, who shall act as chairman of the redistricting board;
- 2. The state's attorney;
- A citizen or member of the governing body selected by the governing body of the city having the largest population, according to the most recent federal decennial census, in the county;
- 4. A township supervisor selected by the township supervisors at a meeting called by the county auditor, if more than one-half of the townships are organized, whose service upon the board shall be contingent upon his service in office as a township supervisor or a citizen member at large appointed by the county commission if less than one-half of the townships are organized;

A citizen at large selected by representatives of each 5. of the cities of the county, excluding the largest city, if there is a total of at least three incorporated cities in such county. Such representatives shall consist of one member of and selected by the governing body of each of the cities in the county, other than the largest city. The selection of the member of the redistricting board shall be made at a meeting called by the county auditor for such purpose. In the event there is not a total of three cities in the county, or that the selection is not made at the meeting called by the county auditor, such citizen at large shall be selected by the redistricting board at their first meeting. Such citizen at large shall serve until the time of the next decennial redistricting.

Vacancies upon the board shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of original selection. Such board may change the boundaries of the commissioners' districts of the county in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Section 2. Amendment.) Section 11-07-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11-07-02. When Districts Must Be Changed-Public Hearing-Notice.) Each redistricting board shall, within three months after official publication of each federal decennial census, meet at the call of the chairman to organize as provided in this Act and to consider redistricting and if any one district in the county varies more than ten percent from the average population per commissioner in such county determined by dividing the total population of the county at the last federal decennial census by the number of commissioners' districts in such county, the redistricting board shall redistrict the county, as provided in this chapter. If redistricting of a county is required, the chairman of the redistricting board shall, within thirty days after the date of the above meeting, call a meeting for the purpose of conducting a public hearing to review alternative plans for such redistricting. Notice of such meeting shall be published or caused to be published by the chairman in the official county newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of such hearing.

Section 3. Amendment.) Section 11-07-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11-07-03. Method of Redistricting-Election of Commissioners at Large if Redistricting Not Accomplished by Time Certain.) In redistricting a county, the redistricting board shall make the districts as regular and compact in form as practicable, and as substantially equal in population as possible. In no event shall every district be formed in such a manner that the population of cities located within each district exceeds the population of the district area outside the cities. In no event shall any commissioner's district vary in population more than ten percent from the average population per commissioner as determined in section 11-07-02. The geographical boundaries of new districts created by the redistricting board shall be agreed upon by a majority of such board. Redistricting shall be completed by the filing of an accurate description of the approved geographical boundaries and a statement of the population of the new districts with the county auditor by the chairman of the board. In the event that redistricting is required but not completed in the manner prescribed in this chapter, all commissioners' districts in such county shall be abolished and, notwithstanding the provisions of section 11-11-02, thereafter county commissioners for such county shall be elected at large without regard to district representation in the manner and at the time provided in this title and shall continue to be elected at large until a proper redistricting plan is filed as required by this Act.

Section 4. Amendment.) Section 11-07-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Terms of Office-Staggered 11-07-04. Commissioners' Terms.) When redistricting is completed or if failure to redistrict requires at-large election of commissioners as provided in section 11-07-03, all commissioners then holding office shall continue in such office until the next general election. At the first general election following redistricting of the county or election of commissioners at large, if required, as provided in this Act, all county commissioner offices shall be open for election. The newly elected commissioners shall be divided into two classes. If the county has been redistricted, those elected in commissioners' districts designated by even numbers shall constitute one class, and those elected in commissioners' districts designated by odd numbers shall constitute the other class. If election of commissioners at large is required, classes of such commissioners shall be determined by assigning a number to their respective offices according to the numerical total of the votes cast for them at the general election at which they were elected. The commissioners of one class elected in the first election held under the provisions of this Act shall hold office for two years and those of the other class shall hold office four years. The determination of the two classes shall be by lot so that one-half of the commissioners, as nearly as practicable, may be elected biennially. The county judge shall perform the lot in the presence of all of the newly elected commissioners within thirty days after the date of the first general election following redistricting or election of commissioners at large, if required, and shall certify in writing the results of such lot to the county auditor within five days after its performance.

Section 5. First Redistricting Under Act.) The first redistricting of county commissioners' districts under this Act shall be completed as required in this Act no later than December 31, 1971, and each ten years thereafter. Failure of any redistricting board to complete such redistricting plan and file it with the county auditor, as required by this Act, shall result in all county commissioners' districts being abolished at such date, and all county commissioners holding office shall be elected at large at the next general election, as provided in this Act, and shall continue to be elected at large at succeeding elections until a proper redistricting plan is so filed.

Section 6. Petitions—Signers Required—Submission of Question to Voters.) The board of county commissioners upon receipt of a petition signed by at least ten percent of the electors of the county as determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor at the preceding general election, shall, in accordance with applicable provisions of title 16, cause the question of whether commissioners shall be elected at large to be submitted to the voters of the county at the next succeeding primary or general election and if approved by sixty percent of the electors voting at such election, all county commissioner districts in such county shall be immediately dissolved, and thereafter as the term of office of each member of the board of county commissioners expires, such office shall be filled by an election at large.

Section 7. Certain Counties to Redistrict by December 31, 1969.) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 2 and 5 of this Act, the redistricting board in all counties having a population of twenty thousand or more inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, shall within fifteen

days after the effective date of this Act, meet at the call of the chairman to organize as otherwise provided in section 2 of this Act and shall proceed to redistrict the county commissioner districts in the manner provided by this Act if any one district in the county varies more than ten percent from the average population per commission as determined in accordance with section 2 of this Act. All procedures and requirements in regard to the redistricting of county commissioners' districts following each federal decennial census shall apply to the redistricting required by this section, except that such redistricting shall be completed by December 31, 1969. In the event that redistricting is required but not completed in each county having a population of twenty thousand or more inhabitants in the manner prescribed in this Act by December 31, 1969, all commissioners' districts in any such county shall be abolished and thereafter all county commissioners for such county shall be elected at large as otherwise provided in this Act without regard to district representation in the manner and at the time provided for in Title 11, and shall continue to be elected at large until a proper redistricting plan is filed as required by this Act.

S. B. No. 312 (Ringsak, Chesrown, Forkner, Nething)

SALARIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact subsections 1 and 2 of section 11-10-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to salaries of county officers, and stating legislative intent.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Subsections 1 and 2 of section 11-10-10 of the 1967 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

- 1. The salary of the county auditor, county treasurer, sheriff, county superintendent of schools, register of deeds, county judge, state's attorney, and clerk of district court shall be regulated by the population in the respective counties according to the last preceding official federal census from and after the date when the official report of such census shall have been published by the director of the census or such other official as may be charged with the duty of making such official publication:
- 2. The county auditor, county treasurer, sheriff, county superintendent of schools, register of deeds, county judge, state's attorney, and clerk of the district court each shall receive the following annual salary, payable monthly, for official services rendered:
 - a. Five thousand six hundred dollars in counties having a population not exceeding eight thousand;
 - b. Five thousand eight hundred dollars in counties having a population exceeding eight thousand population plus additional compensation of one hundred dollars per year for each one thousand additional population or major traction thereof, but not to exceed the total sum of seven thousand dollars, and provided, however, that in counties

where the population consists of more than twenty-five percent Indians who have not severed tribal relations, the county commissioners may adjust the salaries provided for herein within the limitations contained in this subdivision;

c. In counties having a population in excess of thirty thousand the sum of eight thousand five hundred dollars.

In counties having a county court of increased jurisdiction the salaries of the judges of county courts of increased jurisdiction shall be as set out in section 27-08-08. The county superintendent of schools shall receive for any trips necessarily made within his county in the performance of school district reorganization duties the same mileage as he receives under the provisions of section 11-10-15. The board of county commissioners of any county may, by resolution, increase the salary of any full-time county official by an amount not to exceed ten percent above the salary provided in this section or section 27-08-08, if, in the judgment of such board, by reason of duties performed, the official merits the increase. Any county official performing duties on less than a full-time basis may be paid a salary set by the board of county commissioners in any amount up to ten percent less than the salary provided for that official in this section.

Section 2. Legislative Intent in Regard to County Salaries.) It is the intent of the legislative assembly that the several boards of county commissioners shall exercise the responsibility of setting the salaries of county officials within the limits imposed by section 11-10-10. A board of county commissioners, in making a decision in regard to a county official's salary, should take into account the financial status of the county; the responsibilities of the position; and any other factors which the board may deem relevant in arriving at such decision.

S. B. No. 166 (Trenbeath, Becker)

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF TAX EQUALIZATION

AN ACT

To provide for county directors of tax equalization and prescribing the duties and procedures thereof; to amend and reenact subsections 4 and 6 of section 57-01-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to sales ratio studies; and to repeal sections 4-01-04, 4-01-05, 4-01-08, 4-01-09, and 11-10-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the obtaining of statistical information by assessors and appointment of county directors of tax equalization.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. County Director of Tax Equalization.) Prior to October 1 of either 1969 or 1970, the board of county commissioners of each county in this state shall appoint a county director of tax equalization who shall be qualified and experienced in property appraisals and familiar with assessment and equalization procedures and techniques. The county director of tax equalization shall serve at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners and may be employed on a full or part-time basis.

Section 2. Bond—Oath of Office.) Each county director of tax equalization and his deputy, before entering upon his duties, shall take and subscribe the oath required of public officials and shall give bond in such sum as may be prescribed by the board of county commissioners for the faithful performance of the duties of his office. County directors of tax equalization and their deputies shall be bonded through the state bonding fund.

Section 3. Deputies—Clerks.) The county director of tax equalization, within budgetary limits prescribed by the board of county commissioners, may appoint such full or part-time deputies and clerks as may be necessary for the proper performance of the duties of his office and they shall receive such compensation as may be authorized by the board of county commissioners.

Section 4. Payment of Expenses.) A county director of tax equalization and his deputies and clerks shall receive mileage as provided in section 11-10-15 and their actual and necessary traveling expenses at the rate and in the same manner as provided for other county officials. The board of county commissioners shall furnish to the county director of tax equalization and his staff suitable office space and supplies as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of his office. The salary and expenses of the county director of tax equalization, his clerks and deputies, and the expense of his office shall be paid from the general fund of the county.

Section 5. Powers and Duties of County Director of Tax Equalization.) The county director of tax equalization shall have the power, duty and responsibility to call upon and confer with township and city assessors in the county and to instruct them in the preparation and proper use of land maps and property record cards, the preparation of assessment books, the changes in assessment laws and regulations, the determination of proper standards of value, the use of proper classifications of property, and the authority to require attendance at meetings, to the end that a uniform assessment of all personal and real property in the county will prevail.

Section 6. Assumption of Certain Duties by County Director of Tax Equalization and Township Clerks.) The county director of tax equalization shall succeed to all the powers and duties of the county auditor pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the mobile homes tax prescribed in chapter 57-55, assist the county auditor in preparation of assessment lists for taxing purposes, in obtaining statistical information as defined in chapter 4-01, and in the correction and omission procedures as defined in chapter 57-14, assist local equalization boards and assessors by providing information and instruction in the use of all methods and procedures to obtain uniform property assessments and spot check all property assessments.

Section 7. Joint County Director of Tax Equalization.) the respective boards of county commissioners of two or more counties may by agreement and resolutions of the respective boards of county commissioners employ a joint county director of tax equalization who shall act as county director of tax equalization for each of the counties participating in such agreement. The salary and expense of such joint county director of tax equalization and that of his office and staff shall be prorated

among the counties participating in accordance with the assessed valuation of the counties concerned or upon such other basis as may be agreed upon by the respective boards of county commissioners. The respective boards of county commissioners, acting jointly, shall appoint such joint county director of tax equalization on the same basis and in the same manner as a county director of tax equalization may be appointed for a single county. Such joint county director of tax equalization may be discharged upon the resolution of the board of county commissioners of any county participating in the agreement. Any participating county may withdraw from such joint agreement upon resolution of the board of county commissioners and by giving written notice to the boards of county commissioners of the other participating counties at least ninety days in advance of July first of the year of withdrawal. The joint county director of tax equalization shall have all the powers and duties of the county director of tax equalization of a single county and shall keep all records of assessment for each county entirely separate from the records of other counties which he serves.

Section 8. Amendment.) Subsections 4 and 6 of section 57-01-05 of the 1967 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

4. He may make sales ratio and other studies of property assessments in the various counties and cities of this state for the purpose of properly advising the various assessors and directors of tax equalization in the state and for the purpose of recommending to the tax commissioner changes to be made by the state board of equalization in the performance of the equalization powers and duties prescribed for it by section 57-13-04. In any sales ratio study made according to section 57-01-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, the county directors of tax equalization or city assessors, as the case may be, shall be responsible for compiling a record of sales of property made in such county or city, and in conjunction with the county commissioners shall analyze such sales for the purpose of advising the state supervisors of assessments as to the value of using such sales in any sales ratio study. Such compilations shall be forwarded to the state supervisor of assessments with the findings of the county director of tax equalization, city assessors, and the board of county commissioners. In any county or city or any part thereof where the number

of sales of properties is insufficient for making a sales ratio study, the county director of tax equalization or city assessor, as the case may be, in cooperation with the state supervisor of assessments or his assistants shall make appraisals of properties in order to determine the ratio of market value to assessment value.

6. He shall have general supervision of assessors and county directors of tax equalization pertaining to methods and procedures of assessment of all property and shall have authority to require all county directors of tax equalization to do any act necessary to obtain uniform methods and procedures of assessment.

Section 9. Repeal.) Sections 4-01-04, 4-01-05, 4-01-08, 4-01-09, and 11-10-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code are hereby repealed.

H. B. No. 308 (Lundene, Opedahl, DeKrey, O. Solberg, Hoghaug, Haugland)

TAX LEVY FOR PROMOTION OF HISTORICAL WORKS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 11-11-53 of the 1967 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code, providing for the submission to the voters of a county the question of whether a tax should be authorized for the promotion of historical work by the county historical society and, if so, appropriation of such tax for historical purposes.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Subsection 2 of section 11-11-53 of the 1967 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

2. The board of county commissioners is hereby authorized to levy a tax, in addition to all levies now authorized by law, of not exceeding one-quarter of one mill upon all taxable property in the county, for the promotion of historical works within the borders of such county and in general defray the expense of carrying on historical work in the county including, but not limited to, the maintenance of any historical room or building, and furthering the work of the historical society of such county. Such levy shall be in addition to any moneys appropriated from the general fund of the county for historical work as provided in subsection 1 of this section.

If the tax provided by this subsection is not levied by the board of county commissioners, upon the receipt of a petition signed by eight percent of the electors of the county that voted in the last gubernatorial election, the question of whether such tax shall be levied shall be submitted to the electors of the county at the first special or regular countywide election. If such levy shall be approved by the majority of the electors voting thereon, the tax shall be levied by the board of county commissioners.

H.B. No. 468 (Link, J. Peterson, Opedahl)

COUNTY IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVATE ROADS

AN ACT

To provide that county commissioners shall have the power to enter into agreements with private landowners for the purpose of making improvements on private roads, and to provide that the costs of such improvements shall constitute a lien upon the real estate of the landowner.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. County May Agree to Make Improvements on Private Roads—Costs of Improvements to Constitute Lien on Real Estate.) The board of county commissioners shall have the power to enter into agreements with private landowners for the purpose of making improvements on private roads. The board shall charge the landowner for the improvements made pursuant to such agreement, and such charges shall constitute a lien upon the real estate of the landowner in the same manner as personal property taxes are made a lien upon real estate as provided in chapter 57-22.

H. B. No. 422 (Emerson, Connolly, J. Peterson)

DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN COUNTY RECORDS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact section 11-13-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, to provide that certain county records shall be destroyed by any suitable means as determined by the board of county commissioners.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

- Section 1. Amendment.) Section 11-13-17 of the 1967 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
- 11-13-17. Destruction of County Records.) After the same have first been offered to the state historical society, the county auditor shall destroy by any suitable means as determined by the board of county commissioners any of the following record books, forms or blanks after the same have become ten years old:
 - 1. Election poll books;
 - 2. Election registration books;
 - 3. Petitions of candidates:
 - 4. All election forms, blanks, books, and records of every kind and description except abstracts of votes;
 - 5. Assessment slips;
 - 6. Crops statistics books;
 - 7. Hail insurance books;
 - 8. Hail insurance applications and withdrawals;
 - 9. Collection sheets for writing up tax collections;

- 10. Tax certificates which have been paid or redeemed;
- 11. Tax levy blanks of school districts, townships, and cities:
- 12. Tax receipts;
- 13. Township board of review records and school district posting books;
- 14. Claims vouchers which have been audited and paid;
- 15. Certificates of officials' bonds;
- 16. Insurance policies which have become obsolete;
- 17. Applications for abatement of taxes, approved or rejected;
- 18. Warrants and warrant-checks when a microfilm record thereof has been made;

and the following, after the same have become thirty years old:

- 1. Assessment rolls;
- 2. Warrants and warrant-checks.

H. B. No. 482 (Giffey, Matheny)

APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF SPECIAL SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AN ACT

To amend and reenact section 11-15-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to compensation for special deputies.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Section 11-15-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11-15-02. Sheriff May Appoint Special Deputies—Compensation.) In case of any emergency, the sheriff may appoint and qualify special deputies in such numbers as in his judgment are required by the conditions. Each special deputy shall receive as compensation for his services the sum of not to exceed twelve dollars per day and the same mileage as is allowed to regular deputies, such amounts to be paid by the county. The sheriff shall have the sole power of appointing such special deputies and may remove them at pleasure.

S. B. No. 369 (Jacobson)

FEES FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 11-15-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to county fees.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Subsection 2 of section 11-15-07 of the 1967 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

 For serving a summons, warrant of attachment, order of replevin, injunctional order, citation, or other mesne process and making a return thereon, two dollars, and for service on each defendant besides the first, two dollars:

S. B. No. 261 (Doherty, Freed, Wenstrom, Kelly)

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S CONTINGENT FUND

AN ACT

To amend and reenact section 11-16-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to state's attorney's contingent fund.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Section 11-16-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

- 11-16-09. State's Attorney's Contingent Fund.) The board of county commissioners shall set aside from any funds in the county treasury not specifically appropriated or set aside for any other purpose the following sum of money to be used by the state's attorney of the county as a contingent fund for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses that are not otherwise provided for in securing evidence, in the investigation of criminal cases and the furthering of justice:
 - 1. Not less than five hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars in counties having a population of ten thousand inhabitants or less:
 - 2. Not less than one thousand dollars and not more than fifteen hundred dollars in counties having a population of more than ten thousand and not more than twenty thousand inhabitants; or
 - 3. Not less than fifteen hundred dollars and not more than two thousand dollars in counties having a population of more than twenty thousand inhabitants.

S. B. No. 484 (Committee on Delayed Bills)

DISPOSAL OF BUILDINGS FINANCED BY MEMORIAL FUNDS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact section 11-32-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to disposal of buildings partially financed with memorial funds by school districts which have acquired such buildings through reorganization.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Section 11-32-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11-32-03. May Join With Cities, School Districts, and Other Agencies in Erection and Operation.) The board of county commissioners, in carrying out the provisions of sections 11-32-01 and 11-32-02, may join with a city, school district, or other public or private nonprofit corporation or agency, or any or all of same, in the erection and operation of said memorial, or memorials, or other suitable recognition in any proportion deemed advisable by said board. Said board in conjunction with the other cooperating body or bodies may provide for the operation and administration of said memorial, memorials, or other suitable recognition. In the event that a school building, gymnasium, or other school-related building is constructed by a school district and wholly or partially financed through moneys from the memorial fund created by this chapter, and, due to a reorganization of such school district, is transferred to another school district. such other school district shall be authorized to sell and transfer title to such building in the same manner provided by law notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 11-32 of the North Dakota Century Code.

H. B. No. 455 (Strinden, Hensrud)

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

AN ACT

To amend and reenact section 11-33-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the compensation of county planning commission members; and to repeal section 11-33-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the listing of nonconforming uses and occupancies.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:

Section 1. Amendment.) Section 11-33-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11-33-05. Meetings—Officers.) The commission shall meet within thirty days after its appointment and elect a chairman and other necessary officers from its membership. The commission may adopt rules and bylaws not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum. Members of the commission may be compensated for their actual expenses in the same manner as members of the board of county commissioners. The county auditor shall serve as secretary to the commission and shall keep all of the records and accounts of the commission.

Section 2. Repeal.) Section 11-33-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is hereby repealed.